

**681—16.1(262) Organization.**

**16.1(1) *Statement of mission.*** The mission of the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) has two primary components: to provide direct educational services to hearing-impaired children and youth of the state of Iowa and to serve a leadership and resource role in statewide efforts to meet the needs of the hearing impaired. In fulfilling its stated mission, ISD will coordinate its efforts with all appropriate state agencies, area education agencies, and local education agencies. Such coordination will be accomplished in the spirit of cooperation reflected in the agreements with these agencies.

Consistent with various sections of the Iowa Code, the educational mission of the Iowa School for the Deaf is to provide an appropriate individual education program for hearing-impaired children and youth who require the comprehensive programs provided by the school.

The educational programs of the Iowa School for the Deaf will be consistent with the philosophy, reflected in federal and state legislation, that handicapped and nonhandicapped children and youth be educated together to the greatest extent possible. Thus, ISD assumes responsibility for providing an education for those hearing-impaired children and youth, including those with additional handicaps, for whom the comprehensive educational programs of the school are most appropriate.

The educational programs of the Iowa School for the Deaf are based on the premise that the school exists to serve its students by providing a learning environment which, to the greatest extent possible, maximizes each child's potential to become a contributing member of society by enhancing the development of communication, knowledge, self-realization, human relationships, economic independence, and a sense of civic and social responsibility. The child-centered programs include learning activities and experiences that appropriately and specifically meet the needs of each child.

The scope of the educational program includes provisions for the hearing impaired from infancy through secondary education. Program formats include full-time residential, day school, summer and other short-term residential programs to meet specific needs, vocational, and on- and off-campus individual assessment and evaluation services. For residential students, activities and experiences on a 24-hour basis, not restricted to the traditional academic day, are an integral part of the program.

The Iowa School for the Deaf also serves as a state resource and dissemination center for education of the hearing impaired. In this role, the school has a central and vital mission in the statewide education of the hearing impaired and provides a resource center for educators, related field professionals, parents, the deaf community, and all interested citizens. Such a role affords the opportunity for the community-at-large to draw upon the specialized programs and services available at ISD.

The Iowa School for the Deaf will make its special resources available to regent universities, area education agencies, local education agencies, and other public and private agencies. Resource services would provide support in such activities as:

1. Assessment, counseling, and educational planning for hearing-impaired children and youth;
2. Programs for development of specialized communications skills;
3. Parent education;
4. Extended educational programming for hearing-impaired adults;
5. Research;
6. Preservice and continuing education of teachers and related professionals;
7. Curriculum development and evaluation; and
8. Development and dissemination of instructional materials and technology.

Within the scope of the school's mission, future programs will be determined by the ongoing evaluation of existing programs and an analysis of developing needs. Programs will be added, curtailed, or eliminated based on assessment of need and the most effective use of resources. The school remains flexible so as to respond quickly and effectively to unmet needs of hearing-impaired children and youth of Iowa.

**16.1(2) *Officers.*** The school has two statutory officers: the superintendent and the secretary-treasurer.

The superintendent is the chief administrative officer of the school and has such authority and duties as delegated by the board of regents.

The secretary-treasurer is responsible for nonfaculty personnel, investments, financial transactions, financial records, maintenance of facilities and related services as delegated by the superintendent. The secretary-treasurer is also designated as business manager.

The superintendent has nominated and the board of regents has appointed a director of education and four principals.

The director of education is the chief administrative officer of the instructional departments. The principal of each department is the administrative officer of the department.

**16.1(3) *Organization.*** The academic mission of the school is principally carried out through its four departments: elementary, upper elementary, high school, and vocational.

**16.1(4) *Communications.*** Written and personal inquiry, submissions and requests should be addressed to the Office of the Superintendent, Iowa School for the Deaf, 1600 South Highway 275, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503-7898, or the office of the Board of Regents, Old Historical Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Generally, inquiries, submissions and requests by the public may be submitted by informal letter. However, application for some purposes is to be made on a specified form. A list of the forms, general description, and the address where they may be obtained are found at 16.6(262).

**16.1(5) *School operations manual.*** The school operations manual contains the policies governing the internal administrative operation of the school. It is available for public inspection in the school's business office, superintendent's office, and in the office of the state board of regents.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 270.3.