

# *Queen Creek School District No.95*

20740 South Ellsworth Road Queen Creek, Arizona 85242 Phone (480) 987-5935 Fax (480) 987-9714

Queen Creek Colleagues,

The Queen Creek Schools have come a long way in the past 10 years. We have accomplished some meaningful things, most notably our Excelling and Highly Performing schools. Our faculty and staffs are beyond compare. We continue to not only do things right, but do the right thing. It is imperative this hard time that we stay focused on our students.

Earlier this month the Arizona State Legislature came to consensus on a budget proposal to address Arizona's \$1.6 billion deficit for the 2008-2009 year. Education Budget will be slashed by \$300 million. More specifically, that looks like:

Arizona Universities	\$141 M
Arizona Community Colleges	9 M
K-12 Education	<u>133 M</u>

The K-12, \$133 M cuts include \$98 M from M&O (Maintenance and Operating) budgets and \$21M from soft capital (books, computers, software, etc.) These cuts will affect Queen Creek Schools by reducing our budgets by \$569,885. That will look like:

Item 1 Reduce Base Level Support 2%	\$464,130.00
Item 4 Reduce Soft Capital Allocation 10%	<u>103,755.00</u>
	\$567,885.00

We have prepared to meet these cuts with minimal impact on our students or staff. We will use our carry over balance, halting further new purchase orders, and freezing/postpone hiring of personnel to accomplish this.

Unfortunately, the 2009-2010 State budget looms on the horizon with more devastating severity. Worst case scenario, the State may want upward of \$3.7 million from that Queen Creek Schools budget. We will know more about that as the legislature proceeds through its session.

Please be assured that the Board of Education and this Administration will keep the best interest of students and staff foremost in our minds.

Respects,

*James D. Murlless, Ed.D.*

**Dr. James D. Murlless, Superintendent of Schools**