

North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center

Celebrating 135 years!



**Testimony to the House Education and Environment
Division Appropriations Committee
House Bill #1013
January 16, 2025**

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 – Donna Sorensen

Chairman Mike Nathe and Members of the House Appropriations--Education and Environment Division:

My name is Donna Sorensen. I am the superintendent of North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center. Diane Frelich, Business Manager, and I will provide testimony relative to House Bill 1013.

1. Purpose of agency and programs

North Dakota School for the Deaf

<u>Vision:</u> To support individuals with hearing differences in achieving their dreams	<u>Mission:</u> To educate and serve all individuals with hearing differences from birth through senior citizenship	<u>Purpose:</u> To serve as a statewide education and resource center to provide advocacy, leadership, and expertise in the field of Deaf Education and those with hearing loss.
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Our Beliefs:

All students and clients are **ABLE:**

- **A**cquire and learn language and communication in English and in ASL.
- **B**ecome lifelong learners through hands-on experiences using all senses.
- **L**ead and advocate for themselves and others.
- **E**xpress their identity as learners who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.

Century Code

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.

25-07-01.1. School for the deaf – Appointment of superintendent, budget, staff, and reporting structure. The superintendent of the school for the deaf is appointed by and

reports to the superintendent of public instruction. The school for the deaf must have a separate budget and separate staff from the department of public instruction.

25-07-02. Superintendent – Special duties. The superintendent of the school for the deaf may also act as superintendent of the North Dakota vision services – school for the blind.

25-07-02.1. Criminal history record checks. The school for the deaf may require any employee, final applicant for employment, or any individual otherwise providing services to the school to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history record check. The nationwide criminal history record check must be conducted in the manner provided in section 12-60-24. The school for the deaf may assess all costs associated with obtaining a criminal history record check to the individual upon whom the criminal history record check is conducted.

25-07-03. – Matron – Duties. Repealed by S.L. 1971, ch. 274, § 3.

25-06-04. Qualifications for admission to school for the deaf – Residents of state entitled to free education.

1. A child who is a resident of this state and who, because of deafness or a hearing impairment, is unable to receive an education in the public schools, is entitled to attend the school for the deaf at the expense of the state. A child is entitled to attend the school at any age up to twenty-one.
2. The school for the deaf shall provide application forms upon request. A child may not be admitted to the school until the child's application is completed and approved.
3. The school for the deaf shall provide transportation to any child who has been admitted, in accordance with the child's individual education plan.
4. Any child who is a resident of this state and who is deaf or hearing impaired is entitled to receive special education and related services in accordance with the child's individual education program. Each individual education program must address the child's academic, recreational, and leisure needs, as well as the acquisition of independent living skills and career and technical education opportunities.

25-07-05. Admission of nonresidents. A child who is deaf or hearing-impaired but who is not a resident of this state may be admitted to the school for the deaf, provided the annual cost of the child's education, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction, is paid on behalf of the child in advance of the child's admission and on a yearly basis thereafter. The school may not admit a child who is not a resident of this state to the exclusion of a child who is a resident of this state.

25-07-06. Instruction at school for the deaf. The superintendent of the school for the deaf shall provide special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs of each child who is deaf or hearing-impaired, in accordance with the child's individual education program.

25-07-07. Transportation of indigent children to and from school for the deaf. Repealed by S.L. 1979, ch. 336, § 3.

25-07-08. Clothing may be furnished when necessary – Accounts for clothing. The school for the deaf shall provide clothing to a child who is enrolled in the school if the child does not have suitable clothing. If the child is a minor, the school shall charge the child's parent or legal guardian for any clothing provided to the child under this section and shall charge the individual for any clothing provided to the individual under this section if the individual has reached the age of majority. If the superintendent certifies any charges under this section as being correct, the charges are presumed correct in all courts.

25-07-09. Collection of clothing account. Repealed by S.L. 1999, ch. 106, § 18.

25-07-10. Deaf persons – Duty to report. It is the duty of every public school superintendent, physician, otologist, audiologist, nurse, clinic, hospital, and social and welfare agency in this state to report in writing to the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the deaf the name, age, and residence of persons under the age of twenty-one years who are deaf or hard of hearing, and in such cases to furnish such additional pertinent information as the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the deaf may request. All reports must be forwarded to said superintendent of the school for the deaf within thirty days after diagnosis, examination, or discovery.

25-07-11. Home intervention program. The school for the deaf may provide a home intervention program for children who are under the age of five and who are deaf or hearing impaired. The program must include information, counseling services, auditory training, and basic language development instruction for the parents of such children. This home intervention program must be carried out by college or university trained teachers of the deaf, speech pathologists, or audiologists.

25-07-12. Provision of services – Collaboration – Competition. The school for the deaf may collaborate with public and private entities for the provision of services to individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired. The school for the deaf may not compete with any public or private entity offering the same services within a region.

25-07-13. School for the deaf fund. The school for the deaf fund is a special fund in the state treasury. All moneys received pursuant to section 2 of article IX of the Constitution of North Dakota and all revenues received from the lease of buildings and the provision of meals and services, including interpreter services, must be deposited in the fund. Moneys in the fund are to be used pursuant to legislative appropriation for provision of services under this chapter.

North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center Programs

Education Program

NDSD/RC offers special education programming for deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind students on our Devils Lake Campus from preschool to 8th grade. High School students are mainstreamed in their home school districts or attend Devils Lake High School and live in our Residential Program.

Residential Program

NDSD/RC offers residential services for those students living too far to commute to the campus program on a daily basis. Transportation is provided to and from the students' home areas. Students PS through 12th grade live on campus during the school year from Sunday to Friday, going home on the weekends. Residential services include fun and educational learning activities on campus and in the Devils Lake community.

PIP / School-Age Outreach

NDSD/RC's Parent Infant Program and School-Age Outreach consists of regionally based Teachers of the Deaf who travel to homes and local schools on an intermittent basis to provide assessment, consultation, and instruction. A major focus is early intervention, providing information, advocacy, emotional support, and guidance for families and school districts.

Adult Outreach Services

NDSD/RC's Adult Outreach Services team offers training and support for adults who have hearing loss. They provide assistive equipment such as amplified telephones and light flashers for doorbells and phones as well as training in how to use the equipment. They provide community training to first responders and other groups to learn more about Deaf people and communicating with those who have a hearing difference.

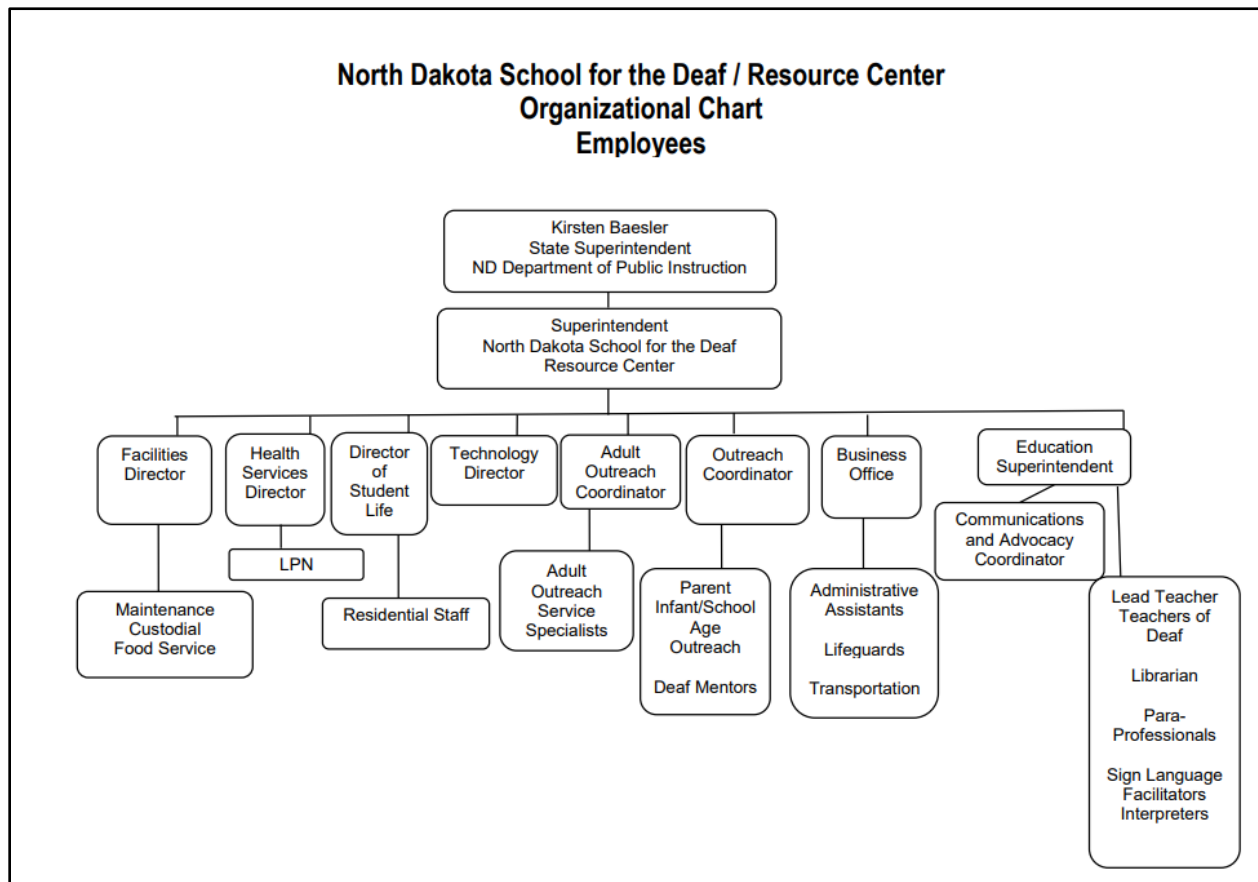
Communication and Advocacy

NDSD/RC's Communication and Advocacy Program continues to be in development. This program offers advocacy services to Deaf adults and is working to establish a systematized interpreting services in the Devils Lake area and possibly statewide.

Collaboration

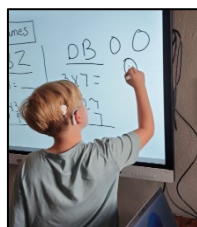
NDSD/RC partners with school districts across the state, North Dakota Dual Sensory Project, Minot State University, Regional Education Agencies, North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind, Audiologists, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, Part C Providers, Voc. Rehab, Deaf organizations, etc.

Organizational Chart



2. Financial Audit Findings

SFY23 Audit of NDSD/RC, the audit did not identify any areas of concern. No errors, internal control weaknesses, or potential violations of law were identified. An electronic copy of the Office of State Auditor Report Highlights for North Dakota School for the Deaf for the Biennium Ended June 30, 2023, is available upon request.



3. Biennial Accomplishments & Challenges:

Accomplishments:

- **Personnel**
 - Hired a Director of Student Life
 - Hired 2 Facilities and Maintenance Workers
 - Hired 1 Teacher of the Deaf
 - Hired 1 Teacher of the Deaf Consultant
 - Hired a Librarian
 - Hired 3 Paraeducators (2 full-time permanent, one part-time temp)
 - Hired 3 Residential Student Life Counselors
 - Hired 2 Nightwatch Residential Counselors (one full-time permanent, one full-time temp)
 - Hired a temporary Paraeducator/Interpreter
 - Hired a Licensed Practical Nurse (evening residential services)
 - Hired a Communications and Advocacy Coordinator
 - Hired 4 Drivers in temporary positions
- **Education and Residential Programs**
 - Achieved Cognia Accreditation
 - 24 Total Students including 7 High School Students and 1 part-time High School Student
 - 18 Residential Students
 - 5-6 Potential New Students
 - Conscious Discipline Training
 - Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training
 - Teachers engaged in Ron Clark book study through Northeast Education Services Cooperative
 - Fairview Learning – Reading strategies for Deaf Children
 - Two Teachers attended American Society for Deaf Children's Literacy 2024: Creating Connections with Language conference in Charleston, SC
 - “This is the first training we have attended outside of the South Dakota Midwest Conference that is specifically designed for Deaf Education in our 25+ years at NDSD.”
 - Attended the Conference for Educational Administrator of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) Conference in South Carolina
 - Attended the bi-annual National Student Life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NSLDHH) for Residential Deaf Programs in New Mexico
 - Attended the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado
- **Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Program**
 - Conducted Deaf Mentor Training and established the Deaf Mentor Program in North Dakota



- Attended the Language First's Freeing the Butterfly Conference in North Carolina
- Hosted and Co-Hosted Regional Pumpkin Patch events around ND in October 2023 and October 2024
- Produced and facilitated "Growing Up Deaf" webinar events
- Facilitated Virtual Deaf Santa events
- Disseminated various Holiday packets with fun educational games and information about Deafhood, deafness, and hearing loss
- Parent and community virtual American Sign Language (ASL) classes
- Partners with the ND Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and serves on the ND EHDI Advisory Council
- Partners with ND Hands & Voices (H&V) and serves on ND H&V Board
- Hosts annual Summer Camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- **Adult Hearing Outreach Program**
 - Hosts monthly Resource Groups to provide information and support to those with hearing loss (Wahpeton, Jamestown, Bismarck, Harvey, Fargo (2 groups), Minot, Valley City, Dickinson)
 - Trainings for professionals working with those with hearing loss (Nursing Homes, Peace Officers, Senior Groups, Vocational Rehabilitation Staff, Senior Transit, Assisted Living Centers, First Responders)
 - Provided 1:1 consultation to those with hearing loss and their families
 - Professional Development related to augmentative and alternate communication, Conscious Discipline, hearing aids and prescription hearing aids, Meniere's Disease, Bluetooth connections and accessories, conferences on aging, smart phone technologies, dementia, and conferences such as the Association for Late-Deafened Adults and the Hearing Loss Association of America
 - Hosted information booths across the state
- **Facilities**
 - Resource Center Roofing and HVAC Project
 - Continued maintenance and upkeep of aging facility
- **Communications and Advocacy**
 - New Communications and Advocacy Coordinator
 - Advocacy and Interpreting for Court Cases
 - Supporting Deaf adults through various bureaucracies such as immigration, social security, banking, etc.
 - 2 staff engaged in Improving Rural Interpreter Skills (IRIS) Project
 - One Sign Language Facilitator passed the written National Interpreter Certification (NIC) exam
 - 3 staff trained in Mental Health Interpreting Training in Alabama
- **Retirements**
 - Michael Loff, Business Manager, 15 years, retired June 2023
 - Susan Schwab/Kjelland, Librarian, retired June 2023



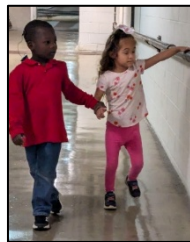
- Cindy Schneider, Custodian, 40 years, retired September 2023
- Nancy Trottier, Sign Language Facilitator, 40 years, retired May 2024
- Jerry Allery, General Maintenance Worker, retired November 2024

Challenges:

- **Personnel** – It continues to be challenging to recruit and retain staff with the specialized skills to work with students and clients who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. When staff are absent from campus, it is difficult to provide continued streamlined educational services for our students as staff cover for each other. This leads to piecemeal educational services and staff overtime and burnout.
 - **Solution:** *Additional staff to provide coverage and to enhance and streamline our educational and residential services.*
- **Professional Development** – It continues to be a challenge to provide access to continued professional development to maintain and grow skills related to Deafhood, deafness, and Deaf Education as well as child development and adult learning. It is a challenge to maintain knowledge and use of changing accessibility technologies.
 - **Solution:** *Examining our budget and reprioritizing professional development for staff.*
- **High School Programming** – The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center (NDSD/RC) High School program was closed in 2010. The expectation was that high school students would return to their home districts or remain on campus in the residential program and attend Devils Lake High School with support from NDSD/RC. At the time, the belief was that teachers who were highly qualified to teach subject-matter high school courses would provide a better education for students. However, this is not typically the outcome. Many of our students struggle with direct instruction from staff who can sign and who can provide the required accommodations listed on the IEP specific to deaf and hard of hearing students. Now, we are asking them to access their education through sign language interpreters with varying skills in these subject-matter courses.
 - **Solution:** *Continued funding for the American School for the Deaf (ASD) Online Academy. This year, we piloted two online classes (Physical Science and Social Students/History) with ASD Online Academy. ASD Online Academy teachers are Deaf and/or fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and skilled in providing the visual supports our deaf and hard of hearing students need to access their education.*
- **Facility Projects** – It has been a challenge completing our Resource Center Roofing and HVAC project due to unmet timelines by contractors. In general, maintenance and material costs have increased and delays in getting materials.
 - **Solution:** *Continued communication with contractors to ensure deadlines are met. Increased funding for major repairs to cover increased costs.*
- **Child Find and Tracking** – It continues to be a challenge to know and track individuals in North Dakota with a hearing difference. Century Code states:
25-07-10. Deaf persons – Duty to report. It is the duty of every public school superintendent, physician, otologist, audiologist, nurse, clinic,

hospital, and social and welfare agency in this state to report in writing to the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the deaf the name, age, and residence of persons under the age of twenty-one years who are deaf or hard of hearing, and in such cases to furnish such additional pertinent information as the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the deaf may request. All reports must be forwarded to said superintendent of the school for the deaf within thirty days after diagnosis, examination, or discovery.

- **Solution:** *Continued partnership with the ND Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (ND-EHDI) program. Develop a system for professionals to report required information to the superintendent at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. Develop a database to house all reported information to ensure appropriate interventions and services are provided.*
- **Public Awareness and Relations** – It is a challenge to maintain statewide awareness of the services and programs the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center offers.
 - **Solution:** *Continued attendance and presentations across the state. Update materials and continue statewide distribution.*



Next Biennium Goals & Plans:

- Accreditation through the Conference of Educational Administrations for Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD)
- Continued training in Fairview Learning, Bedrock Literacy Curriculum, and the Bilingual Grammar Curriculum, supplemental approaches to reading designed for students who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Training in child development for Residential Student Life staff
- Continued development of the Communications and Advocacy Program including a needs assessment of interpreting services needed across the state
- Continued dialogue with systems of higher education in addressing our personnel gaps and employment needs
- Replace secondary campus boiler and pneumatic controls in Trades building
- Growth of Deaf Mentor program
- Continued efforts in statewide information dissemination about our services and programs

4. Overview of Budget Changes

	2023-2025 Legislative Base Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2025-2027 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$9,283,599	\$1,445,115	\$10,728,714
Operating Expenses	1,705,586	250,839	1,956,425
Capital Assets	158,678	283,800	442,478
Total	\$11,147,863	\$1,979,754	\$13,127,617
General Fund	\$8,336,306	\$1,593,000	\$9,929,306
Federal Fund	124,542	4,452	128,994
Special Fund	2,687,015	382,302	3,069,317
Total	\$11,147,863	\$1,979,754	\$13,127,617
FTE	45.36	1.50	46.86

Special Fund expenditure increases account for the increase in estimated income.

Executive change recommendation for Salaries and Benefits includes the cost to continue salary increases. In addition, executive budget changes include a compensation package, requested teacher contract composite scale increases, a Paraprofessional position, and a Dorm Counselor position.

Executive change Operating Expenses include requested inflationary adjustments.

Executive change Capital Assets include Campus Security System and Standard Operating Equipment Replacement.



5. Staffing/Full Time Equivalents

	2023- 2025 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023-2025 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2025- 2027 Executive Budget
Education	6.75	.75	7.50	.75	8.25
Communications	4.83		4.83		4.83
Plant Services	9.50		9.50		9.50
Outreach Services	9.00		9.00		9.00
Residential Program	5.50		5.50	.75	6.25
Other	9.03		9.03		9.03
Total Regular FTE	44.61	.75	45.36	1.50	46.86

NDSD/RC requested an additional .75 FTE (Paraprofessional) for the 2023-2025 biennium. This position was approved and filled in August 2023 and \$78,000 was transferred from the OMB New and Vacant Funding Pool.

A total of \$328,837 was removed from the 2023-2025 budget to fund the New and Vacant Funding Pool. In August 2023, a request for funds from this pool was made that included \$78,000 for the new Paraprofessional position along with \$154,000 for the vacant Director of Student Life and \$21,245 for the vacant LPN. All positions were filled in August 2023. In September 2023 a total of \$253,245 was transferred from the OMB New and Vacant Funding Pool in September 2023. There is a balance of \$75,592 remaining.

NDSD/RC has requested an additional two FTEs, Paraprofessional (.75 FTE) and Nightwatch Dormitory Counselor for the overnight shift (.75). NDSD/RC has received positive response from parents of young students citing noticeable growth in language development when they stay as a resident on the NDSD/RC campus. As the number of these young students grow, the need for the individualized instruction and supervision is growing.

6. 2023-2025 Agency Vacant Positions

Throughout the 2023-2025 biennium there have been 16 vacant positions, 14 positions were filled within a month of the initial job posting. As of December 31, 2024, there are two (2) vacant Teacher of the Deaf, faculty non-classified positions. There is an approximate savings of \$322,933 as of December 31, 2024, from these two positions.

7. Program and Line-Item Funding

	2025-2027 General Fund	2025-2027 Special Fund	2025-2027 Federal Fund	2025-2027 Total Recommendation
Salaries and Benefits	\$9,806,426	\$856,794	\$65,494	\$10,728,714
Operating Expenses	122,880	1,770,045	63,500	1,956,425
Capital Assets	0	442,478	0	442,248
Total	\$9,929,306	\$3,069,317	\$128,994	\$13,127,617
FTE				46.86

NDSD/RC is a resource for all individuals with a hearing difference in North Dakota. We provide education and other services based upon specific needs of each individual. As a smaller agency, our budget is presented on a roll up by line basis.

Projected 2025-2027 special fund revenues are fully utilized by agency operations salary and operating expenditures. All capital assets are special fund projects.

8. Current Biennium One-Time Funding

Total Special Funds 2023-25		
One-Time Funding:		
HVAC Resource Center from 21-23 – Carryover	\$543,697	Completed December 2024
Snowplow for State Fleet Pickup	8,082	Completed April 2024
Boiler Replacement	650,000	Project to start April 2025
Pneumatic Controls & Fire Alarm Update	150,000	Project to start April 2025
Total One Time Funding	\$ 1,351,779	

HVAC Resource Center Project – Carryover. This project was carried over from the 2021-2023 biennium and was completed in December 2024. As of 12/31/24, \$85,009 remains from the carryover balance, all funds will be expended by February 2025.

Snowplow for State Fleet Pickup. Purchase of the snowplow for State Fleet pickup, \$8,082, was applied to the one-time request of \$43,500 for replacement of campus equipment. There is a balance of \$35,418 remaining.

Boiler Replacement and Pneumatic Controls & Fire Alarm Update. These projects were approved in the 23-25 biennium. Due to the extended length of the HVAC Resource Center Project from 21-23 both projects were pushed back until the completion of the HVAC project. The bidding process for both the Boiler Replacement and Pneumatic Controls project will begin in the spring of 2025.

9. Optional Budget Requests

2025-2027 Item	Amount Requested	Included in Executive Recommendation	Funding Source	One Time /Ongoing
1 2025-2027 Teacher Salary Increases	\$223,535	\$223,535	General	Ongoing
2 Inflationary Increases by Operating Expense Line	122,880	122,880	General	One-Time
3 Paraprofessional and Dormitory Counselor Positions	224,590	247,326	General	Ongoing
4 American School for the Deaf Online Courses	70,000	-	General	Ongoing
5 Campus Security System	238,800	238,800	Special	One-Time
6 Mill Patch and chip seal parking lots and roads	200,000	200,000	Special	One-Time
7 Standard Operating Equipment Replacement	45,000	45,000	Special	One-Time
Total One Time Optional	<u>\$606,680</u>	<u>\$606,680</u>		
Total Ongoing Optional	<u>\$518,125</u>	<u>\$470,861</u>		

Description of Optional Budget Changes/Requests

1. **Teacher Salary Increases (Contracted Employees) – \$223,535.** HRMS has completed a Teacher Salary Schedule for 2025-2027. The above amount includes teachers advancing one step for each year of the biennium.
2. **Inflationary Increases by Operating Expense Line - \$122,800.** To offset anticipated inflation or budget proposals provided by OMB, other state agencies and others. An aggregate increase of approximately 7% of total operating expenses.
3. **Paraprofessional and Dormitory Counselor Positions - \$224,590.** NDSD/RC has received positive response from parents of 3- and 4-year-old students citing noticeable growth in language development when they stay as a resident on the NDSD/RC campus. As the number of these young students grow, the need for the individualized instruction is growing.
4. **American School for the Deaf Online Academy - \$70,000.** ND Century code mandates NDSD/RC to provide services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals from birth to senior citizenship. NDSD/RC does not have a high school program and partners with Devils Lake Public Schools to provide special education services to deaf and hard of hearing students. NDSD/RC is working with the American School for the Deaf Online Academy to provide Teachers of the Deaf that will teach two online classes to the high school students. This funding will cover administrative fees and the four semesters of class for the 25-26 and 26-27 school years. **This amount is not included in the Executive Recommendation.**
5. **Campus Security System - \$238,800.** To ensure campus safety, upgrades include replacement of outdated security cameras, additional cameras in areas not currently monitored, and update server to maintain camera system.
6. **Mill, patch and chip seal parking lots and roads - \$200,000.** NDSD/RC campus needs parking lot and road repair. Deterioration due to age and weather poses a safety hazard for both people and vehicles. Addressing now will avoid future costly full replacement and savings from continued temporary repairs. **This request was removed and included in the funding for the deferred maintenance pool in OMB's budget.**
7. **Standard Operating Equipment Replacement - \$45,000.** Potential replacement of campus equipment items over \$5,000 each, large kitchen appliance, grounds and diagnostic audiology equipment.

10. Agency Collections or Special Funds

Special Fund	2023-2025 Projection	2023-2025 Budget	2025-2027 Executive
Land Department Trust Funds	\$2,198,000	\$2,198,000	\$2,198,000
Meal Revenue	330,531	255,000	275,000
Misc. Sales and Service	191,150	72,000	90,000
Lease-Rental Income	201,548	186,984	190,000
Other	1,550	0	0
Total	\$2,922,779	\$2,361,432	\$2,753,000

Most revenue is related to the campus-based head start program meal contract.

Misc. Sales and Services includes interpreter services provided to the ND school districts based upon staffing availability. This category of revenue also may include campus-based services provided to a leasing tenant.

The North Dakota Department of Land Trusts is the largest NDSD/RC special fund resource. After receiving notification from the department, the amount for the 2025-2027 budget should be increased to \$2,388,000.

Lease-Rental Income is primarily Head Start revenue. It includes a private lease and rent from the local Park Board related to community swimming pool utilization.

All facilities on campus are being utilized.

Projected special funds are applied to operating expenditures and a portion of salaries and wages.

11. Federal Funding

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

NDSD/RC did receive small special education grants from the Department of Public Instruction. IDEA Preschool Grant \$1,035.58, IDEA-B \$27,504.30, and a Special Education Discretionary \$10,000 to use for staff recruitment and retention.

12. Requested changes to be made to the Executive Recommendation

- Add as carryover \$650,000 one-time capital asset request for the Boiler Replacement.
- Add as carryover \$150,000 one-time capital asset request to update the Pneumatic Controls and Fire Alarms

13. Other Bills and Potential Budgetary Impact

- House Bill 1097 – a bill to study the accessibility of government agencies for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences. There would be minimal to no budgetary impact.
- House Bill 1164 – a bill related to terms and definitions used in Special Education. There would be minimal to no budgetary impact.

14. Changes We Are Requesting to The Governor's Budget

In addition to the items listed above (carryover for Boiler Replacement and update Pneumatic Controls and Fire Alarms), the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center is requesting that \$70,000 omitted from the Governor's budget be reinstated. This would ensure the continued high school course offerings through the American School for the Deaf (ASD) Online Academy. This program provides our deaf and hard of hearing high school students with direct access to their education directly from a Teacher of the Deaf certified and licensed in North Dakota who uses American Sign Language (ASL).

Conclusion

I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of North Dakota School for the Deaf / Resource Center. A lot of incredible work has been accomplished by the amazing staff and students at NDSD/RC since its beginning in 1890. I am thrilled to be a small part of that incredible work. I ask that you support the Executive Budget and include the additional small requests to help us continue to do this incredible work.

Our **vision**, our “why,” is that all individuals in North Dakota with hearing differences will achieve their dreams. Our **mission**, our “how,” is to educate and serve all individuals with hearing differences from birth through senior citizenship. Our **purpose**, our “what,” is to serve as a statewide education and resource center to provide advocacy, leadership, and expertise in the field of Deaf Education and those with hearing loss. With your support, all individuals in North Dakota with hearing differences can achieve their dreams.

Thank you, members of the North Dakota Legislature for your work and your ongoing support of our important and necessary work at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center and your dedication to all individuals in ND with a hearing difference.

Inflationary Executive Operating Expense Adjustments by Line

	Base Level	Expenditure Changes	Executive
Operating Expenses			
Travel	330,396	35,000	365,396
Supplies - IT Software	13,288	0	13,288
Supply/Material - Professional	47,449	0	47,449
Food and Clothing	186,778	18,000	204,778
Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply	148,679	10000	158,679
Miscellaneous Supplies	120,452	0	120,452
Office Supplies	11,238	0	11,238
Postage	10,159	0	10,159
Printing	7,781	0	7,781
IT Equipment under \$5,000	91,719	0	91,719
Other Equip under \$ 5,000	41,026	0	41,026
Office Equip & Furniture	24,934	0	24,934
Utilities	279,122	0	279,122
Insurance	29,802	4,880	34,682
Rentals/Leases-Equipment & 122Other	14,836	0	14,836
Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	60,730	24,000	84,730
Repairs	54,999	5000	59,999
IT - Data Processing	132,609	0	132,609
IT - Communications	68,755	0	68,755
IT Contractual Srvcs and Rprs	14,325	0	14,325
Professional Development	38,111	0	38,111
Operating Fees and Services	45,751	0	45,751
Professional Fees and Services	60,606	26000	86,606
Total Operating Expenses	1,833,545	122,880	1,956,425
General Fund	0	122,880	122,880
Federal Fund	63,500	0	63,500
Special Fund	1,770,045	0	1,770,045
Total By Fund: Operating Expense	1,833,545	122,880	1,956,425

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF / RESOURCE CENTER

WHO WE ARE

49

Full-time Team Members

9

Temporary Team Members

5

Contractors

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Vision: To support individuals with hearing differences in achieving their dreams.

Mission: Fill To educate and serve all individuals with hearing differences from birth through senior citizenship.

Purpose: To serve as a statewide education and resource center to provide advocacy, leadership, and expertise in the field of Deaf Education and those with hearing loss.

Goals/Objectives: We take **PRIDE** in our work!

1. Provide quality access to information to all deaf and hard of hearing ND citizens.
2. Recruitment and retainment of specialized employees to ensure future services.
3. Increase awareness about the needs of those with hearing differences.
4. Develop employee knowledge, skills, and abilities to better serve DHH ND citizens.
5. Engage with continuous school improvement and accreditation.

WHO WE SERVE

Citizen Focus 1 Birth to Five

Working with Early Hearing Detection and Intervention and Part C Early Intervention, NDSD/RC serves all families who have infants and toddlers with hearing differences.



Citizen Focus 2 NDSD Students

NDSD/RC provides educational services for students in preschool through 8th grade and residential services for students preschool to graduation.



Citizen Focus 3 Public Schools Students

PIP and School-Aged Outreach provides educational and social learning opportunities to students who have hearing differences and attend public schools.



Citizen Focus 4 Deaf Adults/Adults with Hearing Loss

Adult Hearing Outreach provides services to those who lost hearing later in life and to Deaf Adults.



Citizen Focus 5 Professionals

NDSD/RC partners with all professionals who serve those with hearing differences including the DeafBlind Project, Audiologists, and Teachers of the Deaf across ND.



Citizen Focus 6 Interpreters

NDSD/RC provides mentoring support to and shares opportunities with Interpreters across ND. When available, NDSD/RC provides interpreting services.



HOW WE DO IT

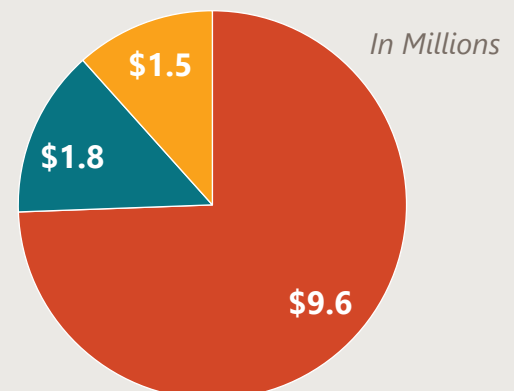
**Total Agency Budget:
\$12.9**

- General: \$8.7
- Special: \$4.1
- Federal: \$.1

■ Salary

■ Operating

■ Capital



NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF / RESOURCE CENTER

WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

Statewide Resource Center

Campus and residential numbers are up. We are reaching more families and schools. We are serving more adults with hearing loss. We are training community partners. **Our reach is statewide!**

Cognia Accreditation

The Education Dept complete the Cognia Accreditation review in October 2023. Our Progress Report will be submitted in 3 years. **Data shows "Supportive Learning" is highest!**

Statewide Miles

Education 11,494 miles
PIP/K-12 130,296 miles
Adult Outreach 48,092 miles
Transportation 169,056 miles
Travel providing services and support to North Dakotans!

Parent
Infant
Program
2,306
Service
Encounters

Preschool to
Grade 12
2,439
Service
Encounters

Adult
Hearing
Outreach
1,050
Service
Encounters

Resources
Shared
47,182
Facebook
119,040

WHAT WE DO



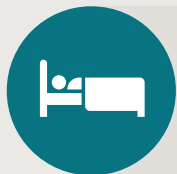
Campus Education

Teachers and Support Staff provide robust educational services based on each student's IEP.



PIP and School-Aged Outreach

Teachers of the Deaf support families and students with hearing differences and staff in early intervention / public schools.



Residential Education

Students live on campus from Sunday to Friday during the school year and learn independent living skills.



Adult Hearing Outreach

Serves those who have lost hearing later in life and their families through resources and hearing / visual technologies.



Resource Center

Our library and various human resources provide support for the ND community interested in our services and in Deaf Culture and ASL.



Communications and Advocacy

Provides targeted advocacy education and support to Deaf adults. Provides Interpreting services as available.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Measure of Success

"Our son attends school here at NDSD. I am so amazed that when you walk into the school, you can feel the family environment... from the Superintendent right down to all the school and dorm staff. I would highly recommend this to school to any parent who has a child with a hearing loss."

-Parent on Annual Survey

Measure of Success

"Staff members take pride in working together to provide their learners with the best education possible."

-Cognia Accreditation
Review Report, 2023

Measure of Success

"I worked with a couple that told me I probably saved their marriage because I brought equipment that helped one of them hear better."

-NDSD Employee

Measure of Success

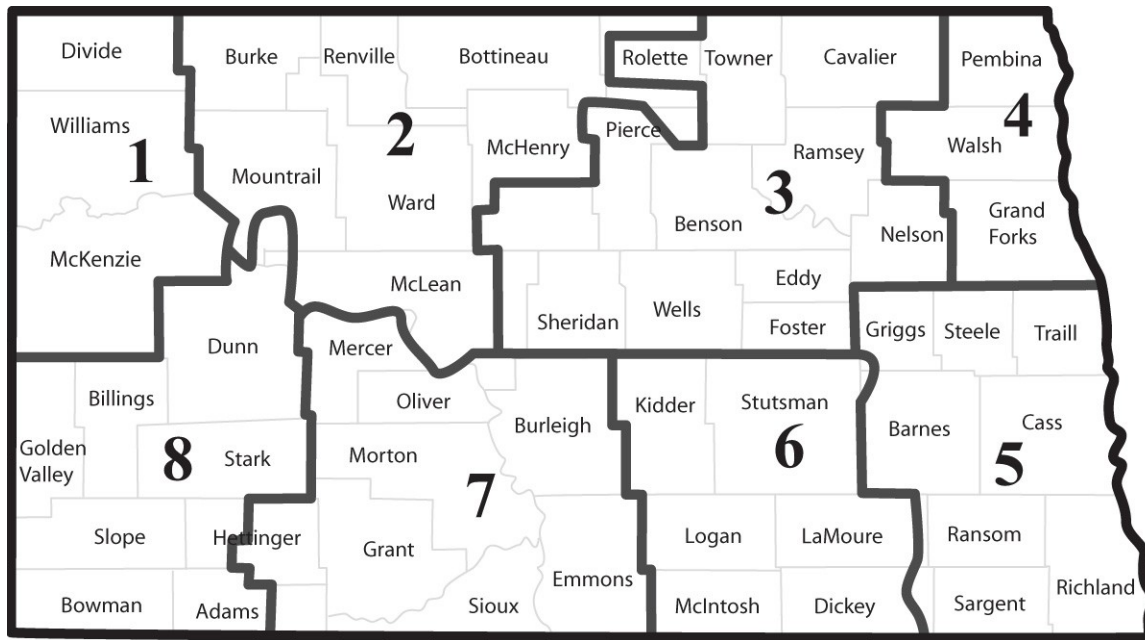
"We saw a massive improvement with our daughter's signing sentences this weekend! She was putting together 5 and 6 words! We usually get 2-3 words. We were amazed at what four days did!"

-Parents from PIP Program,
Deaf Mentor Program, and
one week of school at NDSD

NDSD/RC Outreach and Education Services

Services Provided	2021-2023 Biennium	7/1/23-6/30/24 Annual	
<u>Outreach Services</u>			
Parent Infant			
Persons Served (unduplicated)	49	48	
Consultations	2,306	3,118	
Evaluations	118	81	
Direct Services	629	407	
School Age			
Persons Served (unduplicated)	79	74	
Consultations	2,417	2,934	
Evaluations	97	63	
Direct Services	106	35	
Summer Camp	18	15	
Adult Service			
Persons Served (unduplicated)	192	211	
Consultations/Evaluations	1,050	1,109	
Communications			
Sign Language Students	381	162	
<u>School Services</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
Preschool/Kindergarten	5	7	9
Elementary	5	6	3
Middle	7	4	7
Secondary (Enrolled at DLHS)	2	4	5
		2021-2023	7/1/23-6/30/24
Public Awareness		Biennium	Annual
“Banner” Yearbook (circulated annually)		722	406
“Tidbits” Newsletter (circulated monthly)		1,710	1,282
NDSD Resource Center web page		32,495	18,540
NDSD Facebook page		119,040	56,600
List-serve for Teachers of the Deaf in ND		8,152	4,267

Persons Served by Region July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



Region 1 – Williston

Infants/Students: 20
Adults: 49
Total: 69

Region 5 – Fargo

Infants/Students: 19
Adults: 159
Total: 178

Region 2 – Minot

Infants/Students: 12
Adults: 87
Total: 99

Region 6 – Jamestown

Infants/Students: 9
Adults: 75
Total: 84

Region 3 – Devils Lake

Infants/Students: 28
Adults: 144
Total: 172

Region 7 – Bismarck

Infants/Students: 12
Adults: 133
Total: 145

Region 4 – Grand Forks

Infants/Students: 8
Adults: 121
Total: 129

Region 8 – Dickinson

Infants/Students: 5
Adults: 28
Total: 33

Totals

Infants/Students: 113
Adults: 796
Persons: 909

Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAG)

1. NDSD/RC provides early intervention services to every child age birth to five who has a hearing loss or difference. (PIP & K-12 Outreach)
2. NDSD/RC serves, in some way, every student in preschool through high school who has a hearing loss or hearing difference (PIP & K-12 Outreach, Campus Education, Residential Student Life)
3. NDSD/RC serves or partners with, in some way, every professional who works with infants, toddlers, students, and adults who have hearing loss or hearing difference. (PIP & K-12 Outreach, Campus Education, Residential Student Life, Communications & Advocacy)
4. Every family in ND who has a child with a hearing loss or hearing difference has access to specialized technologies, sign language access, etc.) to raise their child. (PIP & K-12 Outreach, Campus Education, Residential Student Life, Technology, Communications & Advocacy)
5. Every adult in North Dakota who has a hearing loss or hearing difference leads a fulfilling life as independently as they desire. (Adult Hearing Outreach, Communications & Advocacy)
6. Every ASL-English Interpreter in ND is qualified and certified to provide interpreting services to their students and clients. (Adult Hearing Outreach, Communications & Advocacy)
7. Every student with a hearing difference or hearing loss has access to a certified Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) who is knowledgeable in hearing technologies and American Sign Language (PIP & K-12 Outreach, Campus Education, Communications & Advocacy)
8. Campus facilities and technologies are state-of-the-art updated to meet Deaf needs including security and cameras, accessibility needs, and facility systems. (Administration, Facilities, Technology)

Historical Timetable

North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center has a rich history of advocacy and education. NDSD/RC has also been home to world renown people. Below are some highlights:

- 1889** North Dakota was admitted into the Union as a state. **Anson Rudolph Spear**, a graduate (1878) of the Minnesota School for the Deaf came to Devils Lake and met with local leaders to impress upon them the importance of establishing a school for deaf children. They drafted a bill to present before North Dakota's first-ever legislative session. The bill passed the house and senate and was vetoed by the Governor.
- 1890** After a hard fight, the bill passed and became law. Anson Spear was named Superintendent at age 29, thought to be the youngest Superintendent of a state school. The school enrolled 23 students.
- 1891** The legislature appropriated \$10,000 for a new building which was completed in 1893.
- 1891** Spear established a printing press program, and the school began publishing the North Dakota Banner, a newsletter printed every two weeks to share school events and student work.
- 1892** By the third year of operation, the school enrollment had doubled to 42 students.
- 1894** **John Lewis Clarke**, a deaf Blackfoot Indian attended the school until 1897. John moved to Montana School for the Deaf. He is well known for his wood carvings of wild animals and Native Americans. Many of his pieces are on display in museums around the country including the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.
- 1900** In June, a class of three students were the first graduating class.
- 1916** North Dakota Association for the Deaf was established.
- 1980** **Phyllis Frelich**, class of '62, became the first Deaf person to win a Tony Award for her performance on Broadway in Children of a Lesser God. In 1981, she was inducted into the North Dakota's Rough Rider Hall of Fame. Her portrait and bio are on display at the State Capitol in Bismarck.
- 1988** NDSD PIP/School Age Outreach Program was established.
- 2011** NDSD Adult Outreach Program was established.

For more information about NDSD's rich history, go to <https://www.ndsd.nd.gov/about/history-and-banners>



North Dakota School for the Deaf / Resource Center
is a division of the
Department of Public Instruction
Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
www.dpi.nd.gov

NDSD/RC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sex (wages) or genetics in its programs and activities.