

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

IBSSS MONTHLY REPORT

Action Requested: Receive the IBSSS monthly report.

Executive Summary: IBSSS continues to address the implementation of the Task Force recommendations especially in light of the three key areas that are guiding the work of the School in 2006-07:

- ◆ Finalize cooperative agreements among the Board of Regents, Department of Education, area education agencies, and the Department for the Blind to develop a statewide service delivery system for students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.
- ◆ Continue to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services supported by the Vinton site faculty and staff, including continued development of flexible and innovative services delivered in regional locations as needed and continue to work with Iowa State University to finalize recommendations for efficient use of physical facilities in concert with the feasibility study.
- ◆ Develop and implement a comprehensive professional development plan that will provide all Iowa service providers, including the IBSSS faculty and staff, with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the continuous improvement of services to children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

The following describe the School's activities during July 2006:

- ◆ The School provided a three-week summer session for blind or visually impaired students aged 6-18 in Council Bluffs on the campus of the Iowa School for the Deaf. This new effort to provide regional support was attended by 18 students.
 - ☑ The session focused on assessing student needs in the areas of technology and independent living skills because those were the need areas that had been identified in surveys of parents and professionals.
 - ☑ Students planned meals, shopped for groceries, and prepared meals.
 - ☑ Practice opportunities were provided to students to estimate the cost of a restaurant meal, withdraw bank funds, and complete a cash transaction when ordering and paying for a meal.
 - ☑ Students received technology instruction on an individualized basis.
 - ☑ Students received orientation and mobility instruction on campus and in the community during field trips. Educational field trips included a visit to the Omaha Children's Museum and Sensory Safari, Henry Doorly Zoo, and the IMAX Theatre.
 - ☑ ISD provided staff and housing support to the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School staff during the session.

- ◇ The School provided a Family Day on July 28, 2006, to 13 families. Parents had opportunities, including family activities, to learn more about technology, independent living skills, orientation and mobility for their children who are blind or visually impaired. Parents attended an awards assembly as well as individual parent-teacher conferences.
- ◇ The School continued to assess staff needs which resulted in a reduction in force of eight merit staff.
- ◇ The School continues to refurbish areas of Old Main on the Vinton campus. Plans were completed for the 2006-07 school year; staff arrived on August 16, 2006 and students arrived on August 20, 2006.

This monthly report will be submitted to the Government Oversight Committee to meet the requirements of HF 2527.