

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 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 October 2006:

- ◇ The Fall Vision Conference, co-sponsored by the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Department of Education, was held on October 8-10, 2006. The audience included parents and families of students who are blind or visually impaired as well as vision professionals in Iowa. Responses to questions by the Leadership Team¹ are available on the School's website, www.iowa-braille.k12.ia.us.
- ◇ On October 13, 2006, IBSSS staff provided a statewide ICN professional development session on performance monitoring of individual education plan (IEP) goals for all teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists in the state. The training was presented by a Grant Wood AEA 12 staff member who provides physical therapy and Medicaid services. This collaborative relationship contributes to statewide efforts to provide quality programming for students.

¹ The Leadership Team includes Jeananne Schild, IBSSS Interim Superintendent; Lana Michelson, IDOE Director of Children, Family, and Community Services; Glenn Grove, Loess Hills AEA 13 Chief Administrator; Allen Harris, Director of the Iowa Department for the Blind; and Harold Blatt, Keystone AEA 1 Director of Special Education.

- ◇ On October 16, 2006, Iowa Department for the Blind staff attended a meeting at IBSSS to continue facilitated discussions with IBSSS staff to work toward common goals. The group efforts are in response to recommendations from the Coordinating Council.
- ◇ Presentations were made to the Vinton Lions Club and the Vinton Kiwanis Club regarding programming and planning at the School. These efforts assist the Vinton community to obtain timely and accurate information regarding the School's activities.
- ◇ A Quality Programming for the Visually Impaired (QPVI) session was held at the School on October 26, 2006. QPVI support performance monitoring and IEPs for students who are blind or visually impaired.
- ◇ A tour of the School occurred on October 27, 2006 for a group interested in the potential of using campus space and sharing facilities for accelerating commercial development of software and biotechnology businesses. The group is interested in using Palmer Hall as a training facility for research scientists not for conducting research. Federal grant funds would be requested by the group to support the effort.
- ◇ A recognition reception was held for the IBSSS facilities staff.
- ◇ Planning for the Old Main second floor renovation project is moving forward through meetings between School staff and Iowa State University architects.
- ◇ Regional programming occurred in Sioux Center on October 5-6, 2006 in the areas of recreation, leisure, and physical education for students who are blind or visually impaired.
- ◇ The School received a new student in a short-term placement.
- ◇ The School recalled a Houseparent who had been laid off in August to a full-time position in October due to a resignation in September.

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