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2016-17 Biennial Budget –Minnesota State Academies

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<http://www.msa.state.mn.us>

AT A GLANCE

- The MN State Academies (MSA) have provided an education to students who are deaf or blind since the 1860's.
- The Academies are a public school district with the same educational expectations as other districts.
- There are two schools within the district: the Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) and the Academy for the Blind (MSAB).
- Students from 75 different school districts attended school at the Academies last school year.
- The Academies are funded primarily through a biennial appropriation rather than by the funding formula that is applied to other districts in the state.

PURPOSE

The MN State Academies contribute to two statewide outcomes.

1. Minnesotans have the education and skills to achieve their goals

Our mission is to educate, create opportunities, and motivate students for an independent future. All students at the Academies receive special education services and nearly all attend a six hour school day during the normal September-June school year.

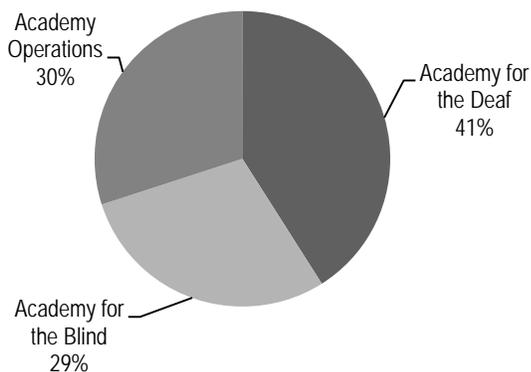
Students range in age from infants who participate in programming at home to 21 year olds who are working to complete graduation requirements beyond the usual four years of high school. During the 2013-14 school year, 54 students attended MSAB, 150 attended MSAD, and 31 graduated.

2. Efficient and accountable government services

While deaf or blind students make-up the bulk of enrollments; the Academies also serve students who are both deaf and blind or who have a significant physical disability. School districts which have very few students with these disabilities in their schools have used the Academies as the best available educational option because 1) the needs of the student are met and 2) it is more efficient to enroll a student at the Academies than it is to develop a program for a small number of students.

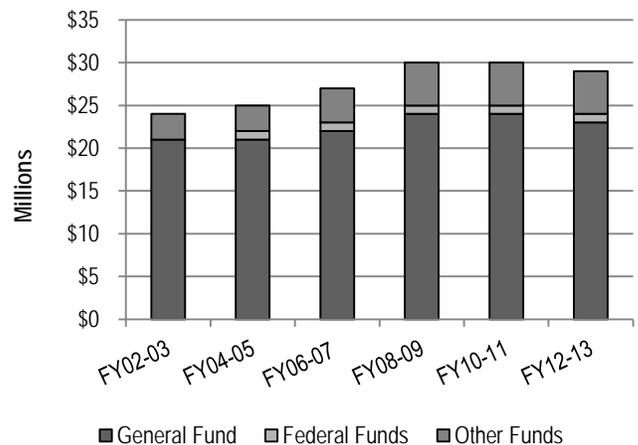
BUDGET

**Spending by Program
FY 13 Actual**



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The annual appropriation to the MN State Academies is approximately 11.9 million dollars. Asset preservation funds add to this total helping to maintain buildings on two campuses, two of which are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

STRATEGIES

- Rather than serving one geographical location, the Academies serve deaf and blind students from the entire state. The Academies provide an option to districts which have few students who are deaf or blind in their schools. Rather than hiring special education teachers and purchasing the needed supportive equipment for one or two students, districts have the ability – with parental agreement – to send a student to the Academies with no tuition costs.
- The mission of the Academies is to educate, create opportunities, and motivate students for an independent future. We meet the challenges of a student population with serious communication needs by using state standards to anchor our educational curriculum and a mixture of Braille, voice, and sign language to communicate with students, parents, and staff. We also have developed strong relationships with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, the Department of Education, and advocacy groups for the deaf and blind communities to support our mission.
- The role of the Academies is unquestionably educational. With this responsibility comes the obligation to provide educational services in an effective and accountable way. To this end, teachers at both Academies have had two years of training focusing on teaching to achieve state standards.
- Our special education program is involved in a continuous review cycle developed and overseen by the Department of Education. The purpose of this cycle is to ensure that the Academies, along with other districts in the state, follow established processes and procedures to meet the needs of students.
- Lastly, we issue diplomas to students who have earned the credits required for graduation or who have meet special education goals.

Program: Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf

<http://msad.state.mn.us>

AT A GLANCE

- The MN State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) has provided an education to students who are deaf since 1863.
- Students from 49 different school districts attended school at the Academy last school year.
- MSAD is the only school in the state with a residential component specifically designed to meet the needs students with a hearing loss.
- Students who live outside the Faribault area may live in the dormitory and participate in recreational and social activities.

PURPOSE

MSAD offers educational programming to deaf and hard of hearing students at different ages using a bilingual instructional approach – a combination of American Sign Language and English. Instruction is provided by licensed teachers and is tailored to the age and needs of the student. Options include:

- Early Childhood (ages birth-5),
- Pre-School (ages 2-4)
- Pre-Kindergarten(ages 4-5)
- Elementary (kindergarten-5th grade)
- Junior High School (6th-8th grade)
- High School (9th-12th grade).
- Mainstreaming or attending classes in one of the public or private schools in the area is also an option.

For some older students, The Academy Plus Transition Program is an option. Students in this program work on home living skills, grooming, community work, access to community resources, transportation, leisure and recreational activities, preparation for post-secondary education and preparation or job-related skill development for gainful employment.

Residential Life is an important social component for students who live on campus. Students participate in and watch athletic events, visit stores and restaurants in Faribault, celebrate holidays and special events while interacting with peers who have a hearing loss and signing skills.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The MN Academy for the Deaf provides services in three areas:

- **Academic Achievement:** classes are rigorous, based on state standards, and lead to graduation
- **Socialization:** students have the opportunity to share experiences in the classroom and dormitory with other students adjusting to a hearing loss
- **Special Education:** the individual needs of students are identified in team meetings with parents/guardians and education professionals working together to develop educational goals for each student.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
State Assessments	% of students proficient in mathematics	18.9%	21.2%	2012, 2014
State Assessments	% of students proficient in reading	26.0%	16.7%	2012, 2014
State Assessments	% of students proficient in science	12.9%	17.4%	2012, 2041

Source: Minnesota Report Card

Program: Minnesota State Academy for the Blind

<http://msab.state.mn.us>

AT A GLANCE

- The MN State Academies for the Blind has provided an education to students who are blind since 1866.
- Students from 26 different school districts attended school at the Academy last school year.
- MSAB is the only school in the state with a residential component specifically designed to meet the needs of students with a vision loss.
- Students who live outside the Faribault area may live in the dormitory and participate in recreational and social activities.

PURPOSE

The Minnesota State Academy for the Blind offers educational programming for blind and visually impaired students from birth through age 21. Licensed teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired provide formal instruction in small group settings. Emphasis is placed on providing access and exposure to Braille and technology, through a specially designed curriculum. That curriculum includes academic skills, communication, orientation and mobility training, social skills, independent living, recreation and leisure activities, career education, and self-advocacy instruction. Students also have the opportunity to enroll in classes in area schools.

The residential program offers opportunities for socialization among blind and visually impaired peers. Students are encouraged to participate in athletic competitions like track, co-curricular activities like wrestling and swimming, and club activities like chess. The dormitories have facilities which provide students with an opportunity to practice life skills such as cooking and grooming. A semi-independent living program challenges students to learn practical decision making skills in a home environment; i.e., budgeting, preparing meals, doing laundry, etc.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The MN Academy for the Blind provides services in three areas:

- **Academic Achievement:** classes are rigorous, based on state standards, and lead to graduation
- **Socialization:** students have the opportunity to share experiences in the classroom and dormitory with other students adjusting to a visual loss
- **Special Education:** the individual needs of students are identified in team meetings with parents/guardians and education professionals working together to develop educational goals for each student.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
State Assessments	% of students proficient in math	9.5%	22.2%	2012, 2014
State Assessments	% of students proficient in reading	27.3%	25.0%	2012, 2014
State Assessments	% students proficient in science	18.2%	38.5%	2012, 2014

Source: Minnesota Report Card

Program: Academy Operations

AT A GLANCE

- Shared Services includes central administration, human resources, business services, physical plant, nursing, and food services.
- 62% of the students enrolled in the Academies live on campus in the dormitories.
- Nursing staff provide round the clock medical support to students during the school day and after school to the students living in the dormitories.
- Physical plant staff respond to alarms and unanticipated system malfunctions; i.e., heating, cooling, electrical, etc.

PURPOSE

The Shared Services model that Minnesota State Academies has created uses economies of scale to provide excellent services to a group of students with very specific and often resource intensive needs. Rather than two parallel systems, there is one to meet the demands of State Academy for the Deaf and Academy for the Blind which are half a mile apart.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- **Central Administration** (Superintendent): responsible for the overall functioning of the State Academies
- **Human Resources:** supports 250 full-time, part-time, and intermittent employees within 7 labor groups
- **Business Services:** processes payroll, issues payments, coordinates purchases, and provides general budget oversight
- **Physical Plant:** maintains 18 buildings and grounds on two campuses covering 40 acres
- **Nursing:** provides health services for all students, including On Call support after hours
- **Food Services:** prepares three meals each day for residential students and lunch for day students

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Invoices issued	185	233	2013, 2014
Quantity	Contracts generated	120	144	2013, 2014
Quantity	Physical plant projects completed	13	9	2013, 2014