Announcement of Public Hearings
Iowa School for the Deaf and Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

The Iowa Education Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI) and Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) will hold two public hearings this summer on increasing efficiencies and effectiveness with services in Iowa to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired or deafblind including services provided at the state’s two special schools. Interested parties are invited to participate, either in person or through written comments.

A feasibility and planning study committee began meeting monthly in late June to examine the structure for future effective statewide services. A component of this study includes Iowa Code 270.10 which requires such a study to occur before merging of the special schools or closing of either special school. The committee is working toward an early winter deadline to have recommendations ready for the Department of Management, which may present the findings to the Iowa General Assembly. Comments from the hearings will be summarized and presented at the Sept. 24th meeting of the feasibility study committee.

The first public hearing will be Monday, July 30, 2012 from 5-7 p.m. at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School’s auditorium in Vinton. The second hearing will be Monday, Aug. 27, 2012 from 5-7 p.m. at the Lied Multipurpose Complex on the Iowa School for the Deaf campus. Each hearing follows a feasibility and planning study committee meeting, which is open to the public. Sign language interpreters will be present at each hearing.

Those wishing to provide input at the hearings should register upon arrival. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Individuals preferring to provide comments in writing to have them read publicly should submit them at least one week in advance of each hearing to:khintz@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us or cangeroth@iowaschoolforthedeaf.org. Mailed comments should be addressed to Kathy Hintz, Iowa Braille School, 1002 G Ave., Vinton, IA 52349 or Cindie Angeroth, Iowa School for the Deaf, 3501 Harry Langdon Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503.

The hearings are meant to gather input from the public and participants should not expect their comments or questions to be addressed at this time.