

Contact: Rachel Boon

**PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:
“SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL STUDENTS AT THE
IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF”**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: The presenters include Rebecca Gaw (Principal), Julie Holland (Deaf/Blind Teacher), Sarah Planck (Pre-school Teacher), Megan Rang (Elementary Teacher), and Abigail Schwartz (Speech and Language Pathologist).

Although all of the students at the Iowa School for the Deaf have special needs because of their hearing loss, some students have additional needs (physical disabilities, health impairments, autism, intellectual disabilities, vision impairment, or need for behavioral support). In order to meet the unique needs of these students, ISD provides special programs and services. The presenters will highlight ISD's collaboration with staff from the Green Hills Area Education Association, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and other agencies and local businesses. The presentation will include information about the use of alternative communication devices, alternate curriculum and assessment, the new sensory room, and the ISD Special Olympics program, as well as statewide efforts to support deaf or hard of hearing students with additional disabilities.

Presenters

Rebecca Gaw has worked for the Iowa School for the Deaf for a total of 12 years, the past three years as Principal. Ms. Gaw has an M. Ed. in Secondary School Administration from East Central University.

Julie Holland has worked for the Iowa School for the Deaf for 28 years. Ms. Holland has an M.Ed. in the Education of the Deaf from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and currently serves as a teacher of deaf-blind students.

Sarah Planck has worked for the Iowa School for the Deaf for the past 18 years. Ms. Plank has an M.A. from Gallaudet University and currently serves as a Pre-school Teacher.

Megan Rang is in her first year of teaching at the Iowa School for the Deaf. Ms. Rang has an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University and is currently serving as an Elementary Teacher.

Abigail Schwartz is in her first year of teaching at the Iowa School for the Deaf. Ms. Schwartz has an M.A. in Speech and Language Pathology from the University of Iowa and serves as a Speech and Language Therapist.