

**Indiana School for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired**

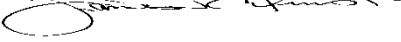
**7725 North College Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-2504**

*Superintendent's Office*  
**James R. Durst**  
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To: Mr. Jason Dudich  
Indiana State Budget Director  
212 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Via: Ms. Amanda Black  
Board Chair  
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
7725 North College Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

From: James R. Durst   
Superintendent  
Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
7725 North College Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Date: August 16, 2018

Re: Transmittal Letter

The purpose of this transmittal letter is to represent the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) FY 2020-2021 funding requests and to provide supplemental information to accompany the biennial budget request.

### **ISBVI Mission and Description of Program**

**Agency Mission:** The mission of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to serve as a benchmark for educating students who are blind or have low vision or are blind or have low vision with additional handicapping conditions by guiding each student down his/her unique path to meaningful adulthood through appropriate on and off campus learning opportunities and statewide outreach services that promote high standards of academic/vocational achievement, independent and healthy living skills, development of vision specific (expanded core curriculum) skills, use and application of technology, and respect for others.

**Agency Programs and Functions:** Established in 1847, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, located in Indianapolis, offers both on campus and off campus programs to

students who are blind or have low vision or are blind or have low vision with additional handicapping conditions residing in Indiana. ISBVI is fully accredited by AdvancEd, a national certifying organization. The school provides students with instruction in the same course work required of all school-aged children in Indiana with emphasis on the Core curriculum, as well as the Expanded Core/Vision Specific curriculum which includes: compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes; orientation and mobility; social interaction skills; independent living skills; recreation and leisure skills; career education; use of assistive technology; sensory efficiency skills and self-determination.

Also available are experiences and opportunities to participate in recreational activities, on and off campus jobs, band, chorus, piano, scouting, and creative dance, as well as involvement in competitive speech, track and field, wrestling, cheerleading, goalball, and swimming.

The school is comprised of 30 buildings located on a 63-acre campus. Fourteen of the buildings were initially constructed in 1932. Six buildings were constructed in the 1960s, two in the 1970s, two in the 1980s, and six in the 1990s. All but four buildings were funded through the state with the four being constructed with donated dollars. All of the buildings and grounds are owned by the State of Indiana and administered through the Department of Administration. The school receives approximately 97% of its funding from the State of Indiana, 2% from federal sources, and 1% from various gifts, bequests, and donations.

Students are placed at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired through a state-mandated process known as a case conference, in accordance with Article 7, Special Education Rules. This process ensures that each student is eligible for special education services. A comprehensive Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed to ensure that each student's individual needs and learning style are met. In addition, Article 7 mandates that each student's progress be reviewed at an annual case review where the parents, the local school agency, and ISBVI staff members develop appropriate goals and objectives. A comprehensive multi-disciplinary evaluation may also be conducted on each student. Each assessment is designed for the student and may include, but is not limited to, the following areas: social history; psychological testing; physical and occupational therapy; speech; hearing; language; Braille skills; vocational aptitude; medical/ophthalmologic review; functional vision; functional literacy; orientation and mobility; and daily living.

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired has developed numerous collaborative relationships with other schools, agencies, service groups, and providers to improve and enhance services in a more efficient and cost effective manner. ISBVI, with financial assistance from the Indiana Department of Education, operates the Indiana Education Resource Center (IERC), which offers Braille, large print, and other educational materials, as needed statewide, to all of Indiana's school-age students who are blind or visually impaired. This innovative and collaborative initiative saved schools throughout the State of Indiana in excess of \$500,000 in Braille, large print, and specialized aids and equipment this past year.

The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is fully committed to respecting each student as a unique individual by: designing programs and expectations tailored to individual student need; providing appropriate, challenging, and realistic learning experiences in a safe and

positive atmosphere for maximum student achievement; and supporting and working cooperatively with local education agencies, parents, families, and the community.

ISBVI stakeholders include: students who are blind or have low vision enrolled at ISBVI or in their local public schools; parents of students who are blind or have low vision enrolled at ISBVI or at local public schools; local education agencies (superintendents, special education directors, and teachers); the Governor and members of the state administration; the Indiana Legislature; the ISBVI Board; the Indiana Department of Education; alumni of ISBVI; ISBVI staff; professional, consumer, and advocacy organizations for the blind; service clubs for the blind; the business community and foundations.

### **Data Indicators and Performance Indicators**

ISBVI continues to improve efforts to collect empirical information to be used to plan and improve programs in the most cost-efficient and effective manner. There were 927 students identified as being blind or having low vision on the December 1, 2017 Child Count. The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides direct services to more than 400 students throughout the State of Indiana. Two hundred and ninety-one (291) students are served directly in the local school districts by ISBVI Outreach teachers, between 125-135 students are provided educational opportunities as enrolled students in the campus-based program and specialized materials, aids and equipment were provided to 717 students in 175 school corporations. The needs of the enrolled students continue to become significantly more complex. Over 66% of the students enrolled during the 2017-2018 school year have additional handicapping conditions in addition to their blindness or visual impairment, as well as more significant medical needs.

Performance metrics show ISBVI fulfilled desired outcomes per Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) with greater than 85% of all students meeting or showing progress on 75% of their IEP goals after one year of intervention.

The percentage of students with additional handicapping conditions placed at the school has fluctuated several percentage points over the past few years as outlined below:

2011-2012 = 58%  
 2012-2013 = 61%  
 2013-2014 = 62%  
 2014-2015 = 67%  
 2015-2016 = 70%  
 2016-2017 = 65%  
 2017-2018 = 66%

Based on national trends, it is anticipated that this percentage will continue to increase. Additionally, there has been an increase in the request for assistance from ISBVI by local school corporations, parents, and other individuals providing services to students who are blind or have low vision not enrolled at ISBVI. This past year, ISBVI provided direct instructional services to over 290 students who were enrolled in the local school corporations. For additional information regarding the population served by ISBVI, please refer to the following attachments:

- Enrolled students (Attachment A)
- Grade (Attachment B)

- Gender (Attachment C)
- Age groups (Attachment D)
- Ethnic distribution (Attachment E)
- Cognitive and adaptive levels (Attachment F)
- Student's residence – distance from ISBVI (Attachment G)
- Residential status (Attachment H)
- County of residence (Attachment I)
- Number of students who are blind or have low vision and additional handicapping conditions (Attachment J)
- Diagnosed eye conditions (Attachment K)
- Additional medical conditions (Attachment L)
- Medical restrictions and alerts (Attachment M)

### **Accomplishments and Outcomes**

Over the past biennium, through private benefactors, federal and state dollars, ISBVI has continued to: improve technology infrastructure; improve technology opportunities; continue and expand the direct services to local school corporations and the short-course program; complete major exterior and interior projects/renovations; improve educational opportunities for students; and purchase and/or provide supplies and innovative equipment. The Indiana Blind Children's Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation whose purpose is to support ISBVI in fulfilling its mission, has enhanced the school's ability to provide improved programs as have the Lions for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a State Project for the Lions.

ISBVI has expanded and improved services to visually impaired students in the areas of additional disabilities, including those with dual-sensory impairment (deaf/blind). Career and vocational training continues to expand and improve as part of the Summer Employment and Training Program (STEP) with additional students taking part of their vocational program at J. Everett Light Career Center or North Central High School for academics. Functional vision assessment, training, and follow-up have improved. ISBVI provides assistive technology assessments for local school districts throughout the state and continues to provide training to ensure that both ISBVI staff and service providers and local schools are better able to meet student needs.

ISBVI continues to cooperate and collaborate with the Department of Corrections (DOC) through the Braille and Large Print Production Project at the Miami Correctional Facility known as the Miami Accessible Media Project (MAMP). This project, which is partially funded with federal dollars through the Indiana Department of Education, continues to train offenders in transcribing print into Braille, large print, and accessible formats. MAMP has saved the State of Indiana approximately \$511,316 over the past fiscal year.

Additionally, in collaboration with Bosma Enterprises, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides a comprehensive job skills program for students 16 years of age and older, who are blind or have low vision from throughout the state. The Student Training Employment Program (STEP) has had a positive impact on participants as well as employers in

identifying the job skills of the students, workplace accommodations needed for employment, and breaking down barriers and misconceptions in hiring individuals who are blind or have low vision.

ISBVI continues to develop and expand partnerships with local businesses, service organizations, foundations, and non-profit community agencies. ISBVI also assists many schools for the blind nationally who have used ISBVI programs and services for benchmarking purposes and continues to excel in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, art, and speech activities both locally and nationally.

On-campus enrollment, including Short Course, and requests for ISBVI Outreach services continue to include more students with additional handicapping conditions. ISBVI has the statewide challenge and statutory responsibility to assist Indiana's 302 school corporations to meet the needs of students with visual disabilities.

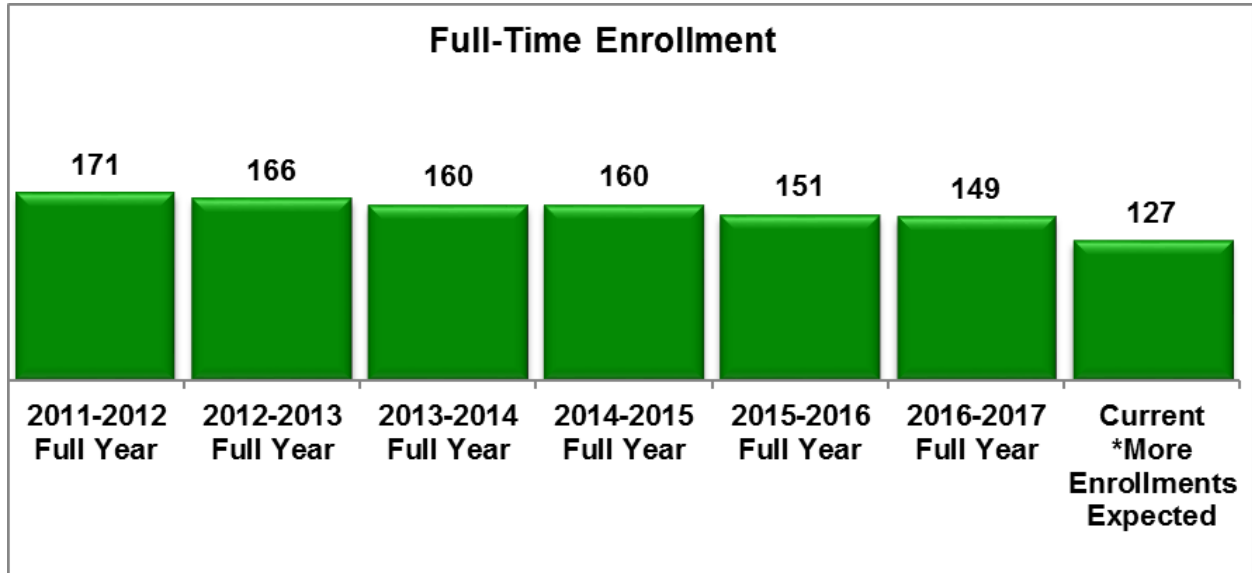
### **Goals for the Biennium**

ISBVI will:

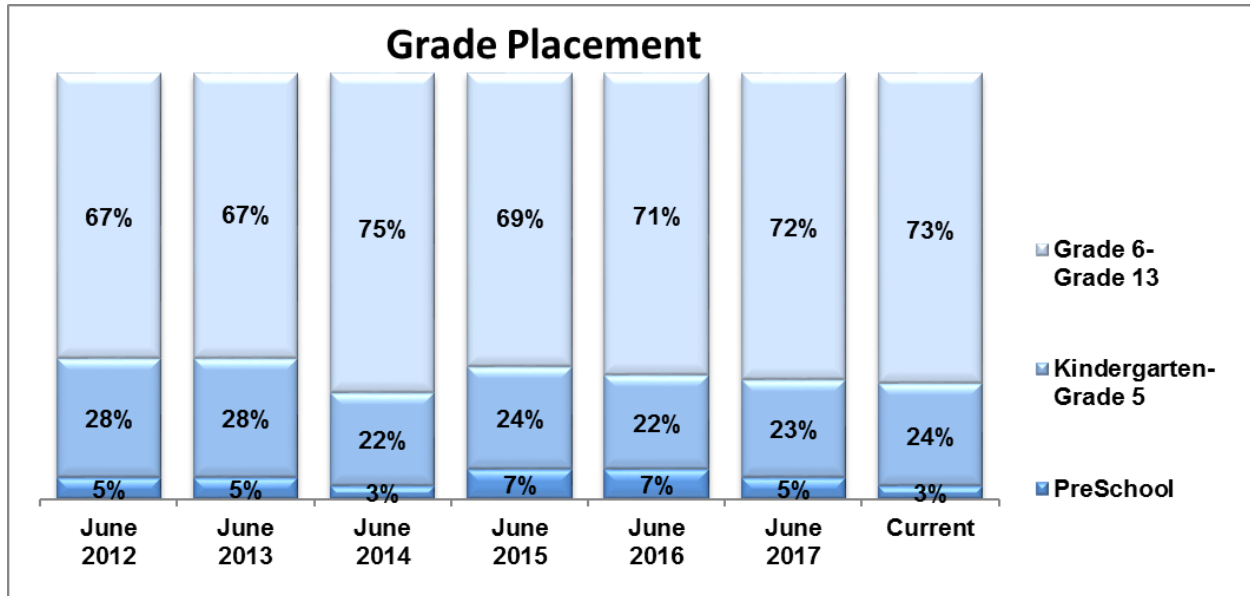
- Continue to focus on five specific goals over the course of the next biennium and beyond. The goals include:
  - Improving the transition from school to employment and engagement;
  - Delivering core curriculum (i.e. meeting state educational standards) in diverse, innovative ways — including through distance learning;
  - Connecting students across the state to the expanded core curriculum (i.e. communication modes, compensatory and functional academic skills, orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education) in diverse, innovative ways;
  - Establishing ISBVI as a center of educational excellence with synergy between a reordered, high functioning, center-based school and with permeable outreach programs that offer meaningful resources to diverse constituents; and
  - Interpreting and utilizing collected data in a more meaningful manner;
- Enhance expanded core curriculum/vision specific skill training for each student per his/her Individual Education Plan (IEP);
- Pursue ongoing program cost efficiencies by carefully scrutinizing all position vacancies;
- Reallocate existing resources to better meet ISBVI's mission and strategic plan;
- Examine and implement energy and other cost saving initiatives;
- Continue sharing resources with the Indiana School for the Deaf and other state agencies;
- Collaborate with local agencies, businesses and service providers;
- Continue to expand outreach services and improve the percentage of local students served by increasing the number of students served directly and in the Short Course program, and by providing additional assistive technology lab opportunities to students in their local districts;
- Implement the ISBVI Facility Master Plan to improve safety, enhance the living and learning areas, maximize service and cost efficiencies, and protect and extend the original investment in the campus infrastructure;
- Improve stakeholder input and responsiveness to stakeholder needs;

- Expand the use of the Unified English Braille (UEB) Code including training, delivery, production and instruction.

Attachment A

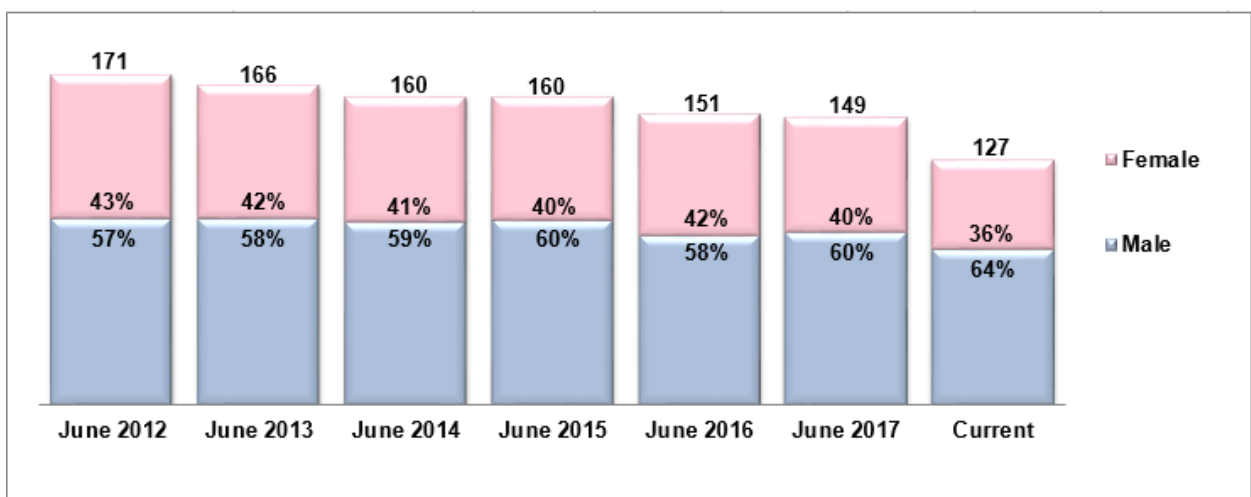


## Attachment B



### Gender

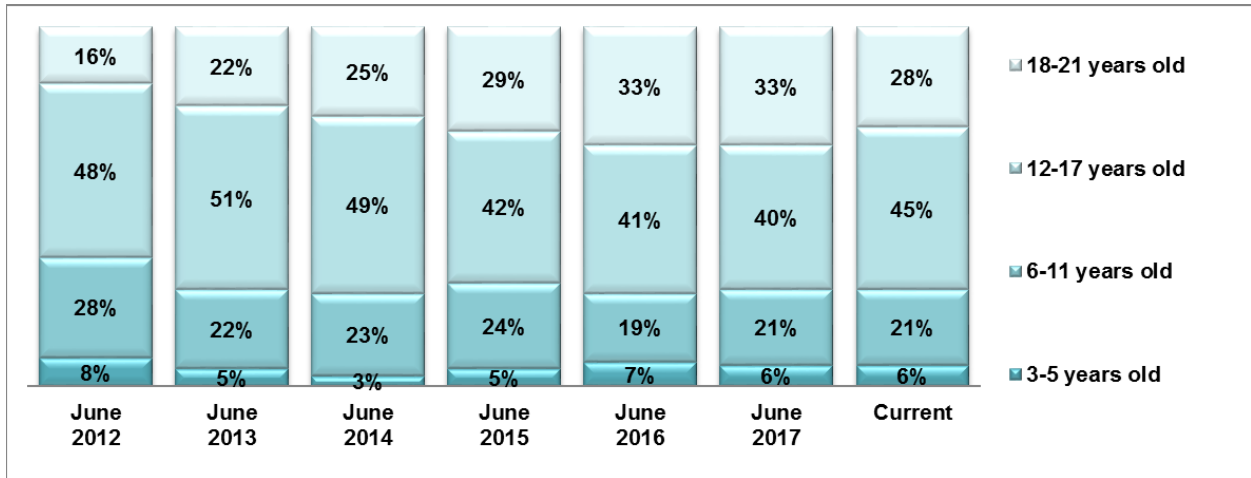
Attachment C





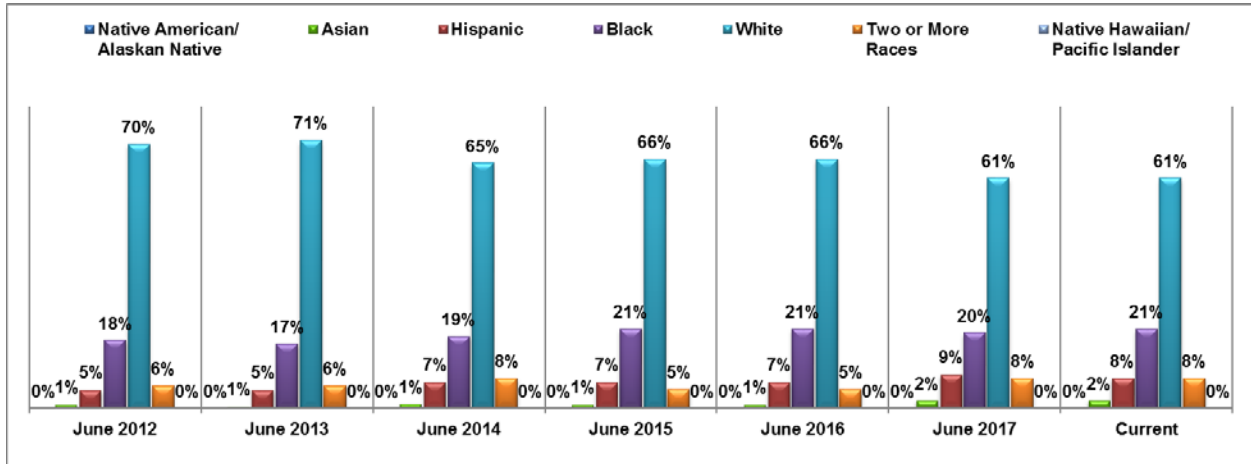
## Age Groups

Attachment D

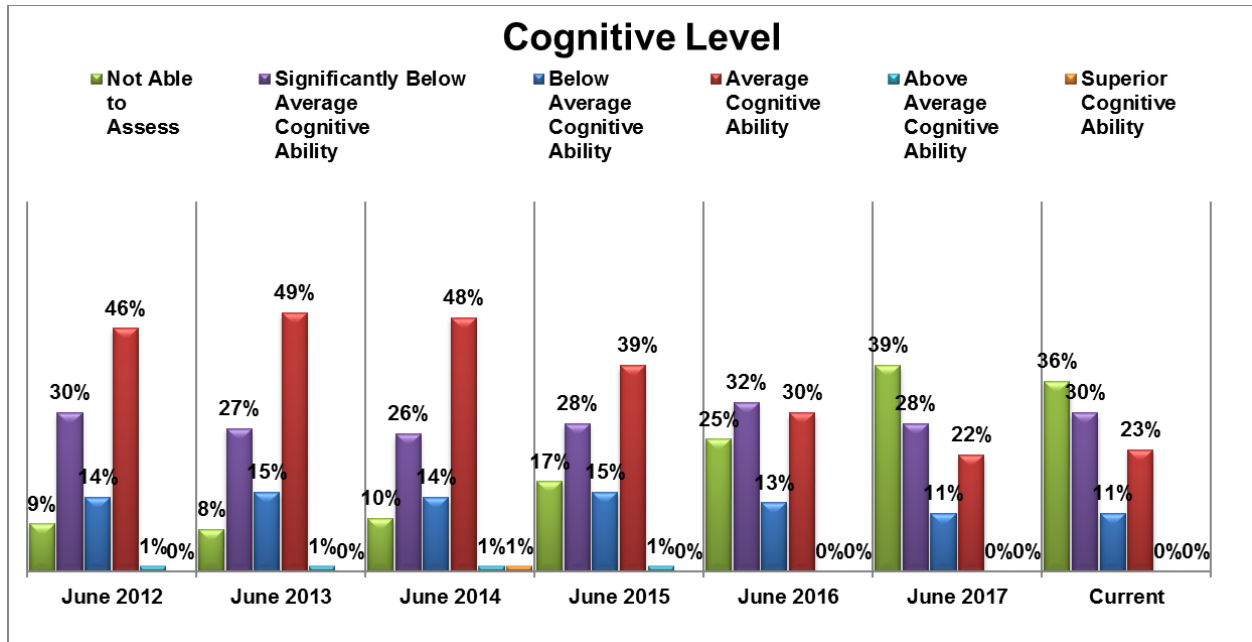


## Ethnic Distribution

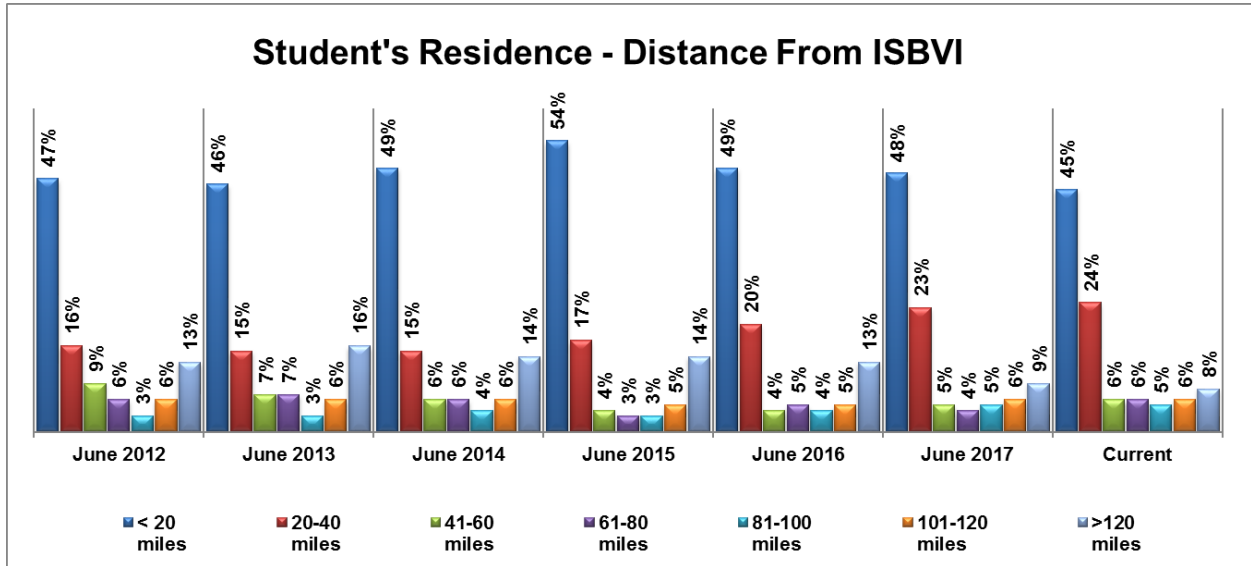
Attachment E



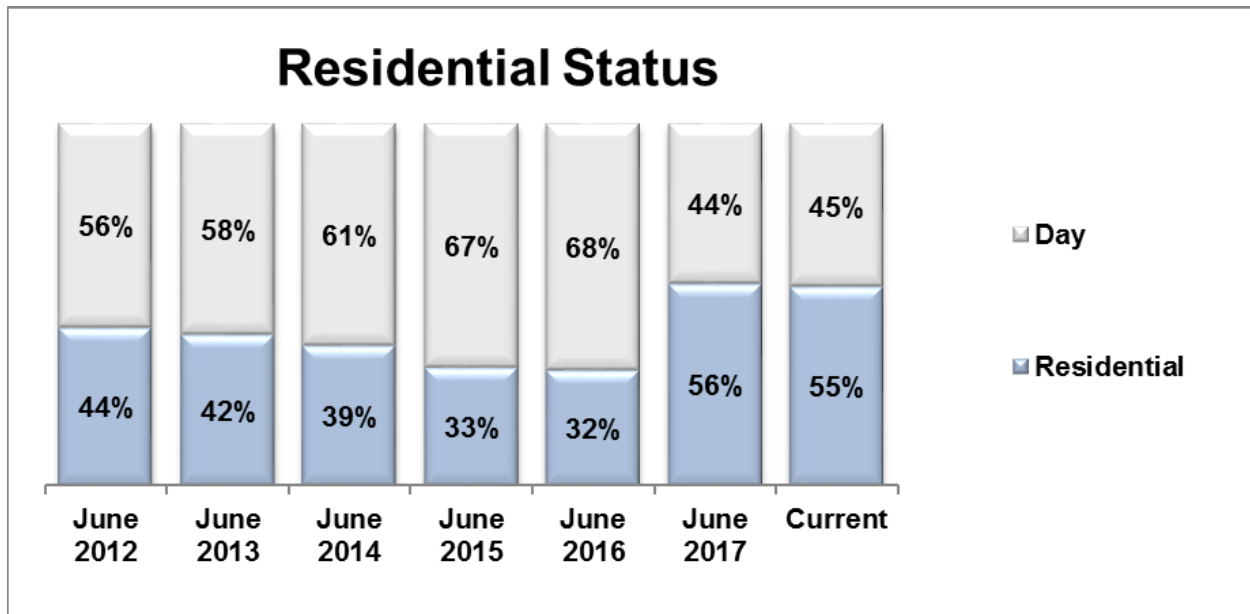
Attachment F



Attachment G



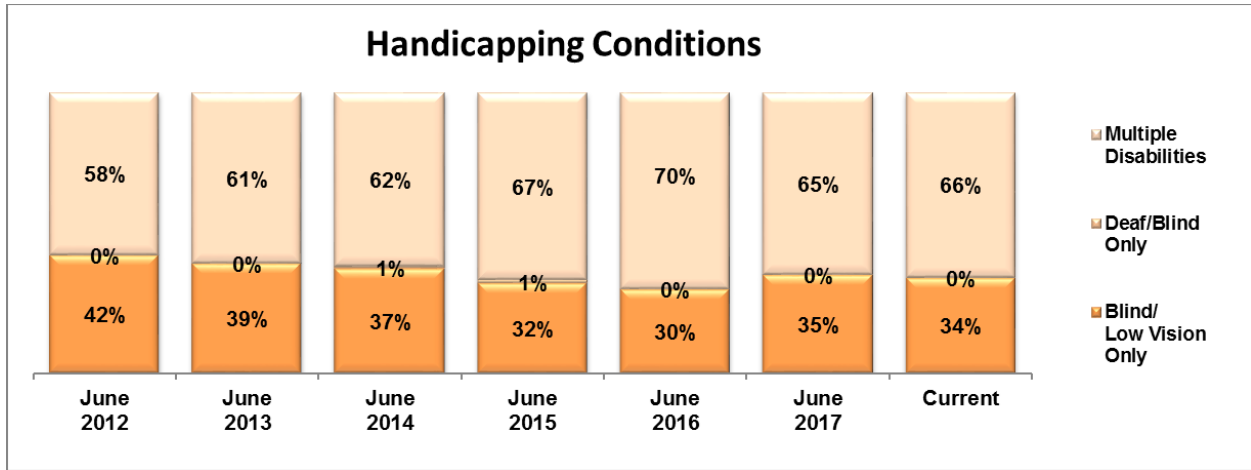
## Attachment H



## County of Residence

COUNTY	June 2012	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	Current	COUNTY	June 2012	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	Current
Adams								Lawrence							
Allen	1		2	2	4	4	4	Madison	7	5	4	4	4	6	5
Bartholomew	2	2	1	1				Marion	79	73	77	85	79	71	61
Benton								Marshall	2	1	1				
Blackford								Martin							
Boone	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	Miami		1	1	1	1	1	1
Brown								Monroe		1	1				
Carroll	1	1	1	1	1			Montgomery	1	1	1	1	1		
Cass					1	1	1	Morgan	1				1	1	
Clark					2	2	1	Newton							
Clay								Noble							
Clinton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Ohio							
Crawford								Orange		1					
Daviess	2	2	2	2	1			Owen	1						
Dearborn							1	Parke	1	1	1	1	1		
Decatur								Perry	1	1	1				
DeKalb								Pike							
Delaware	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	Porter							
DuBois		1	1		1	1	1	Posey							
Elkhart	3	5	6	5	1	1		Pulaski	1				1	1	1
Fayette						1	1	Putnam	1	1	1	1	1		1
Floyd	1	1						Randolph						1	1
Fountain	2	2	2	1				Ripley							
Franklin						1		Rush							
Fulton								St. Joseph	4	3	2	4	3	1	1
Gibson	1	1	1	1				Scott					1	1	1
Grant	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	Shelby	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
Greene								Spencer							
Hamilton	7	8	9	10	8	13	12	Starke		1			1		
Hancock	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	Steuben				1	1	1	1
Harrison	2	2						Sullivan							
Hendricks	4	3	4	3	2	1	2	Switzerland							
Henry	2	2	1	1	1			Tippecanoe	6	4	2		1	1	2
Howard	3	4	3	1	1	2	2	Tipton							
Huntington	1	1		1				Union							
Jackson			1	1	1	1	1	Vanderburgh	2	2	1	1	1		
Jasper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Vermillion							
Jay		1						Vigo	1					1	1
Jefferson	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	Wabash							
Jennings		1						Warren							
Johnson	6	6	7	6	7	8	5	Warrick							
Knox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Washington							
Kosciusko	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	Wayne					1	2	2
LaGrange								Wells							
Lake	8	10	11	10	7	7	5	White							
LaPorte						1		Whitley	1	2	1	1	1	1	
<b>Total Students:</b>									<b>171</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>127</b>

Attachment J



## Attachment K

Eye Condition	Frequency	Eye Condition	Frequency
Achromatopsia	2	Leber's Congenital Amaurosis	4
Albinism *	3	Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuro	1
Albinism, Oculocutaneous*	3	Microphthalmia	5
Amblyopia	1	Myopia	8
Aniridia	1	Myopic Degeneration	2
Anisometropia	1	Nystagmus	21
Anophthalmia	3	Ohdo-Blepharophimosis	1
Anterior Segment Dysgenesis	1	Optic Nerve Atrophy	4
Aphakia	3	Optic Nerve Dysplasia	4
Astigmatism	4	Optic Nerve Glioma	1
Astrocytoma	1	Optic Nerve Hypoplasia	8
Cataracts	6	Optic Neuropathy	1
Charge Syndrome*	1	Peter's Anomaly	1
Chorioretinal Scarring	1	Photophobic	1
Coloboma	3	PHPV	1
Cone Rod Dystrophy	1	Retinal Detachment	7
Corneal Anomalies	1	Retinal Dystrophy	2
Cortical Blindness	2	Retinitis Pigmentosa	3
Cortical Impairment	6	Retinopathy of Prematurity	10
Dysplasia*	1	Retinoblastoma	1
DeMorsier's Syndrome*	1	Retinoschisis	3
Esotropia	2	Rt Homonymous Hemianopsia	1
Exotropia	5	Sclerocornea	1
Familial Exudative Vitreoretinopathy	1	Septo Optic Dysplasia	8
Glaucoma	8	Shaken Baby*	2
Goltz-Gorlin Syndrome*	1	Strabismus	1
Hydrocephalus	1	Stickler's Syndrome	1
Hyperopia	2	Traumatic Brain Injury*	2



## Attachment L

**Additional Medical Conditions**

<b>Medical Condition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Medical Condition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Apnea	1	Hearing Loss	3
Asthma	10	Hydrocephalus	2
Attention Deficit Disorder	6	Hypopituitarism	2
Brain Tumor	1	Hypothyroidism	1
Cardiomyopathy	1	Neurofibromatosis	2
Cerebral Palsy	3	Panhypopituitarism	2
Cleft lip	1	Patent Ductus Arteriosus	1
Cleft Palate	1	Scoliosis	1
Diabetes	1	Seizure History	12
Failure to Thrive Syndrome	1	Seizures	4
Growth Hormone Deficiency	2	Sleep Apnea	1

## Attachment M

<b>Medical Restrictions and Alerts</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Allergies: Bees	1
Allergies: Environmental	1
Allergies: Food	2
Allergies: OTC Medicine	1
Allergies: RX Medicine	9
Allergies: Other	2
Apnea Monitor at Night	1
Bowel Complications	1
Chochlear Implant	1
Cortisol Dependent	6
Dietary Considerations/Restrictions	4
Exercise/Sports Restrictions	6
Hearing Aid(s)	4
Ear Problems, Other	1
Inhaler	1
Orthopedic Braces	6
Prosthesis, Ocular	7
SBE Precautions	1
Shunt	2
Sun Sensitivity	5
Swimming Considerations/Restrictions	13
Walker	1