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February 22, 2010

Dear Parents,

The Utah School for the Deaf administration is in the process of developing a strategic plan. The purpose of this plan is to set goals and to design service models that will be used at USD for the next several years. Superintendent Noyce has set an agency-wide goal for USDB, and four actions that will be taken within the school for the deaf in order to achieve that goal.

Agency Goal: Utilize all resources where we can have the most impact, supporting each student to realize their individual potential.

USD Action Plan:

1. Emphasize early childhood education to maximize our impact on learning.
2. Provide differentiated instruction to meet individual needs.
3. Increase technology to promote auditory or visual access to information.
4. Build collaborative partnerships to provide quality services.

Moving forward with this action plan in a tight economy requires us to carefully plan the services provided across all grades and programs. We have received input from teachers and staff, and have a proposed redesign of our services to present to parents. There will be significant changes in our Parent Infant Program, preschools, and secondary schools. A brief summary of the proposed changes is included.

I invite your input and feedback on these service models. I have scheduled meetings for parents and students to share our ideas with you and to get your input about how these proposed changes will impact your family.

<b>Thursday, March 4, 2010</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Orem Elementary School</b>
<b>Thursday, March 11, 2010</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 pm</b>	<b>USDB Ogden Campus</b>
<b>Thursday, March 18, 2010</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 pm</b>	<b>USDB SLC Campus</b>

The meetings will be interpreted in ASL. For any other languages, please contact Amy Young at 801-629-4739. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, your input is always welcome by email or phone. I will be happy to schedule individual meetings with families by request.

Thank you

Jennifer Johnson Howell  
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USD Service Models  
Proposed Changes

<p>Parent Infant Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive system for sharing information with families about language development and educational options.</li> <li>• Encourage families to make language decisions early and to begin specific intervention appropriate for their decision.</li> <li>• Early Intervention Specialists will focus their expertise on either ASL or Listening and Spoken Language.</li> <li>• Increase home visits from Early Intervention Specialists to up to twice weekly.</li> <li>• Offer a comprehensive Parent Education program.</li> <li>• Establish the PIP Center, a demonstration home where families can stay and receive intensive training about language development.</li> <li>• Begin monthly family playgroups, where families can socialize and network.</li> <li>• Open toddler groups in the SLC, Ogden, and Orem areas for children ages 18m to 3y.</li> <li>• Increase home visits from Deaf Mentors to twice each week.</li> <li>• Adjust Deaf Mentor services to be available at any age, but limited to three years.</li> <li>• Change employment status in PIP from part time to full time.</li> <li>• Provide consultation to other Early Intervention professionals when the child with a hearing loss does not need intensive language intervention.</li> <li>• Use frequent assessment to monitor language development and adjust services as needed.</li> </ul>
<p>Preschool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase preschool time from 4 hours, 4 days to 6.5 hours, 5 days (the preschool schedule will be the same as the elementary school schedule).</li> <li>• Provide up to 30 minutes daily of individual language instruction.</li> <li>• Parent-Child Therapy will continue for families in Listening and Spoken Language classes</li> <li>• Deaf Mentor services will continue for families who are currently receiving that service and who are enrolled in an ASL/English preschool.</li> </ul>
<p>Lower Elementary (K-3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide up to 30 minutes daily of individual language instruction, as determined by the IEP.</li> <li>• Staff each division with a Literacy Specialist.</li> <li>• Students in Listening and Spoken Language programs will have general education experiences, to prepare them for admission in neighborhood schools when the IEP team feels they are ready.</li> </ul>
<p>Upper Elementary (4-6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASL/English classes will focus on development of literacy, numeracy, and the state core curriculum.</li> <li>• Listening and Spoken Language students will have USD “resource teacher” support, with diagnostic teaching to determine the best educational setting and supports.</li> </ul>
<p>Secondary (7-12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary classes will be available at JMS, Skyline, Weber, North Ogden JHS, Mountain View, and Dixie HS. The type and quantity of classes available will be adjusted from current schedules.</li> <li>• JMS will offer an ASL immersion program for deaf students learning ASL as a second language.</li> <li>• USD will continue partnering with district schools (Skyline, Mountain View, Weber, Churchill, North Ogden, etc) to offer general education classes with interpreting.</li> <li>• USD will continue to offer extracurricular programs (athletics, academic bowl, etc) to students who have a hearing loss from any district. We will seek additional funding to maintain these programs.</li> </ul>
<p>Post-High Vocational (age 16-22)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a residential vocational and life skills program at the USDB Ogden campus.</li> <li>• Students must meet entrance requirements to participate.</li> <li>• Diploma or Certificate of Completion will be available upon completion of program requirements.</li> </ul>