MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Approval of School and Holiday Calendars for the Iowa School for the Deaf
Date: May 6, 2002

Recommended Action:

Approve the School and Holiday Calendars for the Iowa School for the Deaf for 2002-03 contingent upon the Governor’s signing of SF 2326.

Executive Summary:

- The Legislature has provided ISD the opportunity to conduct a three-year pilot project using a school calendar that would reduce the number of calendar days it is in session.

- ISD proposes 175 days of instruction instead of 180.

- The number of hours of instruction in the school year would remain the same.

- ISD is required to evaluate student progress during the pilot project.

- The Governor has not, at this writing, signed the legislation authorizing the pilot project.

- The school has identified a revised calendar and a student evaluation process which the Board is asked to approve, contingent upon the Governor signing the legislation.

Background:

- In accordance with the Board of Regents Policy Manual §6.12, the Board is asked to approve the school calendar for the Iowa School for the Deaf. The calendar is shown on Attachment A.
Pending legislation

- SF 2326 passed during this session of the General Assembly gives the Board authority to establish a pilot program to investigate instituting an “innovative” school calendar at ISD. This bill has not been signed by the Governor.

- The text of the legislation is as follows:
  “The state board of regents may establish a three-year pilot program to evaluate the benefits of establishing an innovative school calendar for the school for the deaf. If the board establishes a pilot program in accordance with this section, the board shall provide for the administration of valid and reliable standardized assessments to demonstrate the program’s effect on student achievement. Any findings and recommendations resulting from a pilot program established in accordance with this section shall be submitted to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house standing committees on education and the joint appropriations subcommittee on education by December 15, 2005. The report shall include a listing of the savings, goals and outcomes, and the effect of the innovative school calendar on student achievement and the school's educational program. This section is repealed effective June 30, 2006.”

- As a result of anticipated reductions in state appropriations, Superintendent Johnson is proposing a shortened school calendar for the coming academic year.

Proposed calendar

- Traditionally K-12 school calendars include 180 instructional days. Each instructional day includes six hours of instruction. The proposed calendar contains 175 instructional days.

- In order to provide the same number of instructional hours, the school day will be extended for 30 school days between September 9 and November 11, 2002.

- ISD reports that the shortened calendar would result in savings in salaries of non-faculty school year staff, utilities, food and transportation.

Required evaluation of effect on student achievement

To fulfill the legislative requirement that achievement of students be evaluated during this pilot project, ISD turned to its strategic plan to quantify the use of standardized tests as part of its commitment to continuous school improvement. ISD is further committed to use standardized assessments as a component of its North Central Association accreditation. ISD will use four assessment measures in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, including:

  o Routine growth results from Stanford Achievement Test results of general student populations;
  o Routine growth results from Stanford Achievement Test results of deaf students;
  o North West Evaluation Assessments (NWEA); and
  o ISD teacher assessments.

Four assessment tools
Holiday calendar

- The holiday calendar, Attachment B, is consistent with the policy of the Board of Regents, state law and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Analysis:

- ISD has developed a calendar for the pilot project which meets the legislative requirements, including analyzing student results.
- The students would receive the same number of hours of instruction pursuant to the revised calendar of 175 school days as with the pervious calendars of 180 days because of the hour added to the length of 30 school days.
- As the Governor has not signed the authorizing legislation, approval of the pilot project is contingent upon SF 2326 becoming law.
2002-2003 School Calendar

August 2002

August 21-23 .... Faculty In-Service
August 23 .... Residential Staff In-Service
August 25 .... Students Return
August 26 .... First Day of Classes
August 30 .... Students Leave
September 2 .... Labor Day
September 3 .... Students Return
September 27 .... Students Leave
September 30 .... Faculty In-Service
September 30 .... Students Return
October 5 .... Homecoming
October 25 .... Students Leave
October 28 .... Faculty In-Service
October 28 .... Students Leave
November 15 .... End of First Trimester
November 22 .... Parent/Teacher Conference
November 27 .... Students Leave
November 27-29 .... Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28 .... Thanksgiving Day
December 1 .... Students Return
December 20 .... Students Leave
December 23-31 .... Winter Holiday
December 24 & 25 .... Christmas Holiday
December 31 .... New Year Holiday
January 1 .... New Year’s Day
January 2-3 .... Winter Holiday
January 5 .... Students Return
January 31 .... Students Leave
February 2 .... Students Return
February 27 .... End of Second Trimester
February 27 .... Students Leave
February 28 .... Faculty In-Service
March 1 .... Students Return
March 2 .... Students Leave
March 7 .... Parent/Teacher Conference
March 28 .... Students Leave
March 31 .... Faculty In-Service
April 18 .... Students Leave
April 21 .... Faculty In-Service
May 9 .... Students Leave
May 16 .... Senior Honors Program
May 16 .... Athletic Awards Program
May 17 .... Commencement
May 23 .... End of Third Trimester
May 23 .... All-School Recognitions
May 23 .... Last Day of School
May 23 .... Students Leave
May 26 .... Memorial Day
May 27 .... Faculty In-Service

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| Faculty In-Service |
| Residential Staff In-Service |
| Students Leave |
| Classes Resume |
| Faculty Off Contract |
| End of Trimester |

School Holiday & ISD
Campus Closed
Dates with "+1" indicate as days with one extra hour of school

Iowa School for the Deaf
Governed by the State Board of Regents
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<tr>
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<td>November 28</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
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