

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: FY 2003 Operating Appropriations Requests – Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

Date: July 6, 2001

Recommended Action:

Consider the FY 2003 operating appropriations incremental requests for the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

Executive Summary:

The Board's strategic plan outlines strategies for quality (KRA 1.0.0.0) and accountability (KRA 4.0.0.0) which include specific action steps related to appropriation requests. The proposed Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School FY 2003 appropriations requests reflect these strategic planning goals of the Board as well as those of the School.

FY 2003 Incremental Requests**Priority**

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|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Full Funding of Salaries from State Appropriations | To Be Determined |
| 2. | Restoration of Necessary Services | \$154,950 |

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School's first priority for FY 2003 appropriations requests is **full funding of salaries from state appropriations**. A request amount cannot be determined at this time. Competitive salaries are essential to enable IBSSS to provide a quality academic and residential learning environment.

The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School's second priority is state funding of \$154,950 to **restore necessary services** to students who are blind, visually impaired, and those with additional disabilities. This request would reinstate summer school programming and outreach consulting and technical services to the level prior to the FY 2002 budget cuts.

Background/Analysis:

	<u>FY 2001 Budget</u>	<u>FY 2001 Direct State Appropriations</u>	<u>FY 2002 Incremental Appropriations Request*</u>	<u>Increase for State Approp.</u>
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School	\$4,798,556	\$4,454,332	\$154,950*	3.5%

*Does not include an amount for the salary funding request.

Full Funding of Salaries by State Appropriations **Request**
To Be Determined

Competitive salaries are essential to enable IBSSS to provide a quality academic and residential learning environment. Quality faculty and staff are fundamental in the implementation of the Board's and the institution's strategic plans.

IBSSS must remain competitive by paying salaries to recruit and attract faculty qualified to teach students with visual disabilities or blindness, including those with multiple disabilities. Qualified teachers are becoming increasingly difficult to recruit. The State of Iowa does not have a training program to prepare teachers of the visually impaired or orientation and mobility instructors. IBSSS must recruit from across the country. Since the School is in competition with every other state and special school in the country for these professionals, a strong salary base is necessary to attract these individuals to Iowa.

Many potential teachers are changing professions for financial reasons, making the available pool much smaller. Other states are becoming increasingly assertive in recruiting Iowa teachers by using signing bonuses, paying moving expenses, and offering very competitive salaries.

Many of the School's professional and scientific salaries are just keeping pace with entry-level position pay. IBSSS faces external competition for similar positions in the private sector. IBSSS relies solely upon state appropriation funding. Full funding of salaries from state appropriations will allow IBSSS to remain competitive and vital as a premier academic and residential institution for the blind and visually disabled students.

Restoration of Necessary Services **Request**
\$154,950


The budget reductions of FY 2002 caused a decrease in IBSSS services to many students who are blind or visually impaired. The School's request would reinstate summer school programming, outreach consulting and technical services to the level prior to the FY 2002 budget reductions.

Over the past few years, the School has undergone substantial reorganization and internal reallocations to better serve the visually impaired or blind children of Iowa. The School continues to serve students needing comprehensive services on campus through its center-based residential program. However, the majority of students who are visually impaired attend their local public schools. IBSSS provides a strong Outreach Services program for visually impaired students placed in the local schools as determined by the Individual Education Plan (IEP). These outreach initiatives have been funded through internal reallocations over the past few years.

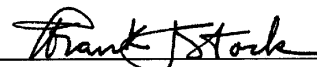
Because of the FY 2002 budget reductions, the summer school program was reduced from eight weeks to six weeks. The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School requests \$45,000 to restore the summer school program back to a full eight weeks of service. This program provides significant opportunities for students who normally do not attend the School to learn additional skills required for independence not always provided by their local schools. The summer school program has become a very popular activity for many Iowa families. During the summer of 2001, approximately 110 families were served through the School's many summer program offerings.

The School also requests \$109,950 to restore its outreach consulting and technical services to students throughout the state. For many years, the School has provided high quality consultation and technical assistance to students who attend their local schools. These services have been developed through the Board and School's strategic planning process and were funded by reallocations. The budget reductions of FY 2002 essentially negated the School's efforts of the past several years and deprived students of access to needed educational opportunities.

.82 FTE Vision Consultant – Daily Living Skills	\$ 55,750
.82 FTE Vision Consultant – Multiple Disabilities	46,700
Travel and other expenses	<u>7,500</u>
	\$109,950


Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: _____


Frank J. Stork