

Public Hearings to be Held on campuses of IBSSS; ISD

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS) and Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) will hold two public hearings this summer 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 was established by the Department of Management and began meeting monthly in late June to examine the structure for future effective statewide services for students who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, visually impaired or deafblind in Iowa. Iowa Code 270.10 requires such a study to occur when considering the merging or closing of the two special schools.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Public Hearings

What is a public hearing?

Consider these public hearings as public comment sessions. They provide a formal venue for individuals who want to express their thoughts, concerns and opinions in an organized manner regarding the work of the Feasibility and Planning Study Committee. These public comments will be used to make informative decisions consistent with the goals of the committee.

When/Where are the two hearings?

- Monday, July 30, 5-7 p.m. Iowa Braille and Sight Saving Auditorium
Vinton, Iowa
- Monday, August 27, 5-7 p.m. Iowa School for the Deaf Lied Multipurpose Complex
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Who can attend the hearings?

Anyone interested in the information presented or in presenting information is welcome.

Will sign language interpreters be present at the hearings?

Interpreters will be available to voice and sign.

I want to say something during the hearing.

If you wish to comment during the hearing, you should **register** when you enter the doors. There will be a specific location in the building for this.

I want my thoughts to be known but am too nervous to present.

OR

I can not attend but want to comment.

Send your comments by e-mail to: khintz@iowa-braille.k12.ia.us or cangeroth@iowaschoolforthe deaf.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. Comments must be received by one week prior to each hearing.

What is the format for the evening?

If you wish to comment, register when you enter the building. Find a seat. A moderator will open the hearing, provide a brief explanation about the work of the committee and the ground rules for the hearing. Then, comments will be taken by those in the order which they

have registered. There will be a notetaker and comments compiled for consideration by the committee.

How long can I comment?

Everyone will be limited to **three minutes**, enforced by a timekeeper.

Will there be a response to my comments?

Response is not the purpose of the public hearing. We want to hear from you. There will not be a panel of individuals speaking, and no opposing “sides” at this hearing.

What will happen to my comments?

Public commentary from the two hearings will be compiled and presented to the Feasibility and Planning Study Committee at the Sept. 24 meeting.

Other questions regarding the hearing may be e-mailed to:

cangeroth@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org