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Regents Approve Study of Educational Services to Blind and Visually Impaired Children

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Today at its regular business meeting on the Northern State University campus, the Board of Regents approved a study that will look at the educational services available to blind and visually impaired children in South Dakota.

“We know approximately 200 children with vision loss are living in South Dakota. This past school year the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired worked with 189 students. Many received outreach services from SDSVBI including evaluations, consultation, and summer programs. Some students were enrolled in full-time education programs at the school,” said SDSBVI Supt. Marjorie Kaiser.

Schools for blind and visually impaired children across the U.S. have been reevaluating their services of educating children with vision loss. They have expanded services to fill unmet needs. The National Agenda was developed as a tool to assist states in addressing the unique educational needs of children with vision loss and to ensure they receive an appropriate education.

The South Dakota study uses the National Agenda as a template for evaluating the state’s current status and outlining a statewide plan. It will include a comprehensive review guided by a nationally respected consultant.

“As the governing board of the SDSBVI, the regents support the school’s responsibility to students with vision loss. The regents approved the study in order to have a better understanding of the current status of the educational options and services available for children with vision loss in South Dakota,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.