

Contact: Rachel Boon

ONLINE INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Action Requested: Affirm the Iowa School for the Deaf agreement for online instructional services for the 2022-23 academic year with the American School for the Deaf as more fully described in this memorandum.

Executive Summary: The Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD), like many K-12 schools across the state, is experiencing difficulty recruiting certified teachers. Recruiting challenges are intensified by a high demand for teachers of the deaf and comparatively limited number of specialized teacher training programs. In February of 2022, ISD began recruiting for middle school and high school science teachers. Advertisements were placed nationwide on deaf education websites and at universities with deaf education programs. ISD leveraged postings on social media sites and actively pursued potential candidates. Unfortunately, ISD only received applications from candidates who are not trained in sign language or deaf education.

ISD evaluated the number of students who must receive instruction in science in order to remain on track academically and determined that alternative resources would be necessary. ISD explored options with the Lewis Central Community School District, the Utah School for the Deaf, and engaged with superintendents at deaf schools across the country. ISD ultimately identified the American School for the Deaf as an appropriate resource.

The Iowa School for the Deaf requests Board affirmation of an agreement with the American School for the Deaf (ASD) to provide online instructional services during the 2022-23 academic year. The online instructional services will be provided in the following core courses: Middle School Life Science 1 and 2, High School Earth Science 1, and High School Earth Science 2. The total cost for the provision of these services is anticipated not to exceed \$38,280.

The American School for the Deaf is a Connecticut State Department of Education approved residential school serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing in Connecticut and the immediate region. As part of its educational programming, ASD offers an online academy providing virtual instruction in five core subject areas to students across the United States. Online instruction is provided by teachers licensed in various states throughout the country, with the proposed agreement contemplating the assignment of teachers primarily licensed in Connecticut. In consideration of Iowa Department of Education requirements regarding the provision of core instruction using an online delivery model, the Iowa School for the Deaf is working with ASD to assure that all teachers assigned to provide services under the proposed agreement are licensed to provide instruction in the State of Iowa.