

Contact: Aimee Claeys

**TERMINATION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION AGREEMENT  
OF THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL ACADEMY**

**Action Requested:** Authorize the termination of the Agreement for the Management and Operation of the Northeast Regional Academy.

**Executive Summary:** The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Iowa School for the Deaf request Board authorization to terminate the management and operation agreement for the Northeast Regional Academy (Operating Agreement) entered into with the Charles City Community School District on April 23, 2015. The Northeast Regional Academy (NERA) was established during the 2015-2016 academic year utilizing a three-year start-up grant from the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE). The IDOE grant expires at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year, and will not be renewed. The parties have been unable to secure an alternative source of funding to support the program, and determined that discontinuation of the program is necessary.

**Background:** In 2012, the Board of Regents authorized the conducting of a feasibility study to examine the administrative and programmatic functions of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Iowa School for the Deaf. A Feasibility and Planning Study Committee was formed, and met monthly through the Fall of 2012. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Board in February of 2013, which included the development of regional programs to extend the continuum of deaf/blind services statewide. The Board directed the IBSSS/ISD Superintendent to develop a proposal for a pilot regional center.

The Superintendent, with the assistance of the Leadership Team for Statewide Services for Deaf and Blind, identified the Charles City Community School District (CCSD) as an ideal location for the pilot regional program. Representatives from CCSD, Area Education Agency 267, and the Leadership Team worked collaboratively to develop and implement the pilot program.

On April 23, 2015, the Board of Regents approved an Iowa Code Chapter 28E agreement with CCSD for the operation and management of the Northeast Regional Academy. As the host district, CCSD is primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and direction of the educational programs at NERA. IBSSS/ISD are responsible for providing qualified staff for the delivery of student instruction and related services.

The Operating Agreement includes automatic annual renewals unless otherwise terminated upon mutual agreement of the parties. CCSD will consider termination of the Operating Agreement during its March meeting. Following termination, CCSD and IBSSS/ISD will cooperate in closing the program and disposing of physical assets, if any.