

January 5, 2010

I hope that everyone had the opportunity to have a pleasant and relaxing holiday break and that you were able to spend time with family and friends. Despite the current cold weather, it may be comforting to realize that we have passed the winter solstice and that the amount of sunlight is gradually increasing as we head toward spring. Once again, we are anticipating an extremely busy second semester, and we have many things to accomplish prior to summer break.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those who attended the GCSEC/GCEA Christmas Party. We had an outstanding turnout, and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. In addition to giving away a number of very creative gift baskets, we conducted a 50-50 drawing with all of the proceeds going to the Miracle League of Joliet. We also collected donations for We Care of Grundy County. I would like to thank all of those who demonstrated their generosity through this act of kindness during the holiday season. We donated \$786 to the Miracle League of Joliet, which provides an opportunity for children with disabilities to play baseball. The field is located next to Silver Cross Field in Joliet, and some of our students are involved with this organization. Additionally, we donated a full pick-up truck load of groceries and supplies to We Care of Grundy County, as well as \$109 in cash donations. We received thank you letters from both organizations, and I congratulate the efforts of our staff in coming through with this amount of charitable contributions despite the current state of the economy.

Annual review time is fast approaching and we will soon be sending out dates for regional Annual Review In-services. During these in-services, we will be sharing updates in EasyIEP, as well as providing a forum to address specific questions that may arise pertaining to the annual review process. We are presently finalizing the annual review schedule and will be sending out the final copy within the next few days.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on the decentralization process. Because the January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline has passed for districts to rescind letters of intent to decentralize, I am able to share the information regarding decentralization for the 2010-2011 school year. Since my last correspondence, only Saratoga District #60C has changed their original letter of intent. They have affirmed their intent to employ EC/DK program assistants, LD program assistants, and 1:1 aides. However, the cooperative will continue to employ EC/DK Teachers, LD Teachers, Speech Service Personnel, and Vision Services Personnel for Saratoga District #60C. No other districts submitted letters of revocation. The list of decentralized services for the 2010-2011 school year has been updated below.

At this time, preliminary estimates indicate that the decentralization process will displace 11.5 certified teaching staff and 25 program assistants across Gardner Elementary District #72C, Braceville Elementary District #75, Saratoga District #60C, and Morris Elementary District #54. Additionally, this impact will be realized by speech/language personnel, school psychologists, and social workers in the Coal City District #1, Morris Elementary District #54, and G.S.W. High School District #73 districts. Our administrative team met all day today to discuss the specific impact of these district decisions, and we will share this information as soon as we are able. As indicated previously, those individuals who are specifically affected by this process will be contacted personally by their supervisor. However, as we have discovered today, this process is

complex and multi-faceted and will take some time to unfold. Please be patient as we attempt to systemically attack this issue and subsequently respond in an organized manner. If you have questions regarding this process, I would direct you to your supervisor at this time. Thank you again for your understanding and patience in this matter, and I look forward to a positive and productive second semester.

Thanks,

Neil

### **Decentralization for 2010-2011**

Saratoga to hire	EC/DK Program Assistants LD Program Assistants 1:1 Program Assistants
Coal City to hire	School Psychologists School Social Workers Speech/Language Pathologists
Gardner Elementary to hire	LD Instructors LD Program Assistants
South Wilmington to hire	LD Instructors
Braceville to hire	LD Instructors LD Program Assistants 1:1 Program Assistants
Morris Elementary to hire	EC/DK Instructors EC/DK Program Assistants LD Instructors LD Program Assistants Speech/Language Pathologists School Psychologists School Social Workers
GSW to hire	School Social Worker