
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

Purpose and History

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School (IBSSS) has operated under the direction of the Board of Regents. As a partner in Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI), the school collaborates with the Department for the Blind, the Iowa Department of Education, and Area Education Agencies (AEAs) to provide a wide variety of services to visually impaired or blind Iowans and their educators.

The IBSSS appropriation was transferred to the Iowa Department of Education from the Iowa Board of Regents during the 2023 Legislative Session in [SF 514](#) (State Government Alignment Act).

Services Provided

The collaborative provides services to students, as well as technical assistance, consultation, and collaboration for educators serving visually impaired or blind students. The primary services offered through the IESBVI include:

- Itinerant teachers to provide instruction in Braille, literacy, and mathematics and to provide accommodations and modifications for visually impaired students.
- Itinerant orientation and mobility specialist services to provide an expanded core curriculum for visually impaired students.
- A deafblind technical assistance team to provide consultation regarding accommodations and modifications for students who are both deaf and blind.
- Consultants in mathematics, literacy, early childhood, family services, assistive technology, deafblind needs, and transition services.
- An assistive device center to provide consultation and equipment demonstrations and loans.
- Low vision clinics to provide screening, assessment, and advice on accommodations and equipment.
- Expanded learning opportunities through regional programs and summer school camps.
- Professional development opportunities for educators through summer institutes and semiannual conferences.

Collaboration with the Iowa School for the Deaf

The Iowa School for the Deaf and the IBSSS share a director. Programming for visually impaired transitioning youth is provided at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

More Information

Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired: www.iowa-braille.k12.ia.us

Board of Regents: www.iowaregents.edu

LSA Staff Contact: Michael Peters (515.281.6934) michael.peters@legis.iowa.gov

Funding

The IBSSS 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 IBSSS by the same percentage as K-12 funding. Teachers at the school participate in some components of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program through a separate appropriation for that purpose.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [269](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [681](#)

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