

Contact: Rachel Boon

**PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:
“ASL AND ENGLISH BIMODAL AND BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM”**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Research shows that the listening abilities of deaf and hard of hearing children may or may not provide sufficient access to develop spoken language. Both auditory and visual neural pathways must be stimulated early during times of optimal neural plasticity. The Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) preschool program is working to provide an accessible language in American Sign Language (ASL), an 'authentic' English print environment, and opportunities for visual access to sound and spoken English.

ISD staff including the pre-school teacher, teacher assistants, ASL teacher, speech and language pathologists and principal began working with researchers in the field of ASL and English Bilingual Bimodal programming during the 2017-2018 school year. They are working to create a classroom environment that builds on the development of ASL and English. Components of the pilot program include individual student and classroom plans, and plans for the home environment which are data driven and researched based.

Presenters will include the following:

Rebecca Gaw, Principal
Sara Planck, Preschool Teacher
Abigail Swartz, Speech and Language Pathologist
Bryce Hendricks, American Sign Language Teacher