



EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
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April 8, 2008

Ames City Council Members
Mayor Ann Campbell
City Manager Steve Schainker
Ames City Hall
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

Dear City Leaders:

The members of the Ames School Board noted with interest your recent discussions of Targeted Growth Strategy as Reflected in Land Use Policy Plan. We were pleased to see that the data considered included the potential for new families in the Ames school district for each region. As you know, the Ames Community School District benefits greatly from being located in a vibrant, active community, and the City of Ames benefits from our excellent school system.

We encourage the council to invest in those areas with the greatest potential for new families in the Ames school district. As you are aware, even though the City of Ames has increased in population, there has been a 15-year decline in our school district enrollment resulting in many difficult reductions in the district budget. While our enrollment increased slightly last year, we need this growth pattern to continue in order to maintain and improve education for students in the Ames Community School District. Council decisions can help make that a reality.

We have appreciated recent opportunities for council-board conversations on areas of mutual interest. We look forward to future conversations and collaborations. Good luck in your decisions that will impact the quality of life for Ames residents and the Ames Community School District for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Gail Johnston, President
Ames School Board

GJ/kf