

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

UPDATE ON IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SYMPOSIUM

Action Requested: Receive an update from ISD Superintendent Jeanne Prickett regarding the statewide symposium held on August 31, 2010.

Executive Summary:

The Iowa Department of Education identified 3,231 students with a hearing loss during 2006-07.¹ Approximately 2,400 (75%) students are between the ages of 6 and 17. Nationally, 76.8% of students with a hearing loss are between the ages of 6 and 17.² In Iowa, students with a hearing loss typically attend either the Iowa School for the Deaf or their local school district.

At the March 2010 meeting, the Board of Regents directed the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf, in consultation with the Board Office, to organize and conduct a one-day statewide symposium for the purpose of educating the Board of Regents, interested constituencies, and the public on best practices in educating deaf and hard of hearing students.

Details of the Symposium:

- ◆ The title of the symposium was “What do we need to know about deaf education?”
- ◆ There were two presenters – the first presenter focused on best practices in communication-driven service delivery; the second presenter focused on best practices in student achievement and outcomes.
- ◆ The symposium identified best practices of serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing across the United States.
- ◆ The symposium was held in Des Moines to provide easy accessibility for participants.
- ◆ Participants included key stakeholders, such as those who use services (students and parents), service providers, educators, legislators, Board of Regents members, and other appropriate persons. Interpreters were provided for participants who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ◆ The symposium identified national models for serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as state achievement data.
- ◆ The symposium participants had an opportunity to identify key issues for enhancing the quality of services provided to Iowa students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

¹ 2006-07 is the most recent statewide data available specifically for students with a hearing loss.

² Gallaudet Research Institute, 2006.