

OTHER STATES' SCHOOLS FOR DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED STUDENTS

This memorandum provides information regarding governance structures of selected other states' schools for the deaf, per student costs of educating students in state-operated deaf schools, state resources provided to local school districts for educating deaf or hearing-impaired students, and the state of Nebraska contract to provide residential services to deaf and hearing-impaired students.

GOVERNANCE AND COST

The table below summarizes the governing body, enrollment, and per student cost of North Dakota and selected other states' schools for deaf or hearing-impaired students:

State School for Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Students	Governing Body	Enrollment	Cost Per Student for Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Residential Education
Iowa School for the Deaf	Board of Regents	104 (2005-06 school year)	\$95,113 (2005-06 school year)
Wisconsin School for the Deaf	Department of Public Instruction	142 (2005-06 school year)	\$69,850 (2005-06 school year)
North Dakota School for the Deaf	Department of Public Instruction	27 (2007-08 school year)	\$80,300 (2007-08 school year)
Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind	State Board of Education	80 ¹ (2004-05 school year)	\$81,964 ¹ (2004-05 school year)
Washington School for the Deaf	Independent state agency with Board of Trustees	96 (2004-05 school year)	\$65,476 (2004-05 school year)

¹Includes students who are visually impaired.

The table below summarizes the type of governing structure in place for all public and private schools for the deaf and the blind in the United States:

Governing Structure	Schools for the Deaf	Schools for the Blind	Schools for the Deaf and Blind
State education agency/state board of education	47%	45%	36%
Separate state agency	18%	24%	64%
Private/nonprofit board	22%	18%	0%
State social service department	7%	9%	0%
Other	6%	4%	0%

STATE EDUCATION SERVICES FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED STUDENTS

The table below summarizes services provided in Wyoming and Nebraska to local school districts that provide educational programming to deaf or hearing-impaired students:

State	State Resources Provided to Local School Districts
Wyoming	The Wyoming Department of Education provides outreach services to preschool and school district staff for the provision of appropriate services for children who are deaf or hearing-impaired. Services provided include classroom observations and suggestions, training tailored to the specific needs of a particular school district, interpreter consultations, and consultation for students' individualized education programs. The annual budget for the program is approximately \$471,000 and the program serves an estimated population of 170 deaf and hard-of-hearing students.
Nebraska	The state of Nebraska is divided into four program regions that offer services to deaf and hearing-impaired students, their families, and local school districts. Services provided include training, resources for sign language instruction, career support, student activity planning, and school district program development and support. The annual budget for the program is approximately \$1.9 million.

STATE OF NEBRASKA CONTRACT FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The state of Nebraska closed its School for the Deaf in 1998. When the school closed, the Nebraska Department of Education entered into a contract with the Iowa Board of Regents to allow Nebraska students to be educated at the Iowa School for the Deaf. For fiscal year 2009, the contract rate for each Nebraska student is \$68,759. Of this amount, \$42,252 is for educational programming and \$26,507 is for residential services, as necessary. Since 2006, an average of 12 students to 15 students from Nebraska have enrolled at the school.

In 1999 the Nebraska Department of Education entered into an agreement to allow Nebraska students to attend summer school programs at the Iowa School for the Deaf. In fiscal year 2008 the weekly rate for summer programs was \$472 for each Nebraska student.

Information regarding the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Board of Regents is attached as an [appendix](#).