

Statewide System for Providing Excellence and Equity in Services to Blind and Visually Impaired Students

Collaborations between Iowa Braille School and Iowa Department for the Blind

Two year journey with the following results:

- **IDB is part of the Interagency Agreement for Statewide System and member of the management team**
- **Shared professional development opportunities**
- **Joint sponsorship of Braille Challenge**
- **Shared access to education and transition databases**
- **Coordinated program scheduling**
- **Agreements for information sharing and participation in IEP meetings**
- **Plans to electronically merge the two libraries**
- **Mutual respect and understanding for common goals and differentiated methodologies between the two agencies**

And as a consequence...

- **Last month, 17 students participated in the Iowa Braille Challenge and this spring we'll find out how many qualified for the national competition. Last year 4 Iowa students qualified.**
- **Students no longer "fall through the cracks" in moving from school to adult services**
- **Professionals from IDB, IBS, and AEAs attend training sessions and learn together**
- **Programs offerings at IBS and IDB are coordinated to avoid duplication and schedule conflicts**
- **Parents and students benefit from IBS and IDB professional staff working collaboratively**
- **Students will learn one system for accessing library materials and will have access to a larger collection**