
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa School for the Deaf

Purpose and History

The Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) operates under the supervision of the [Board of Regents](#) to provide educational services to deaf or hearing-impaired Iowa students from preschool through age 21. The school is located in Council Bluffs. An agreement between Iowa and Nebraska allows Nebraska students to attend the ISD.

Students with a variety of communication methods, abilities, and devices attend the ISD. Students vary in their hearing levels, from those with mild losses to those with severe and profound losses. Cochlear implants and hearing aids are used by many students, while some students do not use any device. Speech language pathologists strategize with students who wish to maintain their residual voicing abilities. American Sign Language is used on campus, and all employees are required to attain and retain a level of signing, based on the amount of interaction they have with students. Depending on individual class needs, teachers sign, speak, or conduct class using both communication methods.

The School for the Deaf and the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired share a director. Programming for visually impaired transitioning youth is provided at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

Funding

The School for the Deaf is not funded through the K-12 school aid formula, but instead receives an operating appropriation from the General Fund through the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Though there is no provision in statute that requires funding to be based on school aid or any other formula, the General Assembly has frequently increased appropriations to the ISD by the same percentage as K-12 funding.

Teachers at the school participate in some features of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program through a separate appropriation for that purpose.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [270](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [681](#)

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More Information

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