

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:
"IOWA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED –
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS"**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: The Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI) staff created Standards of Practice (SOP) in the areas of literacy and mathematics. The SOP represent those best practices in literacy and mathematics for teaching students who are blind or visually impaired. The SOP were developed so that students who receive services anywhere in the state of Iowa will have the same learning opportunities regardless of their location. The standards also guide the professional development provided to staff each year.

Ms. Gwen Woodward is a Regional Director for Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired serving Western Iowa. She has a BS in Education of the visually impaired, an MS in Education of students with learning disabilities, and an MS in Educational Leadership. Ms. Woodward has been a special education teacher, a learning disabilities specialist and program director for Disability Resources at Iowa State University, and a program administrator for students with visual impairments at Heartland AEA.

Ms. Sara Larkin is a Math Consultant for IESBVI. She has a BA in Secondary Mathematics and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently working on an Ed.D. in Special Education with an emphasis in visual impairments. Prior to coming to work for IESBVI, Ms. Larkin had been a high school math teacher for 18 years.