

Interpreting and Sign Language Resources Advisory Committee Update

April, 2009

ISLR/Outreach Updates:

Budget: At this point, we expect to have the same funding level as last year. Since costs typically increase, flat funding means that we need to spend less.

Online learning: The CI seminar is going well. They did not want to use the term "best practices" for the document that will summarize their work. We expect it to lay the foundation for a best practices statement. For the online Deaf-Blind Interpreting self-study, we are still waiting for the Ohio Council on Deaf-Blind Education to let us know that the DVD materials are available.

New school plans: There will be a groundbreaking ceremony at OSD on Tuesday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m. The public is welcome.

Summer Camps: The driver education camp is full, but there is still room in the basketball camp. The deadline to register is May 9.

EIPA: We have decreased our number of requested slots from Boys Town. We have not needed to use the number that we requested, and because we have reserved those slots other sites may be turning people away or putting them on a waiting list.

Survey: We have had only 9 responses. Please make sure you answer the survey and encourage others to do so as well.

SI plans, schedule: Registration material should go out the end of this week or early next week. We have been able to reduce fees from last year because the Holiday Inn is on State Term Contract.

OAT/OGT pilot: We have been discussing statewide testing with Wendy Stoica and Andrew Hinkle of the Office of Assessment and Bonnie Nelson of the Office for Exceptional Children. We hope to clarify procedures for interpreters and teachers to sign the tests using the Language Translation Scripts (formerly called Oral Translation Scripts).

Terms: Those whose terms end in 2010 are Sarah, Lisa, Tammy, and Sherry. (Sherry will have served the maximum number of times, so this will be her final year. We appreciate all her hard work!) I will email those whose terms expire in 2009 individually about continuing.

EIPA: We have not had many interpreters take the performance test at OSD. We have reduced the number of slots we had reserved for the rest of this year and have requested fewer slots for next year. We have talked with Tabby Belhorn, the Parent Mentor at OSD, about working with a parent from the Hands and Voices organization to develop materials for parents, and we have offered to be involved with a conference they hope to have in the fall. We will also be contacting some interpreters whose districts have required or encouraged the EIPA to discuss the benefits of using it.

Options for summer meeting: The committee has met in July or early August. We have typically met for 2 days in the summer, but this year we are not sure about funding for hotel rooms. One option is to meet for only 1 day. Another is to see if we can get rooms at OSD. We need to discuss this further.

Regional Updates

Carol Black, Northeast Ohio: Canton City Schools has one student that will graduate from College a month before he graduates from High School. That seems odd, but it will happen because the Early College Program follows the same schedule as the college. They always finish before high school. One student will continue on to Stark State College to pick up remaining college credits that will lead to graduation in one or two semesters. We also are fortunate to work with a Transition Specialist from Stark State College. This specialist will meet with our deaf and hard of hearing students and brief them on community based services that are available and advise them on accessing these services. Our student count for next year is down in number compared with previous years. As of this writing we do not have students at the middle school level. We will only have four at the high school level. Our greatest number is located at the elementary school.

Mary Roark, Southwest: We may be getting another new high school teacher. Our school's primary building was shut down this week and our deaf students had to move to another location. We are now in the high school, which is a very small space. We are working through this change. We did have a student from the high school go to OSD but now he is back. We are planning a field trip to OSD on May 7th. The students are really looking forward to this.

Sarah McKinney, Central: The ESC has changed its name to "ESC of Central Ohio" and it includes Franklin, Union, and Delaware counties. Upper Arlington, which serves students through the ESC, will have only 5 students at the high school level next year. There have been staff changes this year, and some people are returning while others are not. They do not know whether or there will be positions open for next year. Sarah will return, but will be working part-time (65% day) to pursue other professional opportunities while still being part of the school system. The UA team had a great time in Delavan, Wisconsin at the Academic Bowl! They didn't place, but did win 3 games :-). Next year the Academic Bowl will implement an entrance fee, so they are focusing on fundraising, including a yard sale at UA High School on Saturday, June 6, from 9am-2pm.