



Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind

Public School District No. 0160

615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

www.msa.state.mn.us

WHO WE ARE

- State Agency under the Executive Branch
- Two academies serving deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind and visually impaired students
- Established in 1858, we are among the oldest public schools in Minnesota

WHO WE SERVE

- We provide a broad range of educational programs from infancy through age 21
- Our deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind and visually impaired students come from all corners of the state
- All of our students meet special education criteria and have Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Our teachers are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Education and use MN state standards in our curriculum
- Our staff are professionals who have additional training and skills to serve this population
- In addition to being deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, or visually impaired, many of our students also have additional learning needs or other challenges
- We provide a wealth of resources, educational tools and strategies, and trained/knowledgeable personnel that are available to support students statewide
- Our residential option provides opportunities for social emotional development and opportunities to practice independent living skills



HOW WE'RE FUNDED

- Unlike other public schools, we are NOT funded through referendum processes, nor are we reimbursed for special educational costs other than funding from school districts for specific IEP-related services and one-on-one educational assistants
- We rely solely on yearly allocations from the legislature based on recommendations from the Governor's office and some additional federal funding through the Minnesota Department of Education
- We are eligible to receive basic aid revenue if statutory requirements are met
- Our allocations are for operational expenses. Bonding requests support major construction projects and asset preservation funds help maintain buildings on our campuses

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

- Opportunities to support more students, parents, families and staff members who work with deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired children statewide as part of our five-year strategic planning
- Opportunity to rebuild previous programming that were terminated/reduced due to budget limitations
- Opportunity to collaborate with school districts, parent organizations, the Minnesota Department of Education, and others to provide educational materials, resources and support
- Opportunity to develop connections and provide support to many school districts who are lacking trained/licensed professionals
- For more information, refer to our strategic plan and proposals for budget change items



ACHIEVE. CARE. THRIVE.



MSA Dorms Project

\$7.8 million

SUMMARY

- This project has been requested in the past but has not been funded. We have completed some ongoing repairs and renovations as needed using Asset Preservation and/or General Funds.
- The dorms project will allow us to remove a significant amount of repair/renovations from the list of projects that need to be completed on our campuses, and bring our aging dorms on the MSAB and MSAD campuses up to code in regard to safety, security, ADA requirements, energy saving, indoor air quality, and accessibility. We will also increase flexibility for our educational and residential programs.
- This project will improve the energy efficiency of cooling/heating the buildings. This will also reduce the costs for maintenance, repairs, and staffing required to perform these repairs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This project is especially important as none of those dorm facilities meet current standards (ADA, accessibility, safety, heating/cooling, program requirements) for our students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, visually impaired, including those with additional physical challenges.

We are trying to upgrade our facilities so that we can continue to use them in our educational programming. This aligns with MSA's strategic planning goals and policies.





Student Center

Pre-Design Funds

\$240,000

SUMMARY

- This project will allow us to hire architects to evaluate our needs and recommend an energy-efficient/low maintenance building that is fully accessible and code compliant, potentially replacing up to 5 aging, high-maintenance buildings and outdated, inaccessible facilities.
- This center will incorporate our athletic/PE facilities; cafeteria; career/technical education; and other needs on our MSAD campus.
- This has a potential for great savings in staffing, energy costs, maintenance needs, and workers compensation costs.
- This will help us examine our needs and propose a project that can potentially have great savings for us and set us up for the next 25 years. The buildings that we are evaluating are 75-100 years old and requires a lot of upkeep, maintenance, and have high energy costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This project is especially important as our current buildings are not fully accessible, do not meet current standards/codes, and are largely inefficient. Our current buildings' limitations have a negative effect on the ability to provide appropriate educational programs for our students, both in and out of the classroom. We have an increasing number of students (and staff) with physical limitations that require a more accessible and user-friendly building. This also aligns with MSA's strategic planning goals and policies.





Asset Preservation Funds

\$2.6 million

SUMMARY

- We have requested and received Asset Preservation funds over the past few years. We have made progress in reducing the number of projects that are needed on our campuses, but due to the age and design of many of our buildings, continued funding and work is required.
- This will allow us to continue maintenance, upkeep, and improvements to our buildings and facilities on both campuses to ensure safety, security, accessibility, and long-term maintenance so that our programs can continue to operate.
- Current priorities include preservation of exterior stone facades; replacement of boiler and heating equipment; tuckpointing and roof replacement; and replacement/correction of deteriorated walkways/roadways.
- Asset Preservation projects are prioritized based on life/safety, accessibility, program needs, and efficiency of our buildings. As we complete projects, we see savings in different areas (less maintenance needs, less workers compensation costs, more safety and accessibility, increased productivity and so forth)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Most of our buildings on both campuses were built in pre-ADA times which means we are continually assessing, repairing, and updating different aspects of our campuses to meet the current needs of our students. We also have invested time, money, and energy to increase the security and safety of our buildings to support our students/families' needs. It is our goal to maintain state facilities and operate our educational programs within state expectations, federal regulations, and all other expectations, statutes, and guidelines.