

**Contact: Diana Gonzalez**

**IBSSS REPORT**

**Action Requested:** Receive the IBSSS report.

**Executive Summary:** IBSSS continues to address the implementation of the Task Force recommendations especially in light of the three key areas that are guiding the work of the School in 2006-07:

- ◆ Finalize cooperative agreements among the Board of Regents, Department of Education, area education agencies, and the Department for the Blind to develop a statewide service delivery system for students who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.
- ◆ Continue to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services supported by the Vinton site faculty and staff, including continued development of flexible and innovative services delivered in regional locations as needed and continue to work with Iowa State University to finalize recommendations for efficient use of physical facilities in concert with the feasibility study.
- ◆ Develop and implement a comprehensive professional development plan that will provide all Iowa service providers, including the IBSSS faculty and staff, with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the continuous improvement of services to children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

The following describe the School's activities during June 2006:

- ◆ The School provided a three-week summer session for students aged 5-20 from June 11, 2006 – June 29, 2006. Fifty-two students attended the session on the Vinton campus. The session focused on assessing student needs in the areas of technology and independent living skills because those were the need areas that had been identified in surveys of parents and professionals. Parents and local school district personnel will receive written reports regarding the progress made by students during the June session.
- ◆ The School provided a weekend event on the Vinton campus for parents and siblings on June 9-10, 2006. Parents had opportunities to meet and share their concerns. They also had opportunities to learn more about technology and independent living skills for their children who are blind or visually impaired. Siblings also participated in special events planned by the School.
- ◆ The School continues its plans to refurbish areas of Old Main on the Vinton campus, with a priority of completing the areas used by students for classrooms by the start of school in the fall. These will be the first major interior renovations at the School in more than 30 years.

Citizen letters supporting the recommendations of the Coordinating Council for Vision Services are available in the Board Office.