Regional Centers

1. What might be the advantages and disadvantages of a regional model or centers to serve students? Regional centers may be in four or five locations in the state within an hour drive to receive services.

2. If Iowa had regional centers what would be the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the campuses at Council Bluffs and/or Vinton? Would their location allow for them to be used as regional centers?

Features

- Located within an hour from where students reside
- Add to the continuum of services for students who are deaf and blind
  - Add classroom based option for students who are deaf and blind
- Be designed to specifically meet the needs within the geographic area
- Operate in conjunction with the local school district and Area Education Agency (AEA) where the regional center is located
- Operate in partnership with the AEAs to include support services such as audiologist and speech and language pathologists
- Include endorsed teachers of the visually impaired, teachers of deaf and hard of hearing, licensed interpreters and specially trained paraprofessionals
- Coordinate with other providers and agencies for services such as Department for the Blind, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and teacher training programs
- Provide leadership to services for students who are deaf and blind for that quadrant or area of the state
  - Personnel recruitment, assignment, supervision, professional development
  - Student Individual Education Programs (IEP), Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) and Expanded Core Curriculum services

Note: The use of the designation deaf and blind in this document is intended to convey deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired (including those with additional disabilities) and deafblind