

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: FY 2002 Operating Appropriations Requests – Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

Date: July 7, 2000

Recommended Action:

Consider the FY 2002 operating appropriations incremental requests for the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS).

Executive Summary:

The Board's strategic plan outlines strategies for quality (KRA 1.0.0.0) and accountability (KRA 4.0.0.0) which include specific action steps related to appropriation requests. The proposed Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School FY 2002 appropriations requests reflect these strategic planning goals of the Board as well as those of School.

FY 2002 Incremental Requests

<u>Priority</u>		
1.	Full Funding of Salaries by State Appropriations	To Be Determined
2.	Increase Outreach Initiatives for Western Iowa	\$150,000

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School's first priority for FY 2002 appropriations requests is **full funding of salaries**. A request amount cannot be determined at this time because state salary policy will not be established until after negotiations for collective bargaining are concluded. Competitive salaries are essential to enable IBSSS to provide a quality academic and residential learning environment.

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School's second priority is state funding of \$150,000 for **increased outreach initiatives for Western Iowa**. This initiative, in cooperation with Area Education Agencies (AEA), proposes to increase outreach initiatives for students in western Iowa who are visually impaired, blind, and/or multi-disabled

The Board Office will continue to work with the School to refine these requests for Board action in September.

Background/Analysis:

	<u>FY 2001 Budget</u>	<u>FY 2001 Direct State Appropriations</u>	<u>FY 2002 Incremental Appropriations Request*</u>	<u>% Increase for State Approp.</u>
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School	\$4,911,297	\$4,671,023	\$150,000*	3.2

*Does not include an amount for the salary funding request.

Full Funding of Salaries by State Appropriations

Request
To Be Determined

Competitive salaries are essential to enable IBSSS to provide a quality academic and residential learning environment. Quality faculty and staff are fundamental in the implementation of the Board's and of the institution's strategic plans.

IBSSS must remain competitive by paying salaries to recruit and attract faculty qualified to teach students with visual disabilities or blindness, including those with multiple disabilities. Qualified teachers are becoming increasingly difficult to recruit. Many potential teachers are changing professions for financial reasons, making the available pool much smaller. Other states are becoming increasingly assertive in recruiting Iowa teachers by using signing bonuses, paying moving expenses, and offering very competitive salaries.

Many of the School's professional and scientific salaries are just keeping pace with entry-level position pay. IBSSS faces external competition for similar positions in the private sector. IBSSS relies solely upon state appropriation funding. Full funding of salaries will allow IBSSS to remain competitive and vital as a premiere academic and residential institution for the blind and visually disabled students.

Request
\$150,000

Increase Outreach Initiatives for Western Iowa

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, in cooperation with Area Education Agencies (AEA), proposes to increase outreach initiatives for students in western Iowa who are visually impaired, blind, and/or multi-disabled. This initiative supports the Governor's commitment to provide opportunity for all and addresses a need for children – early childhood through grade 12.

Data submitted by the School indicates that there are approximately 192 visually impaired, blind, and/or multi-disabled students in the western Iowa area. IBSSS currently provides some level of service to at least 75 of these students.

As part of an IBSSS environmental assessment, each of the Directors of Special Education at the AEA's was asked to provide information regarding how the needs of students who are blind could best be met. The School reports that the consensus of the AEA assessment concluded a continuing need for IBSSS to provide consultation services.

IBSSS expects that services will be administered through the School's existing outreach structure. If necessary, modifications will be made to meet the changing role in the state's educational opportunities.

Consultation services would include:

- Educational assessments and programming recommendations to blind or visually impaired students in public schools;
- Work experience opportunities and strategies for attaining independent living skills; and
- Adaptive technology useful for blind, visually impaired and/or students with multiple disabilities including visual impairments.

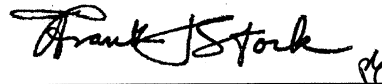
To provide those services, the IBSSS proposal includes three new positions:

- An Education Consultant to provide supervision and the primary link with other School staff and all local educational authorities in western Iowa;
- A Work Experience/Independent Living Skills Consultant to support local education authorities, students and their families in areas of transition planning, work experience opportunities, and strategies for attaining independent living skills; and
- A Technology Consultant to provide information regarding technology and adaptive technology useful for blind, visually impaired, and/or student with multiple disabilities.



Pamela M. Elliott

pe\\reges001\groups1\bf\2000\00juldoc\julgd10e.doc

Approved: 

Frank J. Stork