

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO APPROVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR
VISION SERVICES AND IOWA BRAILLE AND SIGHT SAVING SCHOOL**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the strategic plan for the Statewide System for Vision Services and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

Executive Summary: The Statewide System for Vision Services and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School submitted a new institutional strategic plan for Board review and approval. The School's strategic plan is expected to include performance measures for each performance indicator and show alignment with the Board of Regents 2010-2016 Strategic Plan.

The School's strategic plan addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities to provide "access, affordability, and student success; educational excellence and impact; and economic development and vitality."

Background:

Board Policy (§6.05) indicates that the "Board shall help establish institutional direction, and monitor and evaluate progress toward achieving strategic goals. Each of the Regent institutions shall develop, maintain, and update a Board-approved strategic plan which describes its mission, vision, values, culture, and performance indicators and is consistent with the Board's strategic plan and performance indicators. Each of the Regent institutions shall include its current Board-approved strategic plan on its institutional website."

The Board of Regents 2010-2016 strategic plan, which was approved by the Board in April 2010 (Agenda Item 11), established the following priorities for the Board and its institutions:

- ◇ Access, affordability, and student success.
- ◇ Educational excellence and impact.
- ◇ Economic development and vitality.

Statewide System for Vision Services and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Strategic Plan

- ◇ IBSSS identified the following strategic initiatives in its strategic plan for 2010-2016:
 - ⊗ Increase the availability and participation in intense services in regions of the state.
 - ⊗ Develop and implement a process for determining and meeting the full continuum of service needs including the long-term residential needs of students who are blind or visually impaired.
 - ⊗ Increase the percentage of students who by age 16 have transition plans for improved postsecondary outcomes.
 - ⊗ Meet or exceed state academic standards for performance in reading and mathematics.

- Demonstrate that the System's student outcomes assessment programs help students achieve identified learning goals.
- Demonstrate increased efficiency and productivity.

Superintendent Patrick Clancy will provide a brief presentation of the School's strategic plan which is attached to this memo.



STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR VISION SERVICES AND
IOWA BRAILLE AND SIGHT SAVING SCHOOL
2010-2016 STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS) has two primary components: to provide direct educational services to visually-impaired children and youth of the state of Iowa and to serve a leadership and resource role in statewide efforts to meet the needs of the visually impaired.

The School's purpose is to enable Iowa students who are blind or visually impaired to function as independently as possible in all aspects of life, by providing appropriate education opportunities, resources and support services.

The Statewide System for Vision Services is an educational organization charged with providing equitable access to high quality education services to students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities, throughout the state. The Statewide System for Vision Services cooperative agreement between the Board of Regents, State of Iowa (Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School), Area Education Agencies, Iowa Department of Education, and the Department for the Blind committed to the goal to create a unified system for the delivery of vision services with the Statewide System for Vision Services as the central agency to recruit, train, supervise, and deploy all teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) and certified orientation and mobility instructors (COMs) in the state.

The Preferred Future for Vision Services in Iowa is characterized by the following:

- A. Providing appropriate training and support for general education classroom and special education teachers, administrators, and AEA staff who work with students who are blind or visually impaired.
- B. Using regional centers to provide access to the expanded core curriculum (life skills) and to eliminate geographical differences in the distribution of resources.
- C. Maximizing skill development in activities for daily living, literacy, social skills, and travel skills.
- D. Centralizing administration and coordination of service providers, assistive technology, and regional centers to allow for the allocation of available resources to achieve maximum effectiveness.
- E. Coordinating comprehensive transition to adulthood services with the Department for the Blind.
- F. Expanding early intervention services for birth-age 3 which focuses on families, communication, and social skill development.

The following are the **Goals of the Statewide System for Vision Services**:

- A. Provide equitable access to a continuum of high quality services for all students in Iowa who are blind and visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities;
- B. Assure an adequate supply of highly trained teachers and orientation and mobility specialists;
- C. Assure adequate and professional supervision, ongoing professional development and equitable job assignments for professionals working with blind and visually impaired students;
- D. Eliminate duplication in service delivery by creating a seamless coordinated system of services to blind and visually impaired students across multiple funding sources and agencies responsible for this population;
- E. Maintain a center of excellence in Iowa for discipline specific expertise at Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS).

The goals of this strategic plan reflect the recommendations set forth in the Board of Regents Study Committee on Residential Services and approved by the Board in August 2010.

Recommendation 1 - The Iowa Legislature shall continue to appropriate fiscal resources at or above the current level.

Recommendation 2 - The Statewide System for Vision Services shall provide educational services as near to each student's home as possible.

Recommendation 3 - The Statewide System for Vision Services shall strengthen the availability of intense services in each region of the state through the reallocation of residential costs using three mechanisms:

1. Employment of additional Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Special Education Consultants, and others as appropriate;
2. Development and implementation of "Magnet" opportunities in partnership with other providers for the provision of regional intensive expanded core curriculum short-term programs;
3. Building capacity, expanding visibility, and increasing understanding of the Statewide System for Vision Services.

Recommendation 4 - The Statewide System for Vision Services shall develop and implement a process for determining and meeting the long-term residential needs of students who are blind or visually impaired.

Recommendation 5 - The Statewide System for Vision Services shall partner with other providers for the provision of long-term residential services for students with additional needs.

Recommendation 6 - The Board of Regents shall continue to operate the Vinton campus for the following operations:

1. Direct Services. A facility will be needed for short-term programs for students, e.g., weekend, weeklong, summer, in this region of the state and some statewide student short-term services. The site will serve as the center for services, such as consultation, assistive technology, and low vision.
2. Administrative Services. The Vinton site will be used as the center for administrative services with the Statewide System for Vision Services. The site will continue to operate in partnership with AmeriCorps NCCC programs. Lease revenue will be used to offset a substantial portion of the costs to operate the facility.

Recommendation 7 - The Board of Regents shall recommend to the legislature changing the name of the Statewide System for Vision Services and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School to Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS, ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, AND TARGETS

Goal 1. The Statewide System for Vision Services, in collaboration with other service providers, shall increase the availability and participation in intense services in regions of the state.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the availability and participation in regional services to meet the expanded core curriculum needs of students who are blind or visually impaired.

Target. All students will have an opportunity to access regional services for needs in the expanded core curriculum, as based on needs assessments and Individual Education Programs.

Goal 2. The Statewide System for Vision Services shall develop and implement a process for determining and meeting the full continuum of service needs, including the long-term residential needs of students who are blind or visually impaired.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the number of students requiring a long-term residential component with a decrease in number and length of stay.

Target. By September 2012, a process will be in place and working effectively, as measured by Individual Education Program (IEP) goals and services being met, for meeting the full continuum of service needs including the long-term residential needs of students who are blind or visually impaired.

Goal 3. The Statewide System for Vision Services shall increase the percentage of students who by age 16 have transition plans for improved post secondary outcomes.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the percentage of students who have transition goals and outcomes in place by age 16, including appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon an age appropriate transition assessment, transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals, and annual IEP goals related to the student's transition service needs. In 2007, 35% of all students with an IEP met this criterion; in 2009, 55% of all students with an IEP met this criterion.

Target. Increase to 100% the students who have transition goals and outcomes in place by age 16, including appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon an age appropriate transition assessment, transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals, and annual IEP goals related to the student's transition service needs.

Goal 4 (BOR Goal 5). The Statewide System for Vision Services shall meet or exceed state academic standards for performance in reading and mathematics.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the proportion of Statewide System for Vision Services students who meet or exceed state academic standards in reading and mathematics.

Target. Increase by 15% the number of students served by the Statewide System for Vision Services (in conjunction with other partners) who meet or exceed state academic standards in reading and mathematics by 2016.

Goal 5 (BOR Goal 6). The Statewide System for Vision Services (in conjunction with other partners) will demonstrate that student outcomes assessment programs help students achieve identified learning goals.

Accountability Measure. Trend data on the results of student outcomes assessment programs served by the Statewide System for Vision Services.

Target. By June 20, 2011, Statewide System for Vision Services, in collaboration with faculty, will develop student outcomes assessment plans for each academic program and establish targets for collecting and using assessment results.

Goal 6 (BOR Goal 8). Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Statewide System for Vision Services shall be increasingly efficient and productive.

Accountability Measure. Inter-institutional efficiencies and cost-savings resulting from collaborative initiatives within and between the Regent institutions.

Target. By January 1, 2011, the Board Office and institutions will define accountability measures, set a baseline of performance, and establish targets for inter-institutional efficiencies and cost savings.