RESOLUTION2021-01

Concerning coordination of educational services for Kansas blind children and youth

Where As: The number of qualified teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVIs and certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) in the state of KS is insufficient to provide every student the support necessary for successful entry into adulthood. ; AND

Whereas, School districts in Kansas have problems hiring and retaining TSVI and COMS; and

WHEREAS, Caseloads for some TSVIs in some parts of Kansas are as high as forty(40) plus, thereby causing the time spent with students insufficient to build skills required for successful post-secondary outcomes; And

WHEREAS, Blindness is  considered a "low-incidence" disability and students are dispersed geographically in Kansas. Services for these students are not coordinated centrally, leaving an inequitable and inefficient system in place because, in part, school districts Often do not want to share teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) must search for blind children: Now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas in convention assembled this 14th day of November in the city of Overland Park, Kansas that we urge KSSB to develop memoranda of understanding (MOU) with all Kansas school districts to be a participant in the IEP if desired by the parent or legal guardian; And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we call upon the Kansas State Department of Education to provide a list of all blind or visually impaired students to KSSB; And

BE IT further resolved that we encourage KSSB to be the central coordinating entity in hiring TSVI and COMS for the state to facilitate better coordination of educational services for blind children and youth of Kansas.