

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT A ONE-DAY STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM

Action Requested: Consider approval of a resolution directing the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf to develop a proposal, in consultation with the Board Office, to organize and conduct a one-day statewide symposium for the purpose of educating the Board of Regents, interested constituencies, and the public on best practices in educating deaf and hard of hearing students.

Executive Summary:

The Iowa Department of Education identified 3,231 students with a hearing loss during 2006-07.¹ Approximately 2,400 (75%) students are between the ages of 6 and 17. Nationally, 76.8% of students with a hearing loss are between the ages of 6 and 17.² In Iowa, students with a hearing loss typically attend either the Iowa School for the Deaf or their local school district.

Details of the Proposal:

- ◇ The symposium will identify best practices of serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing across the United States.
- ◇ The one-day symposium will be facilitated by an individual skilled in working with diverse populations and consensus building.
- ◇ The symposium will be held at a centrally located Iowa site which will be easily accessible for participants.
- ◇ Participants will involve key stakeholders, including those who use services (students and parents), service providers, educators, legislators, Board of Regents members, and other appropriate persons. Interpreters will be provided for participants who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ◇ The symposium will identify national models for serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as state and national achievement data.
- ◇ The symposium will identify recommendations for enhancing the quality of services provided to Iowa students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ◇ A timeline and projected budget will be identified for conducting the symposium. The proposal will be submitted to the Board Office no later than April 15, 2010.

¹ 2006-07 is the most recent statewide data available specifically for students with a hearing loss.

² Gallaudet Research Institute, 2006.