

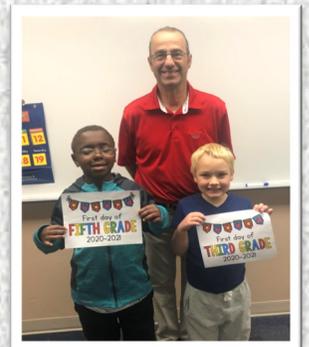
# North Dakota School for the Deaf

RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Testimony to the House Education and Environment Division

Appropriations Committee House Bill #1013

January 14, 2021



*Lead - improve lives*

*Advocate - empower people*

*Collaborate - build partnerships*

*Educate - inspire success*

The North Dakota School for the Deaf is a division of The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent

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## Testimony

Chairman Dave Monson and Members of the House Education and Environment Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dr. Connie Hovendick. I am the superintendent of the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NDSB/RCDHH). This is my sixth year at NDSB/RCDHH. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as superintendent. Michael Loff, Business Manager, and I will provide testimony relative to House Bill #1013.

### **Mission**

**The Mission of NDSB/RCDHH is to “serve as a state resource center to provide advocacy, leadership and educational expertise for all individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing”. As most of you know, we have expanded our service to include birth to death and to all deaf or hard of hearing individuals across the state.**

### **Historical Information**

NDSB/RCDHH has a strong heritage having been at its original site since 1890. The School for the Deaf has served deaf and hard of hearing individuals for 130 years. Historical information is available throughout the school buildings. We invite you to come tour our facility.

### **Statutory Responsibilities**

North Dakota Century Code 25-07-01 through 25-07-13 address “Education of Deaf Persons”.

25-07-01. School for the deaf - Maintained - Location - Purpose. There must be maintained at Devils Lake, in Ramsey County, a school for the deaf, which may provide education and training and serve as a resource and referral center for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired.

### **Deaf Children’s Bill of Rights Law**

Within the scope of the *Deaf Children’s Bill of Rights Law (effective July, 2015)*;

NDSB/RCDHH shall collaborate with school districts to ensure that children who are deaf or hearing impaired and families of children who are deaf or hearing impaired receive appropriate services and have access to appropriate resources including:

- Screening and assessment of hearing capabilities and communication and language needs at the earliest possible age, and continuation of screening services throughout the child's educational experience;
- Early intervention to provide for acquisition of solid language bases at the earliest age possible;
- The opportunity to interact in person or through technological mediums with adult role models and peers who are deaf or hearing impaired;
- Qualified teachers, interpreters, and resource personnel, who communicate effectively with the child in the child's mode of communication; and
- Placement best suited to the child's needs such as social, communication, style of learning, motivational level, and family support.

The School for the Deaf shall:

Make information available to parents of children who are deaf or hearing impaired.

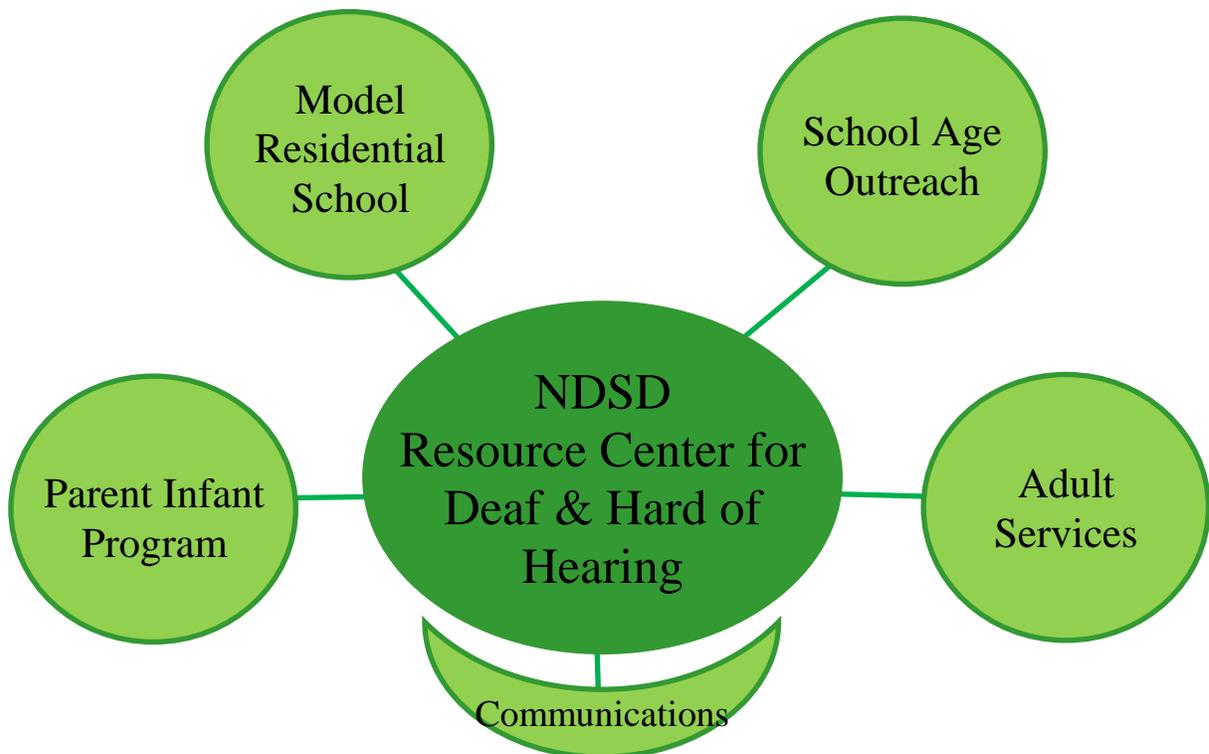
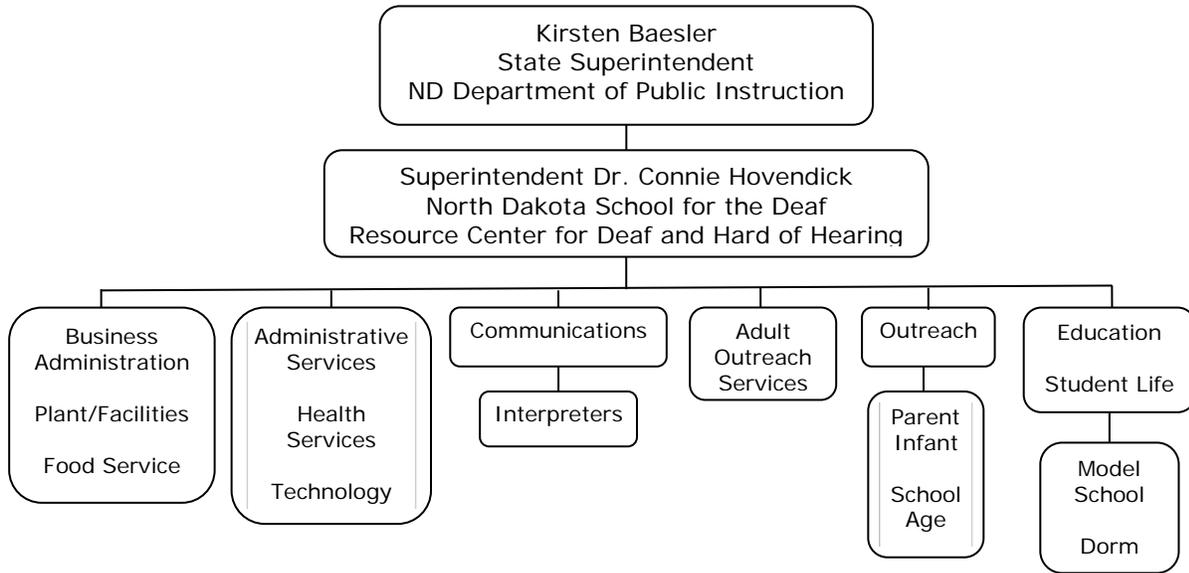
Provide awareness information to the public concerning medical, cultural, and linguistic issues of deafness and hearing loss.

**Guiding Principles** NDSB/RCDHH Promotes:

- Leadership in the recruitment and retention of trained professionals.
- Professional Development as a priority for all staff.
- Deaf Pride and an awareness of positive, productive role models who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Development of the individual's ability to achieve self-sufficiency in society.
- Safe and healthy environments.
- Comprehensive services designed to meet the individual's unique educational, vocational and personal/social developmental needs.

## Organizational Chart

### North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing



**NDSR/RCDHH Programming and Services**

**NDSR/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Educate and advocate on behalf of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families to promote safety, opportunity and independence.

To assure that quality interpreting services are being provided to North Dakota individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

	<b>7/17 – 6/18</b>	<b>7/18 – 6/19</b>	<b>7/19 – 6/20</b>
American Sign/Basic Sign Language Class	337 individuals	239 individuals	174 individuals
Statewide Interpreter Services	2,403 individuals	2,263 individuals	2,564 individuals
Library Circulation	2,209 items	2,467 items	1,557 items
Website Views	20,808	20,090	15,546
Facebook Reached	115,250	163,212	123,628

**Parent Infant Program**

Provide family support and education centered programming for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Provide assistance in developing Individual Family Service Plans and Individual Education Plans in collaboration with agencies and school personnel.

	<b>7/17 – 6/18</b>	<b>7/18 – 6/19</b>	<b>7/19 – 6/20</b>
Persons Served	33	48	60
Consultations	682	1,181	1,478
Evaluations	46	94	86
Direct Service	415	541	541

**Model School**

Provide early access to and the acquisition of language to ensure students' progress at the highest level of which they are capable through intensive speech, language and auditory instruction.

Provide a diverse bilingual community in a nurturing, engaging and challenging environment that is open to observations from teachers of the deaf, families and other interested professionals.

	<b>7/17 – 6/18</b>	<b>7/18 – 6/19</b>	<b>7/19 – 6/20</b>
Students Served	18	19	18
Campus visitors	187	389	351

**School Age Outreach**

Provide assistance with assessment in the areas of auditory, language, speech, academics, sign language, developmental and transition.

Provide consultations on programming and IEP, 504 planning, classroom strategies, modifications, accommodations, and transition.

	<b>7/17 – 6/18</b>	<b>7/18 – 6/19</b>	<b>7/19 – 6/20</b>
Persons Served	152	170	174
Consultations	1,000	994	1,356
Evaluations	35	39	29
Direct Service	301	160	105
Mailings & Emails	6,770	6,797	5,619

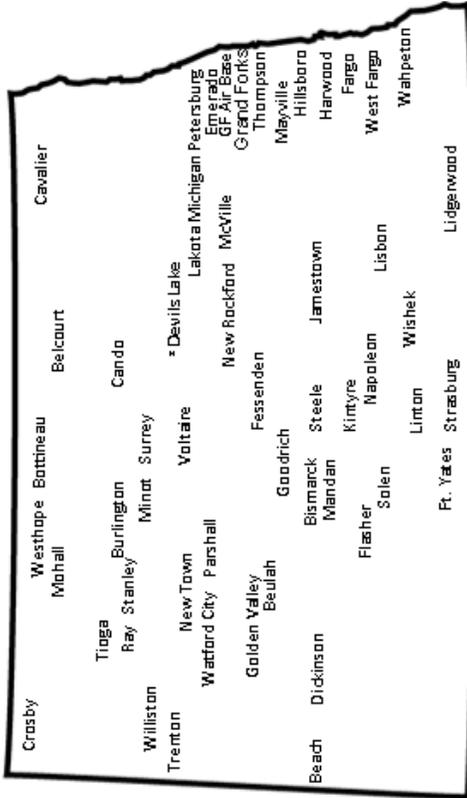
**Adult Services**

Educate and support individuals and community agencies statewide regarding resources available to adults with hearing loss.

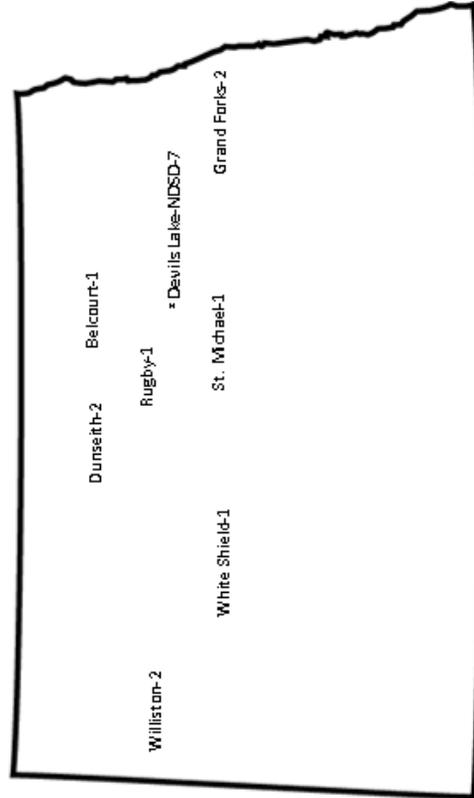
Collaborate with statewide agencies to provide individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing with comprehensive, non-duplicative services.

	<b>7/17 – 6/18</b>	<b>7/18 – 6/19</b>	<b>7/19 – 6/20</b>
Persons Served	176	156	115
Consults/Evaluations/ Direct Service	580	587	352

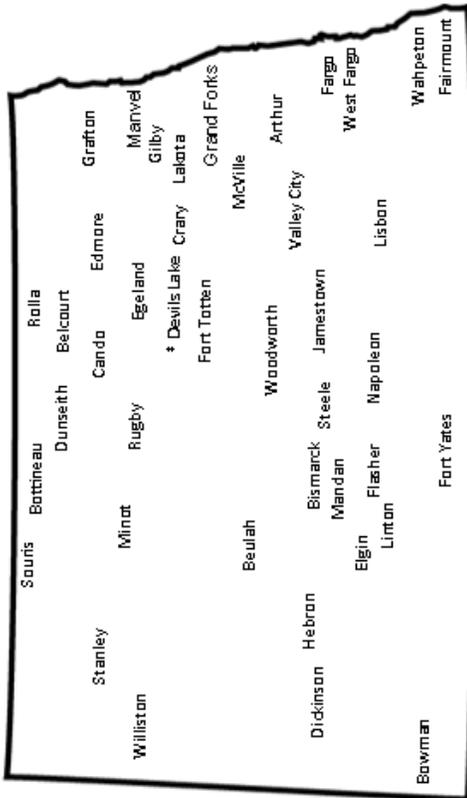
Parent Infant/School Age client location 2020-2021



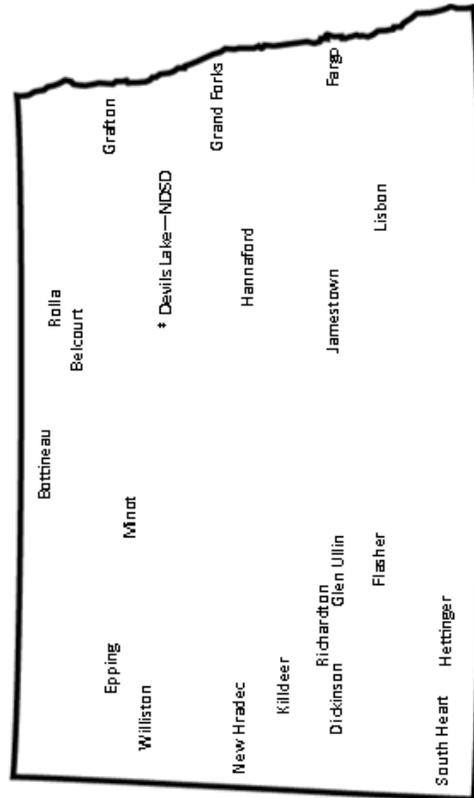
Model School student location 2020-2021



Adult Outreach client location 2020-2021



American Sign Language Outreach location 2020-2021



## **Audit Findings**

We had a clean audit except for procurement issues with three invoices that were addressed with training for staff. (Appendix B)

## **Major Accomplishments of 2019-2020**

- Distributed “Tidbits” the monthly newsletter to showcase programs at NDSB/RCDHH and to provide information on upcoming events for parents and stakeholders. (Appendix C)
- Promoted Assistive Technology Day and Deaf Awareness Day.
- Participated in leadership training for all managers.
- Presented in-services on hearing loss to Assisted Living and public and private schools
- Facilitated Hearing Loss Resource groups in Minot, Bismarck, Fargo, Valley City, and Wahpeton with more than 100 attendees learning about such topics as Planning for Later Life, Ototoxic Medications, Vertigo and Vestibular Disorders, Tinnitus, Trends in Hearing Aid Technology, and Planning for Safety in Disasters.
- Mentored an NDSU student intern at NDSB/RCDHH as well as pre-certified interpreters.
- Presented on Hearing Loss and Health Care to Long Term Health Care Convention, State Vocational Rehabilitation Conference and Human Service Centers.
- Presented trainings on law enforcement with the deaf community to Police Officer Training Academies, correction, police, and sheriff departments around the state.
- Conducted presentations on the impact of the legal system with the deaf or hard of hearing community for legal assistants, lawyers and judges.
- Expanded counseling programs for students with needs provided by a masters level social worker.
- Contracted interpreter services for Bismarck Public School, University of Mary, and Governor’s press conferences.
- Developed curriculum in the areas of reading, language, social studies and science.
- Celebrated Native American Day with guests and stories from alumni.
- Organized and ice-fishing experience for families with deaf or hard of hearing children.
- Prepared for 130th reunion of NDSB.
- Continued professional development on Spice, auditory training, Thirty Million Words, and shared reading.

- Increased use of virtual platforms for interpreting, classroom instruction, home visits, and a variety of meetings.
- Developed educational videos for Facebook and website.
- Designed and accepted bids for a remodeling project for the NDSB/RCDHH pool and locker room.

### **NDSB/RCDHH Future Critical Issues**

1. Continue to have highly qualified staff providing services for the deaf and hard of hearing. (Critical shortage of teachers of the deaf and licensed interpreters).
2. Increase marketing of NDSB/RCDHH so citizens are aware of how to access current information resources, and services to assist deaf and hard of hearing.
3. Continue to collaborate with other agencies to insure early identification of hearing loss and provide interventions as needed.
4. Continue to advocate for resources state wide to provide access to communication for deaf and hard of hearing of all ages.
5. Continue to provide professional development for teachers on research based instruction and strategies so students receive specialized programming.
6. Collaborate with public school and work with families so all students receive an appropriate education as defined in the Bill of Rights.

### Current to Next Biennium Comparison

Executive Budget Changes to 2019-2021 Appropriation

	2019-2021 Base Level	2021-2023 Executive Changes	2021-2023 Executive Budget
Salaries and wages	8,054,944	288,023	8,342,967
Operating Expenses	1,705,586	0	1,705,586
Capital Assets	158,678	697,500	856,178
Grants	<u>40,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Total All Funds	9,959,208	985,523	10,944,731
Less Estimated Income	<u>2,430,358</u>	<u>1,057,076</u>	<u>3,487,434</u>
General fund	<u><u>7,528,850</u></u>	<u><u>(71,553)</u></u>	<u><u>7,457,297</u></u>
FTE	44.61	0.00	44.61

Special fund expenditures increases account for the increase in estimated income.

NDSB/RCDHH plans to continue face to face services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals in North Dakota. The executive ongoing adjustments offset general fund cost increases for classified and contract staff. Special fund ongoing salary and wage adjustments increase the number of special funded positions compared to the base level.

All current and proposed capital asset extraordinary repairs refer to the most recent refinement of our master facility planning process developed in cooperation with the Office of Management. SiteLogicIQ is our current Master Facility plan.

Appendix A includes a list of operating expenses and a schedule of proposed executive budget changes.

**Distribution of Base Level Funding**

Includes Executive Budget Recommendation Changes

	2021-2023 General Fund	2021-2023 Special Fund	2021-2023 Federal Fund	2021-2023 Total Recommendation
Salaries and wages	7,417,297	871,854	53,816	8,342,967
Operating Expenses	0	1,657,574	48,012	1,705,586
Capital Assets	0	856,178	0	856,178
Grants	<u>40,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Total	7,457,297	3,385,606	101,828	10,944,731

FTE 44.61

NDSB/RCDHH is a resource center for all deaf and hard of hearing persons in North Dakota and provides education based upon specific needs of each individual served. While there were a multitude of variables considered the base budget lines were not adjusted assuming that our agency would continue to adapt by reallocating resources to the highest emerging priority.

As a smaller agency, NDSB/RCDHH presents it's budget on a rollup up by line basis. While we continue to manage our campus, agency services are increasingly focused off campus in person or when appropriate via web based delivery.

In order to preserve services to the deaf and hard of hearing in North Dakota there has been a gradual shift to special funding of salaries and wages. (To the extent that funding is available.)

All but \$ 48,012 of the operating expense line is funded by special funds, unused special funds would carry forward for use by NDSB/RCDHH.

All capital assets are special funds projects, see one-time funding schedule.

Interpreter grants to ND State Colleges are general fund.

**2019-2021 One-time Funding Report**

	Budget Amount	Status	Expended
One-time funding items (all special funds)			
Kitchen Equipment	\$20,000	Deferred	\$0
Total Equipment	\$20,000		\$0
Extraordinary Repairs Total Budget	\$408,678		
9 Entrances at Various Campus Locations		Complete	\$57,173
Pool Locker Room and Lighting Upgrade *		In Progress	\$336,150
(completion anticipated April 2021)			
Total Extraordinary Repairs	<u>\$408,678</u>		<u>\$393,323</u>
Total One-time	<u>\$428,678</u>		<u>\$393,323</u>
Special Funding One-time	<u>\$428,678</u>		<u>\$393,323</u>
Total 2019-2021 One-time	<u>\$428,678</u>		<u>\$393,323</u>

*\*SiteLogicIQ Plan*

**Executive Recommendation 2021-2023 One-Time Funding**

	Fund Source	*Plan	Budget
Base Budget Extraordinary Repair	Special	*	\$158,678
Optional One-time Capital Assets			
Replacement of Campus Server	Special		\$7,500
Grounds, Support Services, Audiology Equipment	Special		\$40,000
Extraordinary Repair: Backup Boiler Replacement	Special	*	\$350,000
Extraordinary Repair: Resource Center Roof, HVAC	Special	*	\$300,000
Total Optional One-time Capital Assets			<u>\$697,500</u>
Total One-time			<u>\$697,500</u>
Total Recommendation Capital Amount			<u>\$856,178</u>

*\*SiteLogicIQ Plan*

**NDSB Special Comparative Fund Receipts Projection**

2021-2023 Biennium	2019-2021 Projection	2019-2021 Budget	2021-2023 Executive
462140 Sale Meals-Prepared Food	180,000	200,000	121,853
463021 Misc. Sales And Services	47,200	47,200	48,000
490501 Tsfr Fm Common Schools	1,898,000	1,898,000	2,008,000
472015 Lease-Rental Of Rooms-Bldgs	<u>188,976</u>	<u>188,976</u>	<u>183,579</u>
	<u>2,314,176</u>	<u>2,334,176</u>	<u>2,361,432</u>

Summary of Assumptions

Meal revenue is related to the campus based head start program. Covid-19 impacts the number of students assigned to a classroom and may affect when classrooms are open. Experience to date in the current fiscal year suggests that the executive forecast may be conservative.

Misc. Sales and Services includes interpreter services which is variable since demand is often centered at the collegiate level. This category of revenue also may include campus based services provided to a leasing facility.

The North Dakota Department of Land Trusts continues to be the largest special fund resource for NDSB/RCDHH

Lease-Rental of Rooms-Bldgs is primarily Head Start revenue. It also includes two state agencies, Ramsey County Attendant Care, and a private lease. NDSB/RCDHH also does receive rent from the local Park Board for community pool utilization. While NDSB/RCDHH is anticipating stability with rental income, telecommuting may affect our lease revenue. All facilities on campus are utilized.

As noted in other schedules, special funds represent the majority of operating expenditures, all capital expenditures, and a growing proportion of salaries and wages.

**Optional Changes 2021-2023 Budget**

Optional Request Description	<u>Executive Optional Request Comparison</u>		
	<u>NDSB Request</u>	<u>Executive Inclusion</u>	<u>Executive Exclusion</u>
Ongoing Budget Changes			
General Fund Restore Part of Salary Funding	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
General Fund Teacher Composite Scale Increase	\$133,704	\$133,704	\$0
General Fund Restore Interpreter Grant Funding	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
Special Fund Restore Part of Salary Funding	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
Total ongoing funding changes	\$973,704	\$833,704	\$140,000
One-time funding items			
Special Funds Campus Server	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
Special Funds Backup Boiler Replacement	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
Special Funds Resource Center HVAC, Roof, Lighting	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Special Funds Grounds, Support Services, Equipment	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Total one-time funding changes	\$697,500	\$697,500	\$0
Total Optional	\$1,671,204	\$1,531,204	\$140,000
General Fund Optional	\$623,704	\$483,704	\$140,000
Special Fund Optional	\$1,047,500	\$1,047,500	\$0
Total Executive Budget Recommendation	\$1,671,204	\$1,531,204	\$140,000

**Federal Funding Related to Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

NDSB/RCDHH has not received any direct federal funding in relation to Covid-19.

Expenditures experienced during this time period have been primarily limited to existing planned services normally carried out by the agency.

NDSB/RCDHH is not eligible for distribution received by school districts through the Department of Public Instruction.

NDSB/RCDHH did receive indirect funding from the ND ITD department for equipment related to telecommuting for staff and students. A total of \$45,536.30 was received for computer equipment under \$5,000. This offset special fund expenditures NDSB/RCDHH incurred related to this equipment.

## **Summary**

1. Restore salary funding of \$350,000 in general funds and \$350,000 in special funds.
2. Approve the teacher composite scale increase in general funds of \$133,704.
3. Restore funding for Interpreter grant to State of ND colleges. Add \$140,000 in general funds grant line with restored total balance set at \$180,000.
4. Approve one time funding of \$697,500 for campus improvements from special funds.

## **Conclusion**

I am honored to serve as the superintendent of NDSB/RCDHH. I am proud of the expanded services that we offer individual who are deaf or hard of hearing across the state. We have truly become a resource center. I want to compliment the staff at NDSB/RCDHH who have worked extremely hard to make sure services were provided during this time of Covid-19. I request the budget include the optional package to keep the current programming and the one time package for campus improvements. We need to maintain our budget to provide quality services to deaf and hard of hearing across North Dakota.

Our mission is to serve as a state resource center to provide advocacy, leadership and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing. With your support, we can continue to make this happen.

Thank you, members of the North Dakota Legislature, for your ongoing support in serving individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.



North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

is a division of the

Department of Public Instruction,

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent

[www.dpi.nd.gov](http://www.dpi.nd.gov)

NDSD/RCDHH does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or provision of services.

NDSB/RCDHH 25200

House Bill 1013 2021-2023

Proposed Executive Operating Expenditures by Line

	Base Level	Expenditure Changes	Executive
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Travel	342,466	(5,095)	337,371
Supplies - IT Software	16,000	0	16,000
Supply/Material - Professional	39,000	0	39,000
Food and Clothing	170,850	0	170,850
Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	103,000	0	103,000
Miscellaneous Supplies	82,000	0	82,000
Office Supplies	15,000	(1,000)	14,000
Postage	9,750	0	9,750
Printing	11,750	(1,000)	10,750
IT Equipment under \$5,000	81,000	0	81,000
Other Equip under \$ 5,000	28,200	0	28,200
Office Equip & Furniture	8,000	0	8,000
Utilities	252,112	0	252,112
Insurance	22,645	4,218	26,863
Rentals/Leases-Equipment&Other	13,815	1,377	15,192
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	61,023	(1,000)	60,023
Repairs	45,720	0	45,720
IT - Data Processing	109,299	2,500	111,799
IT - Communications	68,500	0	68,500
IT Contractual Srvcs and Rprs	26,350	0	26,350
Professional Development	27,500	0	27,500
Operating Fees and Services	43,400	0	43,400
Professional Fees and Services	128,206	0	128,206
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,705,586</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,705,586</b>

***Operating Expense Executive Projections***

Operating Expenses were adjusted to reflect projected costs trends based upon agency historical data and recommended inflationary variables.

**School for the Deaf-Budget 252  
 House Bill 1013  
 Base Level Funding Changes Analysis**

**Executive Recommendation Budget Changes**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-2023 Base Level	44.61	\$7,528,850	\$2,430,358	\$9,959,208
<b>2021-2023 Ongoing Funding Changes</b>				
Proposed Base Level Payroll Changes	0.00	(\$37,343)	(\$2)	(\$37,345)
Proposed Salary Increase		\$142,880	\$6,925	\$149,805
Proposed Benefit Increase		\$32,053	\$1,553	\$33,606
Proposed Health Premium Increase		\$2,370	\$115	\$2,485
Proposed Retirement Increase		\$20,325	\$985	\$21,310
Proposed Executive Budget Target Reduction in Salary Budget	0.00	(\$715,542)	\$0	(\$715,542)
Optional Package Salary Budget Adjustment	0.00	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
Optional Package to Include Teacher Salary Composite Schedule		\$133,704	\$0	\$133,704
Optional Package for Operating Expenditures (none)		\$0	\$0	\$0
		\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total ongoing funding changes</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$71,553)</b>	<b>\$359,576</b>	<b>\$288,023</b>
<b>One-time funding items</b>				
Adds funding Campus Server			\$7,500	\$7,500
Adds funding to upgrade standby boiler			\$350,000	\$350,000
Adds funding for resource building projects			\$300,000	\$300,000
Adds funding for grounds, support service, and audiology equipment			\$40,000	\$40,000
<b>Total one-time funding changes</b>			<b>\$697,500</b>	<b>\$697,500</b>
<b>Total Changes to Base Level Funding</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(\$71,553)</b>	<b>\$1,057,076</b>	<b>\$985,523</b>
<b>Total Executive Budget Recommendation</b>	<b>\$44.61</b>	<b>\$7,457,297</b>	<b>\$3,487,434</b>	<b>\$10,944,731</b>

**North Dakota School for the Deaf  
House Bill 1013  
Audit Findings for Biennium Ended June 30, 2019**

***Conclusion***

Except for the following finding, no exceptions relating to our statutorily required audit testing were identified. See finding 19-01.

**Noncompliance with Procurement (Finding 19-01)**

***Condition:***

The North Dakota School for the Deaf did not comply with the North Dakota State Procurement Manual. Three of seventeen transactions were not properly procured, resulting in an 18% error rate. The North Dakota School for the Deaf failed to obtain bids or a request for proposal (RFP), and did not maintain proper documentation.

***Criteria:***

North Dakota Century Code section 54-44.4-02.1 states, "all services purchased by any agency in the executive branch of state government must comply with the standards and guidelines for the procurement of services established by the office of management and budget."

North Dakota State Procurement Manual Chapter 1.2 states, "It is a state policy that each agency and institution obtain necessary commodities and services at a competitive cost, consistent with quality, time and performance requirements with fair and equal opportunity to all persons qualified to sell to the state."

***Cause:***

Management was unaware of all necessary procurement requirements.

***Effect or Potential Effect:***

The best purchase price may not have been obtained, because the appropriate level of competition required was not met.

***Recommendation:***

We recommend the North Dakota School for the Deaf properly procure commodities and services in compliance with the North Dakota State Procurement manual.

**Agency Response:** "NDSR acknowledges the three transactions that did not comply with procurement rules. All affected staff took refresher courses in procurement subsequent to the transaction dates in question. In addition, we have met with each affected individual to review the specifics of the transactions and implement corrective action for future transactions."



# Tidbits

NDSD Resource Center  
December 15, 2020 Volume 3-Issue 5



## Connie's Celebrations

The holidays are being celebrated many different ways this year. The North Dakota School for the Deaf has traditionally hosted a Christmas dinner to thank the parents, community members, legislators, and staff who work diligently to support the school throughout the year. Usually, 100 or more guests are invited to a banquet with great food prepared by the NDSD kitchen staff. We will not have a large group meal this year in order to keep all of us safe during these trying times. The kitchen staff will be serving a modified Christmas dinner for the students and their teachers with social distancing. I am sure the food will be great and the students will have a special time being served at tables decked out for Christmas. This is always a learning experience for our students who are not accustomed to formal dining.

We will sincerely miss our guests who come and cheer on the students as they perform a short program in sign language. This year the performance will be filmed and shared virtually on Facebook.

The rules for social gatherings have changed but the gratitude we feel for all the support we receive is as intense as ever. We wish you could join us in our Christmas celebrations but know that we are thankful for all you do and wish you a Blessed Holiday Season, good health, peace and joy in the New Year.

### Inside this Issue:

- Connie's Celebrations
- Education
- Dorm Life
- Tech Corner
- Adult Services
- PIP/School Age Outreach
- What's Happening

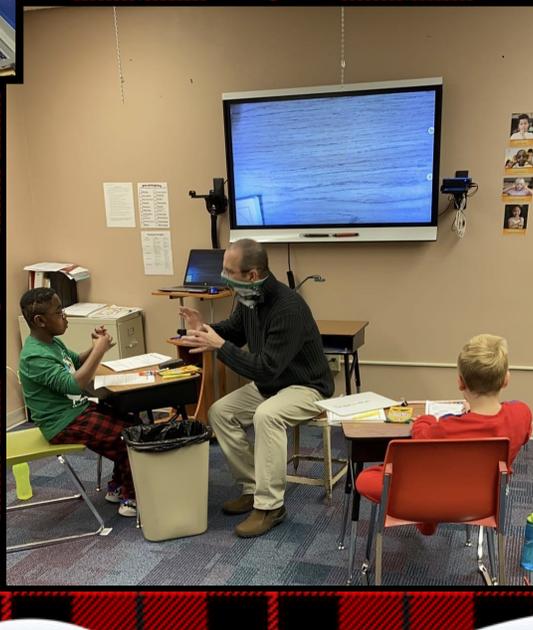
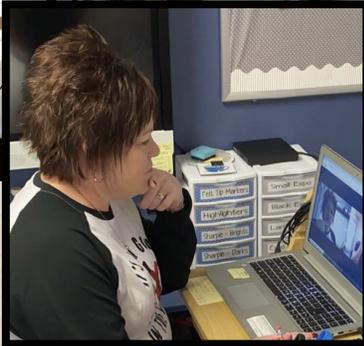
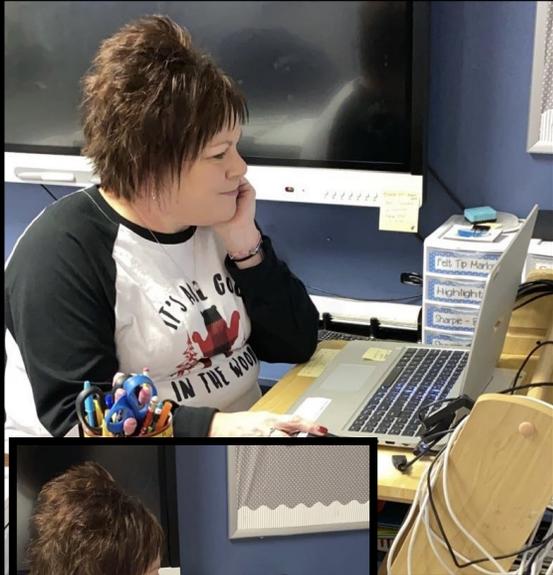


ND School for the Deaf Resource Center  
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
1401 College Dr. N  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Phone/TTY: 701-665-4400  
Toll Free: 1-800-887-2980  
Fax: 1-701-665-4409

We are on the web:  
[www.nd.gov/ndsd](http://www.nd.gov/ndsd)  
Email: [ndsd.school@k12.nd.us](mailto:ndsd.school@k12.nd.us)

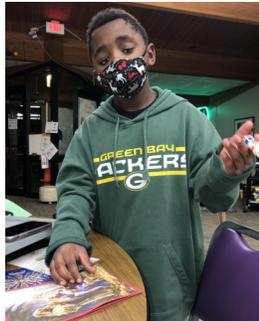
Either here or there,  
we will teach you anywhere!



# Community Involvement Was Tricky This Christmas Season



The NDSB dorm was not stopped by COVID-19 this season, but we had to get creative. Since we were unable to visit the nursing homes or ring the bell for the Salvation Army, we made cards for residents of two local nursing homes. Students increased the usual number of homemade Christmas cards from 24 to 130. We delivered our cards and candies and were happily greeted by Santa. Or maybe he was standing guard, not letting people in.



**Big shout out to Linda Ehlers**, from the Parent Infant Program, for the wonderful donation of Christmas bulbs to make these Christmas trees. The kids were so excited to have their own personal trees.



On our 1 snow day, we were able to sneak out and enjoy it. Who needs to use the stairs when you can have more fun struggling with the hill climb?

## Tech Corner

### Posting on Social Media

What you post on any social media can cause a serious threat to your reputation and even your security.

Below are **five very important tips** about posting on Facebook and other social media:

- (1) Avoid posting sensitive personal information such as a social security number, financial accounts, and data that ties you to your personal identity such as your home address, phone #, DOB.
- (2) Avoid posting information and pictures from your vacation. Wait until you get home to do that. If you post during the vacation, it tells others that you are NOT home, leaving your home vulnerable.
- (3) Avoid sharing your current location. Again, this lets people, including burglars, know you are not at home.
- (4) Keep work-related rants off Facebook. Even if you delete a post, screenshots can make their way back to your box and could cost you your job.





# CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Finding just the right gift for everyone on your list can be a challenge.

This year, you may want to consider giving a gift that can provide a sense of comfort and well-being.

Here are some Christmas gift ideas that would make this holiday season merry and bright for your loved ones.

## Echo Show

This Alexa device with a 10" screen makes it easy to stay in touch. Make video calls to loved ones with either another Echo Show or with the free Alexa app on your iPhone/iPad. Another feature called "Drop In" allows you to immediately see how they are doing & start a conversation with them. Plus, when not in use, it can display photos of loved ones.



## Calendar Clocks

Calendar clocks are an excellent tool for a loved one who experiences cognitive impairments, memory loss or who has impaired vision. These digital clocks clearly spell out the day, time, month and year with no abbreviations used. This makes a great gift for all ages.



## TV Soundbox

Bring the sound to the listener! The TV Soundbox attaches to the television and sends sound via Bluetooth to the speaker, which can be placed anywhere in the room. No more blaring television across the room.

Bonus: you can even use with standard headphones if you prefer to mute the sound to others.



## Hearing Aid Dryer

Purchasing hearing aids is a huge monetary investment. Cleaning and drying is vital to ensuring that your hearing aids stay in top shape for as long as possible. There are all kinds of dryers available in a range of prices.



*Happy Holidays!*

**From the Adult Hearing Outreach Team:**

**Pam Smith, Kathy Frelich, Kristen Vetter, Dawn Sauvageau**

MAY  
your days  
BE  
\*MERRY\*  
AND  
Bright



## Parent-Infant Program/ School Age Outreach Specialists (Statewide Services)

Christmas carols are a traditional highlight of the holiday season, no more so than for those with a hearing loss. Give your child access to these songs by pre-teaching and/or learning them in sign language. The repetition of familiar songs helps with recall, memory, cognitive development and also promotes language, speech and listening skills as well.

# Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
jingle all the way

Oh what fun it is to ride  
in a one-horse open sleigh, hey!



REPEAT  
TWICE



### JINGLE

Palm-down 9-hand strikes vertical palm and shakes to side.

### BELLS

Dominant S-hand hits vertical palm, then shakes to the side.



### JINGLE

Palm-down 9-hand strikes vertical palm and shakes to side.



### ALL

Palm-out A-hand slides sideways, changing to L-hand.



### THE WAY

Parallel flat hands move forward, weaving slightly side-to-side.



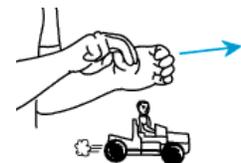
### OH

O-hand then twist to H-hand.



### WHAT FUN

Palm-in U-hand on nose strokes downward to palm-in N-hand.



### IT IS TO RIDE

First two fingers of dominant hand sit on thumb of horizontal C-hand, both moves forward.



### IN A

Fingertips of dominant flat-O hand enters horizontal O-hand.



### ONE HORSE

Thumb on temple, flat-H fingers waves forward.



### OPEN SLEIGH

Palm-in 1-hands circle forward to palm-up X-hands that pull back.



### HEY

Throw your arm up in a cheer.

Repeat Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All the Way

Put together by Linda Ehlers Signs pasted from Gustason & Zawolkow's Signing Exact English.

For more information, contact Carol Lybeck at (701) 665-4400 or Carol.Lybeck@k12.nd.us

# Banner Flashback, Christmas—1894

Submitted by Lilia Bakken, Communications

**Banner 1894** – Our pupils stayed at School for the Deaf over the holidays. Our Matron, Mrs. Rowell, gave a Christmas present to the pupils in the form of a letter. On the blackboard near the Christmas tree she wrote, *“My Dear Children, I wish that I could express here all that I would freely bestow upon you were it in my powers to do so. I know that the path of life has for all, many thorns as well as roses of joy. I wish that you might be guided through it safely; firmly grasping the right and shunning the evil all the way through. Merry Christmas to you all.”* Miss Halvorson, our teacher, planned a Christmas party for all to enjoy. The entertainment, given by the pupils in sign language, elicited applause from everyone. Our Christmas tree was prettily decorated with colored candles that burned brightly. Here and there, hanging from its branches, were dolls with their chubby hands stretched out, as if waiting to be taken into the arms of their future mistresses. Under the tree was a pile of packages and books. Nearby was a bushel-basket filled with apples, candies, and nuts. Promptly at 7:30 P.M., Santa Claus rapped on the window. The children’s faces were aglow with anticipation and what followed can only be imagined. It was a merry event and everyone was happy!



## FOOD DRIVE

NDS D/RCDHH Health & Wellness Team hosted a November food drive.

NDS D Staff never seem to disappoint in the time of need. We were able to donate 154 pounds of non-perishable items to our local Hope Center.



## SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendars! The Midwest Conference on Deaf Education is scheduled for **June 7, 2021**, via **Zoom!**

Keep checking our website for further information:

[MWDeafConference.org](http://MWDeafConference.org)

**Facing the Future - TOGETHER!**

