

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO CREATE A COORDINATING COUNCIL

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request to create a Coordinating Council by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education to review all statewide services which support the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Executive Summary: The Iowa School for the Deaf has a long history in the State and will continue to provide high quality educational opportunities to students (birth through secondary graduation) who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition, the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education want to ensure that equitable and timely access to educational services is provided to all students regardless of residence or school attendance. The purpose of the proposed Coordinating Council is to examine the future needs and solutions for all students who are deaf or hard of hearing; to engage in collaborations which benefit students statewide; and to ensure that existing services are being provided in the most effective and efficient manner.

Background:

The functions of the Coordinating Council will include the following:

- ◆ Identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in the current educational delivery system and develop plans which build on the strengths and address the opportunities for improvement.
- ◆ Continue to improve efficiency and effectiveness of statewide services, including continued development of flexible and innovative services, as needed.
- ◆ Develop and implement a comprehensive professional development plan that will provide all Iowa service providers, including the ISD faculty and staff, with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the continuous improvement of services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing and to their families.
- ◆ Develop cooperative agreements between the Board of Regents, Department of Education, and area education agencies to develop a statewide service delivery system for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.