Iowa Education for Deaf & Blind

SUCCESS.

Every day.

FY 2022
Appropriation Request

Special Schools Provide Options

Students who are Deaf

- Language-rich academic environment for Iowa's deaf and hard of hearing (d/hh)students
- Preschool – 21 years
- Traditional day school
- Boarding option

Students who are Blind

- Itinerant services for Iowa's blind and visually impaired (b/vi) children
- 0-21 years
- Consultative services for parents and school districts

194

Iowa school districts served by ISD/IESBVI

Our Missions

We prepare students to live as independently as possible by providing appropriate education, resources, opportunities and supports.

Success. Every day.

Meeting Challenges for Learners Who are Blind

- 80% of learning takes place through sight
- Vision loss may result in delayed concept development- necessary for literacy
- IESBVI ensures K-3rd graders participate in Iowa's Early Literacy assessments
- Staff assist district teachers to use appropriate teaching strategies

Monitor progress
Provide strategies
Achieve benchmarks

IESBVI
Success.
Every day.

IESBVI Educational Services - Blind & Visually Impaired

IESBVI unique services

Expanded Core Curriculum

- 91 Braille and Nemeth Code students
- 193 orientation & mobility students
- 20 families of infants and toddlers receive home services

Professional Development

- Developed and delivered more than 60 webinars for Iowa school districts

Extended Learning

- 500 participants/35 events/12 camps
- 2020: 12 online events/7 virtual day camps
- 35 online learning & rec activities/130 kits
- Students placed first in regional forensics
- Wrestling, cheerleading, track, swimming

56
Teachers, mobility specialists, consultants

620
Students

179
School districts

IESBVI
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4PLUS Program

- Provides training and support in independent living, academic skills, career education, technology, self-determination

Establish employment in home communities before exiting program

- SY 20-21: 8 students enrolled
- 2 part-time college classes
- 5 part-time paid employment
- Job shadows, volunteering

- **77%** are working full-time or enrolled in college/training program one year after exit.

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Collaboration

Transition: Iowa Dept. for the Blind

- Improved referral process to IDB
- Share contacts
- Together, staff review plans and progress quarterly
- Plan and execute collaborations in Braille literacy, assistive technology, orientation & mobility to improve student transition services

Management Team- Statewide Services

- IDB/IESBVI/Area Education Agencies/Department of Education
- Maximize service and efficiencies
- Problem solving
- Professional development

Partnering with state agencies to improve student outcomes

IESBVI
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Every day.

ISD Iowa School for the Deaf

Meeting Challenges for learners who are deaf

- Language acquisition occurs by age 5
- Language is critical to academic and social development
- Reading delay of students entering ISD averages 4 years
- Specialized instruction may occur too late to keep pace with hearing peers
- Nationally, 10% of deaf adults have reading levels beyond the 8th grade

Reading and math growth. Every year. Every child.

2019 results:
Reading: up 15% over baseline to 74%
Math: up 46% over baseline to 91%

Fall, 2020 results:
➡ **100%** showed growth in reading.

The right education makes a difference.

ISD
Success. Every day.

ISD Iowa School for the Deaf

ISD unique services

- Language-rich environment/barrier-free communication
- Direct instruction in American Sign Language; English
- Highly specialized faculty
- Small class sizes
- Social and emotional growth opportunities
- Only transition program for d/hh
- Mainstream option
- Sports, clubs, activities

Statewide support

- Summer camps
- Extended learning programs
- Support for 175 teachers and interpreters
- Online sign class for 150
- Deaf Cultural Celebration: 450 attended

97

Number of ISD students enrolled

41

Iowa School Districts

7

Out of state

ISD

Success. Every day.

ISD Iowa School for the Deaf

4PLUS for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students

- Program supports successful transition to adulthood
- Can enroll from local schools or from ISD
- Dorm accommodations
- Career exploration, on-the-job training; community college

- SY 20-21: 8 students enrolled
- 3 part-time college classes
- 5 part-time paid employment

83%

4PLUS students are employed or in college one year after exiting.

45.9%

Iowans with hearing disability employed full time (2018 data)

Success. Every day.

Collaboration: Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- On-site vocational rehab counselor at ISD
- IVRS and ISD staff develop transition plans
- Identify job placements
- Identify connections with colleges
- Ensure smooth transition to home communities

Partnering with IVRS to improve outcomes for students

Success. Every day.

Special Schools Efficiencies

Shared Services

Since 2012

- Shared administration
- Other shared departments
- Move IESBVI services to Council Bluffs
- Transfer of ownership- IBSSS

$625,000

Annual ongoing savings

Ongoing savings is 4% of combined FY21 general fund appropriations for the special schools.

Success. Every day.

Special Schools Faculty

Specialized Staff

- Highly qualified teachers to meet Special Schools' unique learning needs
- Advanced degrees; additional endorsements
- Proficient in American Sign Language or Braille code

Specialized teachers are essential for optimal student outcomes.

Recruiting Challenges

- Shortage of teachers of the blind
- IESBVI: 1 qualified applicant for every 5 vacancies
- Most ISD & IESBVI teachers are conditionally licensed
- Must maintain competitive salaries, nationally and within Iowa

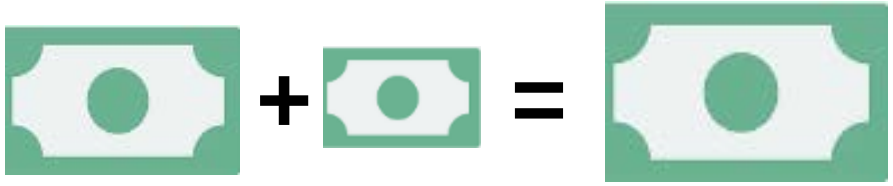
Success. Every day.

Special Schools Resources Needed

$344,325

- Primary source of revenue
  (do not receive tax or pass-through funds)
- Retain highly qualified teachers
- Can recruit nationally
- Provide training and support for staff to use research/standards-based instruction
- Continue outreach efforts to support parents and local school districts

2.3%
Incremental funding Request



$14.97 million + **$344,325 incremental funding** = **$15.31 million**

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