

To: Iowa Board of Regents
From: Rosa Mauer
Date: October 26, 2009

Re: Budget

It is unfortunate that our state institutions, including the Iowa Braille School, are facing the current mandate of a 10% across-the-board cut. Our faculty, staff, and cabinet will work diligently to ensure that the impact of this reduction is minimal for the education of students who are blind or visually impaired who are being educated through the State-Wide System of Vision Services.

The continued focus of the Iowa Braille School faculty will be to provide quality instruction throughout Iowa and on the Vinton campus in vision-specific areas of learning such as Orientation and Mobility, Braille, and Assistive Technology. Consultants are working to build capacity in areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum to give Itinerant Teachers of students who are blind and visually impaired tools and knowledge to help children meet their educational goals and to increase independence.

As a staff, we will provide input to the Board of Regents and our own cabinet whenever it is possible and appropriate. Hopefully we can all remain flexible, energetic, and creative while keeping what is best for students who are blind and visually impaired in mind while dealing with these difficult financial situations in Iowa.

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