

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 2007-08:

- ◇ 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 continued 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 September 2007:

- ◇ Classes began in August 2007. There are 16 students in residence at the Vinton campus and approximately 475 blind or visually impaired students being served statewide.
- ◇ The Track and Field season began for students enrolled at the School and for those blind or visually impaired students who are attending public schools and who will compete at out-of-state meets. The adapted physical education teacher met with public school students and coaches and set up practices for students in their home districts. Public school students will travel with the Iowa Braille School Track and Field team to compete in out-of-state meets and the state conference meet. This new program is expected to allow more Iowa athletes who are blind or visually impaired to be involved in competitive sports.
- ◇ A Fine Arts Weekend program for students was held on September 20-22, 2007. An African theme was explored through drama, art, and music. Parents attended the last day and observed their children's work and attended the dramatic presentation.

- ◆ Five IBSSS staff members, including teachers and other professionals, began the 2007-08 Contemporary School Leadership program sponsored by Grant Wood AEA with credits available from Drake University. This is the third cohort of IBSSS staff members to attend the training.
- ◆ A communication process designed by the 2006-07 Contemporary School Leadership team was implemented at the School. The communication process is expected to increase the exchange of information and improve efficiency and effectiveness among staff.
- ◆ Fifty retired individuals from Minnesota visited the School in September 2007. Their visit was hosted by an alumnus who is blind and who provides public information services for the School on a volunteer basis.
- ◆ Two positions in the School's business office were filled – Director of Business Operations and Account Specialist. This will allow the School to enhance its technology, effectiveness, efficiency, collaboration and service.
- ◆ Renovation of the second floor of the Old Main building is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the student dormitory area will move into the Old Main renovated area during the second weekend in October. An open house to showcase the area is scheduled for October 24, 2007, from 3:00 – 6:00 P.M. The public is invited to attend the open house.

This monthly report will be submitted to the Government Oversight Committee to meet the requirements of SF 588.