

Contact: Andy Baumert

PROGRESS REPORT ON STATEWIDE SYSTEM FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Action Requested: Receive the report.

Executive Summary: In 2005-06, a Coordinating Council, jointly appointed by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and the State Board of Education, developed recommendations for a preferred future for services to blind and visually impaired children of Iowa. One of these recommendations was to centralize administration and coordination of service providers, assistive technology, and regional centers to allow for the allocation of available resources to achieve maximum effectiveness. Meetings are underway with representatives of the Area Education Agencies and the Department of Education to develop consensus on the operational details of a statewide system for vision services. Further, in recognition of Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School leadership, the Department of Education has proposed that the superintendent of IBSSS also serve as the administrator of the statewide system, with that portion of the responsibility supported by the Department of Education. These arrangements could be accomplished through memoranda of understanding among those who share responsibility for providing services to students who are blind or visually impaired.

IBSSS Superintendent Jeananne Schild will provide a verbal report updating progress on the statewide system.