

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



Dr. Connie Hovendick, Superintendent

www.nd.gov/ndsd

2015-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT



A Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Kirsten Baesler State Superintendent

“Looking back with pride, looking forward with confidence”

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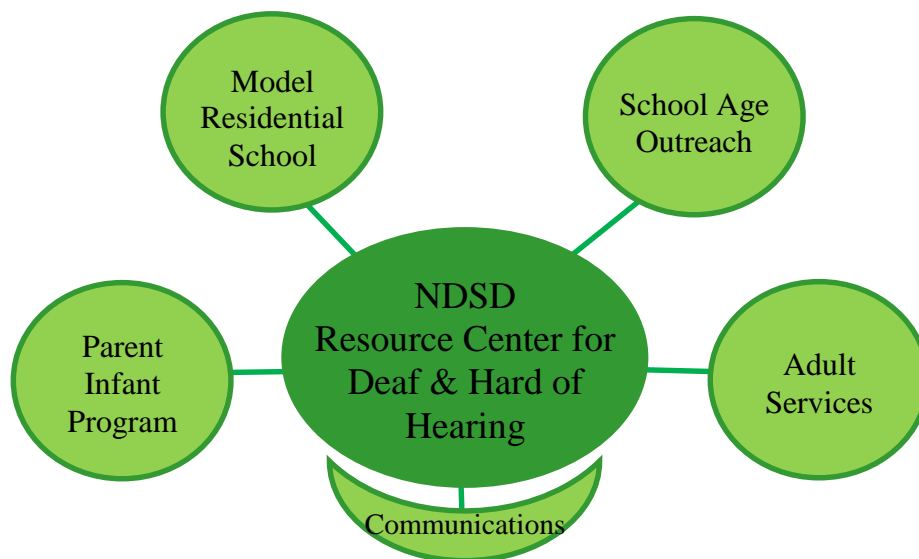
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**NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
AGENCY FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION**

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

Mission:

Shall 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.



North Dakota School for the Deaf – Early History

In 1889 President Benjamin Harrison signed the *Enabling Act of the United States of America*. It provided for the division of Dakota Territory. On November 2, 1889, Dakota Territory was split and the newly established states of North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted into the Union.

On July 4, 1889, the constitutional convention met in Bismarck to frame a constitution for the new state of North Dakota. Among the duties delegated: to provide a system of education for deaf children including the establishment of a School for the Deaf.

In September, 1889, Anson R. Spear, a deaf man from Minneapolis came to Devils Lake, North Dakota. He had had been informed of a plan to establish a school for the deaf and was interested in learning more. Local leaders promised Spear their aid in securing enactment of necessary laws by which a school for the deaf could be established in Devils Lake. Spear agreed to work with them in securing passage of a bill.



Anson R. Spear

In the words of Anson Spear (1890); “Securing passage of a bill to establish a School and make appropriation for its support was no easy task. It must be kept in mind that North Dakota had just been admitted into the Union and there was but a limited amount of money in the state treasury.

On November 19, 1889, the legislature met. The Honorable W. E. Swanston introduced senate bill number thirty-one. It called for the immediate establishment of the school for the deaf in Devils Lake.

This gentleman was untiring in his efforts to secure its passage.

There were no statistics of the deaf in the State but it was popularly supposed that there were not more than a dozen such children in the whole State. It is not to be wondered then, that many members of the legislature opposed the establishment of a school on the ground that there was no need for one.

In the house, the bill was in the hands of Honorables Jas. McCormick and C.A. Currier. These gentlemen worked diligently and with success for its passage.

The bill finally passed both houses, only to be vetoed by Governor John Miller. Governor Miller believed that funding a school for deaf children was not necessary since there was already a school located in Sioux Falls. The bill seemed lost, for it would be almost impossible to muster the necessary support to pass it over the governor’s veto. But the originators of the bill did not give up. They set to work once more to secure its enactment. After a hard fight, the bill again passed the senate. On the last day of the session, March 18, 1890, it passed in the house and became a law, the objections of the governor to the contrary notwithstanding.” The law took effect July 1, 1890.

On May 13, 1890, a Board of Trustees was established to oversee the establishment of

the school. The minutes from the first meeting stated: the following persons shall compose the *Board of Trustees* for the *Deaf and Dumb School*. Governor John Miller, W.J. Blapp, *ex officio*, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. H.H. Ruger, T.T. Lee and H.R. Diekieson. The following officers were elected: Dr. H.H. Ruger, President, H.R. Diekieson, Secretary, and T.T. Lee, Treasurer

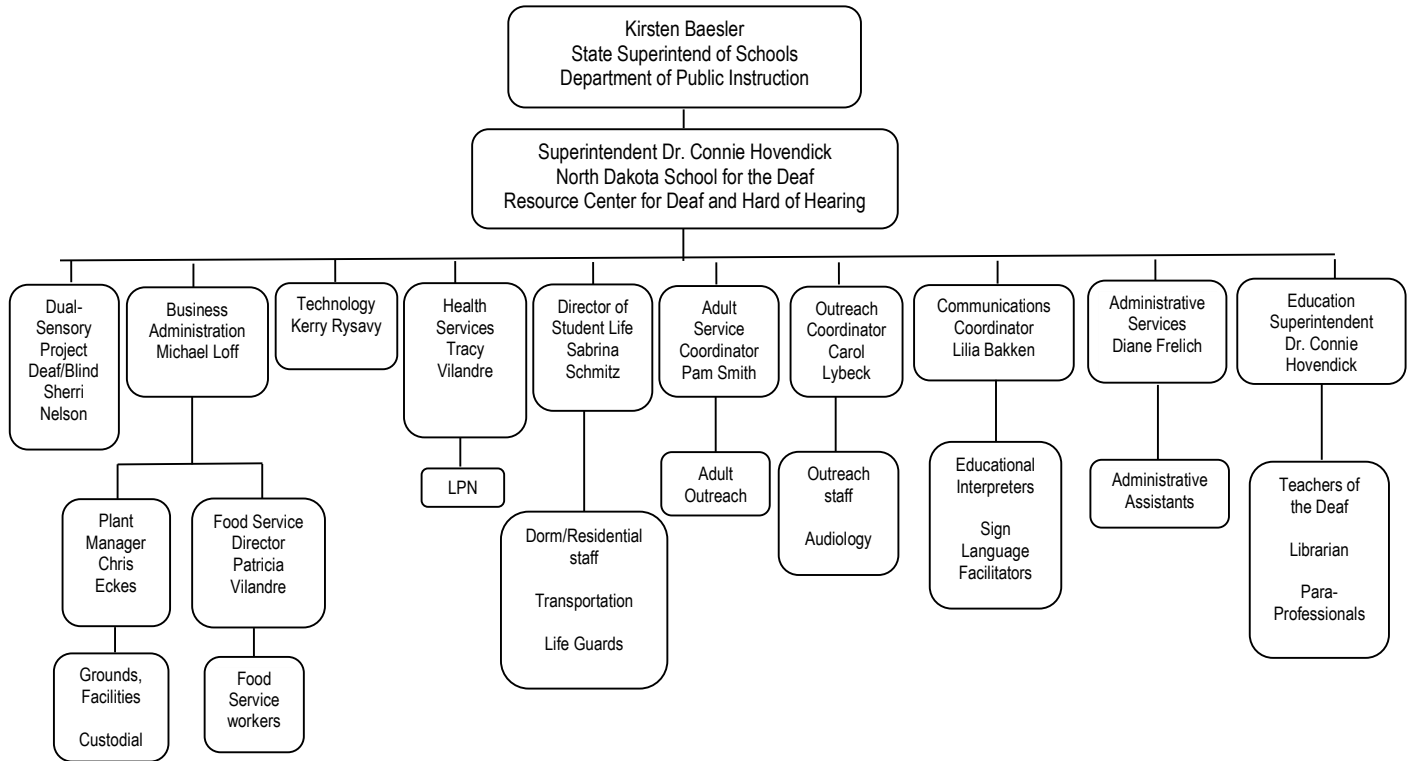
At the first official meeting (July 1, 1890) the Board of Trustees met with the City Council of Devils Lake and agreed to accept the vacant former Bank Building as a School Building (situated on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 5th Street). The City Council agreed to 'put the building into suitable condition' for the occupying of the *school for the deaf and dumb*, free of rent and without any expense to the state of North Dakota, for a period of two years.

At the July 1st meeting, Anson R. Spear was appointed superintendent. On August 1, 1890, he took charge of getting the School for the Deaf ready to receive pupils. The trustees appointed Mrs. Anson Spear as matron of the School.

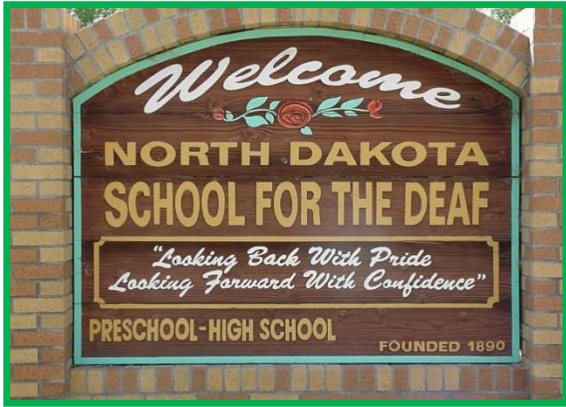
The School for the Deaf opened on September 10, 1890. On that day four pupils enrolled. Each week saw additional arrivals, and soon the number of pupils had increased to twenty-two. This was far more pupils than had been expected for the first year. In March, 1891, it became necessary to employ a teacher. Miss Clara M. Halvorson was hired as the first teacher – she came from Minnesota to assist the superintendent in providing instruction to the pupils.

Several years later Anson Spear (the only deaf superintendent in the school's history) wrote an article regarding the establishment of the School for the Deaf in North Dakota. In it he wrote, "No one, especially no deaf man, can reflect upon this great sentiment towards education of the deaf without profound gratitude and respect for those noble-hearted men who labored so earnestly to bring about the establishment of a school for deaf children in this state".

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



STATUTORY/CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES



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.

15-07-01.1. 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.

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

25-07-04. 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 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 maturity. 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.

15-07-10. 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.

MAJOR PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

Education

The North Dakota School for the Deaf provides students with a broad spectrum of disciplines including traditional academic offerings as well as special studies programming. Teachers of the Deaf address the unique educational needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing based upon each child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Programming emphasizes the development of functional language including expressive and receptive skills in speech, speech reading, manual communication (sign language and fingerspelling), reading, writing and audition. NDSB endorses the use of direct visual communication as well as oral and auditory skills to support education and to foster social and learning environments that nurture the development of positive self-image and respect among students. Emphasis is placed upon the development of positive social and emotional attitudes, achievement in academic areas, vocational exploration and development of lifelong independent living skills.

Students participate in mainstream educational and/or extracurricular programs in the Devils Lake Public School system including athletics, leisure and community work. Support services are provided to students as needed.

Health care services, administered by professional health care staff, are available twenty-four hours per day. Attention is focused on the total wellness of the student. Nurses monitor the medical needs of each student including: medical, dental, audiology and optometric. Members of the residential/dormitory staff provide supervision in a secure, communicative environment that fosters positive values, good health and community involvement.



On Campus Education Services (2015-2016 School Term)

- Preschool – 5
- Elementary – 4
- Middle – 6
- Secondary enrolled at DLHS – 5

On Campus Education Services (2016-2017 School Term)

- Preschool – 2
- Elementary – 3
- Middle – 8
- Secondary enrolled at DLHS – 2

Media Center – Information and Resources

The Library/Media Center at NDSU/RCDHH offers a comprehensive collection of resources available for loan, including:

Books

Children's literature
Professional Collection
General interest
Reference

Periodicals

Children's titles
Professional
General interest
Deaf Community

Audio/Visual

ASL signed/captioned stories
ASL instruction
Health/Safety topics in ASL

Professional materials include a collection of various topics:

ADA law and civil rights
American Sign Language
Assistive technology
Brain development

Classroom management
Deaf culture/history
Deaf education
Disabilities

Hearing health
Interpreter studies
Parenting
Signed English

The NDSU/RCDHH library is a member of the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN) and participates in statewide interlibrary loaning of resources.

The Library/Media Center strongly promotes The Described Captioned Media Program (DCMP). The DCMP provides free-loan educational media that is described for the blind, captioned for the deaf, and is available via the Internet and through the mail.

There are now two complete sets of the **Banner**, the NDSU/RCDHH newsletter first published in 1891. One set is in a secure location and the other is located in the library for public enjoyment and research. In order to make these historical documents even more accessible, the North Dakota State Library is in the process of adding them to **Digital Horizons**, an online treasure house of thousands of images, documents, video, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains from the late 1800s to today.

Campus students receive library skills instruction and Novel Groups have been formed. MakerSpace projects and special literacy events are held periodically. Community guests are invited to read to students and demonstrate their areas of expertise. The library collaborates with the Lake Region State College Interpreter Studies Program by inviting college ASL students from across North Dakota to read and engage with deaf school children.



novel group



Sons of Norway community guests



MakerSpace activities



Interpreter Studies

Statewide Outreach Services

Parent-Infant & School Age Outreach specialists provided services across the state. Outreach support is designed to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind children, their families, and the professionals who serve them and stakeholders across the state. Deaf and hard of hearing children's families, as well as professionals/agencies are eligible to receive outreach services. Through these services we continued to strive.



- To encourage and maintain high and realistic expectations for children's standards, programs and personnel;
- Address the facilitation, education and resources needed for children who are deaf/hard of hearing; encouraged environments specially designed to help deaf/hard of hearing children reach their potential through communication, exploration and socialization opportunities
- Address the need for highly qualified, knowledgeable staff, training needs utilizing and promoting current best practices and materials

Each program works to meet the unique needs of each individual.

Services included:

1. Provided early intervention services for children who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind by experienced staff knowledgeable of the impact and unique needs related to hearing loss
2. Provided School-Age Services to support requests from LEA's, Special Education and Public School Personnel and others for assistance with the development and/or implementation of appropriate programming for deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind student with all degrees of hearing loss. (direct and indirect, consultation and technical assistance).
3. Provided parents and consumers necessary support and training though dissemination of information, organizational contacts and workshops and or in-service opportunities.
4. Continued to develop and maintain statewide communication networks via listserv(s), Facebook, Skype and face-to face
5. Promoted the use of current and emerging technology to provide access, deliver services and communication, academic and social opportunities for children and the adults working with them
6. Collaboration with South Dakota School for the Deaf and Gallaudet Regional Midwest Center for Deaf Education to put on the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education promoting current and best practices in the field of educating deaf and hard of hearing students.



Adult Outreach Services

The Adult Outreach program at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NDSD/RCDHH) advocates on behalf of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing to promote access, opportunity, and independence.

We strive to:

Ensure that communication and services are accessible.

Increase public awareness of needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Adult Outreach program *may* provide assistance to North Dakotans who are:

- Deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Late deafened
- Older adults with hearing loss and/or vision loss
- Family members of those with hearing loss
- Public and private service providers
- Employers and businesses
- Community groups

Information and Consultation

Adult Outreach maintains a central location for statewide resources on hearing loss that include:

- General information about deafness, hearing loss and self-advocacy, communication needs, language dysfluency, audiology, and mental health.
- Information and resources on compliance regarding the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*; rights of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as responsibilities of businesses and service providers.
- Information and resources regarding sign language interpreters, captioning providers and remote interpreting services.



Agency Collaborations

Adult Outreach actively partners with a variety of community/statewide/national agencies/entities including but not limited to:

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind
- North Dakota Dual Sensory Project
- Older Blind Program
- ND Assistive (IPAT)

- ND State Transition Community of Practice Consortium
- Regional Transition groups
- Protection & Advocacy/Vulnerable Adults
- LRSC Peace Officer Training
- Jamestown Law Enforcement
- Stutsman County
- Various County Social Services
- Sanford Health Systems
- Faith Community Nurses
- Mercy Hospital/CHI St. Alexius Williston
- Essentia Health Systems
- Developmental Disabilities
- Lutheran Social Services
- Options for Independent Living
- Lake Area Career & Technology Advisory Board
- PepNet state and national teams
- Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- North Dakota Association of the Deaf
- Senior Citizen Centers statewide
- Aging Services of North Dakota
- University of North Dakota
- Lake Region State College
- Bismarck State College
- University of North Dakota
- North Dakota State University
- Minot State University
- Standing Rock Community High School
- Human Service Centers statewide
- ND Housing Authorities
- ND Department of Transportation
- ND Mental Health Services
- Midstate Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Various Resource Centers throughout the State
- Prairie St. Johns
- Various Senior Living facilities across the State
- Alzheimer's Association of ND
- Veterans Administrations
- Various Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers across the State
- State Boards of Education, Nursing, Social Work and Peace Officer Training
- Sign Language Interpreter Services and organizations
- HERO

Assistive Technology

Adult outreach staff will demonstrate and provide information on the following types of assistive technology:

- Personal sound amplification systems, FM systems.
- Amplified or captioned telephones.
- Alerting systems and safety devices appropriate for the home or work environment.

Advocacy

Adult Outreach facilitates a number of monthly Resource Groups across the State, in order to provide individuals with education and support regarding hearing loss. Advocacy support services may also include education and resources to address the consequences of untreated hearing loss.

Communications

The Communications Department at the North Dakota School for the Deaf helps to ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to all forms of oral or audible communication and provides sign language interpreter services as needed.

In addition, the following services are provided regularly by members of the Communications Department:

- Schedule and provide educational interpreter services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in (or mainstreamed in to specific classes at) Devils Lake Public Schools at all levels: kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school.

Schedule and provide interpreter services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and participate in school-related extra-curricular activities as well as Park Board activities. Past biennium activities included: boys' and girls' basketball, football, flag football, softball, ice skating and swimming lessons.

- Assist educational institutions (elementary, secondary and post-secondary) with provision of educational interpreter services (per contract/agreement). During the past biennium NDSD/RCDHH assisted with provision of educational interpreter services to Devils Lake Public Schools, Bismarck Public Schools and Bismarck State College.
- Assist in identifying need for and provision of support services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing including: tutors, note-takers, signing paras and interpreters.
- Maintain and update, on the NDSD/RCDHH website, contact information for certified interpreters in North Dakota in order to assist those in need of locating an interpreter. Information may be accessed on NDSD/RCDHH website at www.nd.gov/ndsd.

- Provide interpreter referral services for individuals and agencies who have immediate/emergency need of an interpreter and require contact information.
- Schedule and provide interpreter services and/or job coach services for deaf students involved in community volunteer work or work-related/employment activities.
- Promote and provide Continuing Education sign language instruction to communities in North Dakota (on campus and via Interactive Television Network – IVN/ITV). Communities that accessed the free sign language classes during the past biennium included: Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, Fargo, Mandan, Belcourt, Lisbon, Williston, Minot, Watford City, Walhalla, New Salem, Grafton, Bottineau and Devils Lake.
- Provide field experience, internship opportunities and mentor services to pre-certified interpreters or interpreters-in-training and assist with scheduling and supervision as needed. Four college students from the Lake Region program completed their field experience/mentorship work with NDSD/RCDHH during the past biennium.
- Promote and provide (minimum of twice yearly) professional development training opportunities for North Dakota interpreters, interpreters-in-training, and students enrolled in the American Sign Language and Interpreter Studies Program at Lake Region State College. Collaboration of provision for training included the following interpreter workshops: (1) Performing Music (2) Become a Surrogate (3) Part two - Bringing the Stage to Life (4) Building a Bridge (5) Preparation: It is no longer Par for the Course (6) Professionalism Begins with “P-R”.
- Promote and provide professional development opportunities for nationally certified interpreters to earn CEU’s in order to maintain their professional credentials. (See above workshops).
- Assist in design and development of public relations materials related to school programs and services including articles to the **Banner** (NDSD/RCDHH magazine).
- Encourage adherence to and support of the communication policy at the North Dakota School for the Deaf in order to provide visual accessibility to all who rely on sign language for communication.
- Provide and proctor, to those pre-certified interpreters striving to attain national certification, the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) national exam (Bismarck Outreach Office). During the past biennium, provision of test provision and proctoring was completed with eight pre-certified interpreters.
- Provide professional development or skill development opportunities to staff members in various levels of sign language (Coffee Break Sign classes, one-on-one instruction and evening sign classes including Basic Sign Language, Level 1 and Basic Sign Language, Level 2).

- Advocate for individuals with hearing loss to help ensure that they obtain equal accessibility to all forms of spoken communication.

Technology

NDSD/RCDHH is part of the State of North Dakota's K12 network. Technology is integrated throughout the campus and off-campus locations including the educational, residential, business, and outreach areas. A technology plan was submitted for this biennium in alignment with the Statewide Information Technology Plan.

Accomplishments during this biennium include:

- Initiated the move toward Windows 10 on campus (new purchases).
- Upgraded Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 to 2016.
- Upgraded Fargo Video Conferencing equipment to Real Presence Group 500 Series.
- Proposed/completed re-design of agency website (www.nd.gov/ndsd).
- Attended training/implemented new website software (Drupal).
- Attended training/implemented state's new notification system (Assurance NM).
- Upgraded VIPRE Premium to Endpoint Security, antivirus and anti-spyware solutions on the network.
- Purchased/installed/implemented new backup software (StorageCraft ShadowProtect SPX).
- Attended training/implemented state's new emergency software (Assurance CM).
- Submitted/approved NDSD/RCDHH 2017-19 IT Plan to the state.
- Researched/purchased/implemented database program for Outreach Services (Intellinetics-Laser Systems).
- Purchased VOIP Avaya device for conference room.
- Purchased/implemented Mobile Device Management program for iPads (Lightspeed LDM).

NDSD/RCDHH maintains software, equipment, and a technology system such as:

- Web-based programs used for grading and reporting (Powerschool, STARS, Tienet) and for notifying families/staff of emergencies and pertinent information (DialMyCalls).
- Smartboards, document cameras, and iPads utilized in classrooms.
- Interactive Video Conferencing (IVN) used to provide class offerings, including American Sign Language courses, meetings, professional development, training opportunities, and virtual field trips for students.
- Videophones used by persons who are deaf and hard of hearing as a method of communicating.
- NDSR/RCDHH's website, hosted by the Information Technology Department (ITD), updated regularly to provide information about the school, its program and the availability of outreach services.
- Internet and email accessibility and required safety measures are utilized such as filters to protect the students. NDSR/ RCDHH maintains a secure system by keeping critical computer updates and patches current.
- Telecommunications IP phone system.
- Wireless Access Points used to provide added accessibility throughout campus.

North Dakota Dual Sensory Project

The mission of the ND Dual Sensory Project is to help state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), Part lead agencies, early intervention services providers, teachers, service providers, and families address the educational, related services, transitional, and early intervention needs of children who are Deaf-Blind to ensure that these children will graduate from high school ready for competitive employment, postsecondary education or independent living options.

The ND Dual Sensory Project addresses the priorities of providing training and information for professionals and families; improving educational outcomes for children who are Deaf-Blind; implementing the OSEP TA Conceptual framework; utilizing evidence-based practices; and providing services of high quality, intensity, and duration through collaboration with the National Center on Deaf-Blindness.

This project is the sole statewide entity in North Dakota funded to build state and local capacity to serve more than 40 children who are Deaf-Blind, their families, and the staff who serve them. Outreach staff from the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing and ND Vision Services/School for the Blind provides the statewide technical assistance related to the Project. They serve as resources in the area of Deaf-Blindness for their regions, as well as disseminate information and

products for the Project. The ND Dual Sensory Project was awarded funding through the Office of Special Education for the years 2013-2018. The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing is the fiscal agent for this project. Sustainability of services and significant statewide capacity building are ensured through embedding this project within the existing structure of an agency with statutory mandates. This is the final year of this current grant.

ND Dual Sensory Project Goals

- Promote early and appropriate identification of all individuals who are Deaf-Blind through the Outreach and Referral process
- Establish a high quality approach to Technical Assistance delivery for each student who is Deaf-Blind and their families
- Implement universal, targeted, and intensive Technical Assistance to early interventionists, school staff, or community/medical staff who provider services for children who are Deaf-Blind
- Increase productive partnerships between families and service providers and to support family advocacy efforts for those families who have a child who is Deaf-Blind

LEGISLATION PASSED

House Bill 1366 (Deaf Children's Bill of Rights)

Purpose: To ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing receive appropriate services and have access to appropriate resources through collaboration between the school for the deaf and school districts. The School for the Deaf is also to make information available to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and provide public awareness information to the public concerning medical, cultural, and linguistic issues of deafness and hearing loss.

RESPONSIBILITIES – Added or Deleted

- Continue to implement and promote the Deaf Bill of Rights (2015)
- Legislature approved the retention of all positions
- The addition of a third adult outreach specialist for the 2015-2017 biennium
- Increase in usage of Special Funds to maintain current budget
- Residential school will become a model school and training site

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – ACTIVITIES

- Nurses Office Remodeled (7/15)
- Parent meeting and meal with 120 in attendance (8/15)
Instructional Coach role added to NDSD lead teacher's position (9/15)
- Worked with staff from Minot State University, Lake Region State College, and Communications department at NDSD to finalize plans for four-year interpreter program (9/15)
- Finalized lease agreement with Ramsey County Commissioners to have the Attendant Care program at NDSD (9/15)
- Fire alarm installed in powerhouse, laundry, and generator garage. Fire alarm updated in gym, pool areas, and gym basement (9/15)
- Hot tub replacement – Bush Grant (9/15)
- Provided ADA training for Lake Region Agencies and Providers (10/15)
- Shooting or video for “Text 9-1-1” PSA with NDSD staff (1/15)
- Continued partnership for Grades 9 to 12 with Devils Lake Public Schools
- Attained continued accreditation with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement - a division of AdvancEd (2014)
- Provided internship and professional development opportunities for interpreter interns in the state
- Shared the NDSD historical items that had been re-located from the NDSD Heritage Center to display cabinets in the main school building with numerous visitors and tour groups
- Arranged for and hosted Parent and Professional Learning Community Workshops for families and teachers of the deaf (10/15)
- Dining room updated - floor replaced and painting (12/15)
- Aiphone installed on main entry (1/15)
- Adult Outreach Services presented on Hearing Loss at Williston Mercy Hospital and Clinic, Sanford Hospital & Clinic, Prairie St. John, Jamestown Law Enforcement, Senior centers at Grafton, Williston, Park River and Edinburgh, Williston Aging Coalition
- NDSD Outreach staff are board members of the Gallaudet Regional Center, NDEHDI, DPI Early Childhood Assessment Project (2016)
- Replacement of boiler, roof and kitchen cooler. New construction of ADA Restrooms (summer 2016)
- Implemented Facilitating Language and Literacy Development Across the Life Span as presented by Dr. Luckner (9/16)
- Developed and implemented trainings for state law enforcement officials/personnel titled; “Working with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing” (power point developed for this purpose). Trainings will be provided by members of the Communication/Outreach Department
- Implemented a Positive Education/Dorm Behavior using the Nurtured Heart Program
- Promoted, sponsored or provided activities statewide in recognition of National Deaf Awareness Week (annually).

- Implemented the Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program (11/16)
- Adult Outreach developed monthly support groups in Jamestown, Fargo, Bismarck, Devils Lake and Grand Forks
- Implemented Professional Learning Community (PLC) for the Model school at NDSD/RCDHH.
- Presented on Hearing Loss to Region IV Options for Independent Living (1/16)
- Facilitated a Moms Night Out (2/16)
- Increased the Auditory Training Programming using Spice Curriculum (11/16)
- Staff participated in the National Pepnet Summit in Atlanta Georgia (2/16)
- Increase the Self Advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (3/16)
- Revised and published Student/Parent Handbook (6/16)
- Implemented Language curriculum using Language and Literacy Development Across the Life Span (9/16)
- Completed Strategic Planning (10/16)
- Increased community involvement with Signing Santa's in Fargo, Bismarck, and Devils Lake (12/16)
- Update of Energy Management System (2/17)
- Campus Security Camera Update (3/17)
- Facilitated the Workshop to Life workshop for interpreters (4/17)
- Dual Sensory Program offered Deaf/Blind Modules online for professionals (5/17)
- NDSD maintenance crew updated the superintendent's house (located on campus). house was freshly painted, old carpet was replaced, bathrooms remodeled, (5/17)
- Pollinator Garden implemented by volunteers paid by Agriculture Grant (5/17)
- Implementation of educational data team that has reviewed student data for school wide trends and developed goals to use the data to improve student learning.
- Outreach Department planned/provided week-long summer camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing (6/2016 & 6/2017)
- Collaboration between NDSD and North Dakota National Guard providing mentors for the students at NDSD. Guard members and students participate in various activities throughout the year.
- Established collaboration with South Dakota School for the Deaf, Midwest Regional Gallaudet Office, and NDSD Outreach to host the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education held in Sioux Fall, SD (6/2017)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Professional Development

Staff Development/Professional Development training opportunities staff members participated in during the 2015-2017 biennial cycle:

- NDLTTC Administrator Conference, Walker, MN (7/15)

- Deaf-Blind Summit, Salt Lake City, UT (7/15)
- NESC - The Highly Engaged Classroom (8/15)
- Nurtured Hearts – Back to School In-service 8/15)
- Steve Dunn writing workshops PLC (8/15)
- AIMS Web Training (9/15)
- Special Education Leadership Conference, Bismarck, ND (9/15)
- NDLA Conference, Jamestown, ND (9/15)
- ALDA Conference, Scottsdale, AZ (9/15)
- Instructional Coaching Academy, Bismarck, ND (9/15)
- Generate, Create, Make & Take, Jamestown, ND (9/15)
- Poverty: Readiness Skills & Relationship Building for ECE (10/15)
- DPI training DLM, Grand Forks, ND (10/15)
- NDSB Parent Professional Learning Community (10/15)
- Steve Dunn writing workshops (10/15)
- Professionalism Begins with P&R and Preparations, Moorhead, MN (10/15)
- Edutech/Microsoft K12 Technology Symposium (10/15)
- Risk Management Seminar, Bismarck, ND (10/15)
- Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program (11/15)
- Building a Bridge: Cultural Awareness and Best Practice for ASL Interpreters, Bemidji, MN (11/15)
- The Highly Engaged Classroom webinar by Dr. Bob Marzano (11/15)
- Secondary Transition Interagency Conference, Bismarck, ND (11/15)
- ND Dept. of Rural Health Grant Writing Workshop (11/15)
- UND ETI Class III Asbestos Operations & Maintenance (12/15)
- NESC Culinary Training (12/15)
- Steve Dunn writing workshop (12/15)
- HearBuilder.com webinar (1/16)
- Instructional Coaching Academy, Bismarck, ND (1/16)
- NESC Framework for Understanding Poverty (1/16)
- Review AIMS Web Benchmarks (1/16)
- Early Intervention Program Accountability (1/16)
- Poverty – Working with Students (1/16)
- 0-3 Intervention Best Practices in Listening and Spoken Language (1/16)
- Auditory Training Programming (2/16)
- National Pepnet Summit, Atlanta, GA (2/16)
- AdvancEd Webinar (2/16)
- Association of College Educators Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference (2/16)
- Pesticide Renewal Course (2/16)
- Steve Dunn writing workshop (2/16)
- PEPNET 2 Summit in Atlanta, GA (2/16)
- Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Meeting (3/16)
- ADARA Breakout 2016 Conference (3/16)
- Self-Advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (3/16)
- NDATL F2F Conference (3/16)

- Boiler Operation, Maintenance & Safety Seminar (4/16)
- Administrator of Schools and Programs for the Deaf Conf., Kansas City (4/16)
- Crisis Management Training (4/16)
- Culinary Training II (4/16)
- Nationwide Performance Interpreting Workshop Tour, Aberdeen, SD (4/16)
- IBARS Training (4/2016)
- ASLIS Communication Access in Healthcare (4/16)
- Regents Hospital Health and Wellness Program Spring Conference (5/16)
- Strategic Planning (5/16)
- NDSR/RCDHH Advisory Council – Strategic Planning (5/16)
- Student/Parent Handbook Development (6/16)
- DPI Special Education Leadership Academy, Bismarck, ND (6/16)
- Power School End of Year Training (6/16)
- Hearing Loss Association of America National Convention (6/16)
- Deaf-Blind Summit in Washington DC (distance technology) (8/16)
- TEACCH Fundamentals of Structured TEACCHING (8/16)
- USDA School In-service, Grand Forks, ND (8/16)
- AIMES Web Plus Training (8/16)
- NESC Fall In-service (8/16)
- NDSR/RCDHH Back to School In-service (8/16)
- Facilitating Language and Literacy Development Across the Life Span (9/16)
- Special Education Leadership Conference, DPI, Bismarck, ND (9/16)
- ALDA Conference, Milwaukee, WI (9/16)
- Creating Assistive Technology, Fargo, ND (9/16)
- ADA Legal Webinar Series (9/16)
- Midwest Special Education Law Conference (10/16)
- Facilitating Language and Literacy Development Across the Life Span (10/16)
- Health Care Horizons Conference, Grand Forks, ND (10/16)
- Procurement Level 2 Training, Grand Forks, ND (10/16)
- Auditory Training on Spice Curriculum, St. Louis, MO (11/16)
- Bring the Stage to Life, Interpreter workshop (11/16)
- Procurement Level 3 Training, Grand Forks, ND (11/16)
- Certified Pool/Spa Operator Course, Bismarck, ND (12/16)
- Lake Region Teachers Center Board Meeting (12/16)
- Asbestos Training, Grand Forks, ND (1/17)
- Dialogue about Deaf Consumers Rights (2/17)
- Creating Assistive Technology in Minutes (2/17)
- Safe and Collaborative Culture – School Improvement Level 1 (2/17)
- EHDI Conference, Atlanta, GA (2/17)
- Deaf-Blind Summit and Texas Symposium for the Deaf-Blind, Austin, TX (3/17)
- Effective Teaching in Every Classroom (3/17)
- ND Cyber Security Conference (3/17)
- AdvancED Workshop, Grand Forks, ND (3/17)
- Peoplesoft Time and Labor Training, Bismarck, ND (4/17)

- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (4/17)
- CAC FP New Meal Pattern Training, Grand Forks, ND (4/17)
- 2017 National CEASD Conference, Hartford, CN (4/17)
- Bring the Worship to Life for Interpreters, Brainerd, MN (4/17)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: Neurology, Behavior, and Interventions (4/17)
- Deaf Blind Modules – on-line course (5/17)
- National ADARA Conference, Portland OR (5/17)
- Regions Hospital “Building Trauma Resilience” (6/17)
- Midwest Conference for Teachers of the Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD (6/17)
- National HLAA Conference, Salt Lake City, UT (6/17)

TRENDS and GOALS - NDSO Advisory Council

The Advisory Council team members participated in the process and endorsed the Strategic Plan for 2016-2021:



- Change its mission from a Residential School to a Residential/Model School and become a Resource/Model School and become a Resource/Outreach Center for anyone Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Collect and compile data to show measurable outcomes that will lead NDSO into the 21st Century and beyond.
- Write new Mission and Philosophy statement
- Become a Model school for deaf and hard of hearing education
- Expand a Resource/Outreach Center for deaf and hard of hearing children ages 0-21
- Expand Resource/Outreach Center for deaf and hard of hearing adults, age 22 to death.
- Address the problem of recruiting and retaining quality staff.
- Relay and emphasize the message that NDSO/RCDHH is serving 172 students, 18 students in Devils Lake and 154 statewide in homes, public and private schools. We also serve over 50 newly identified adults each year.
- Support Minot State University, in collaboration with Lake Region State College and the ND School for the Deaf, to provide a four-year BS degree in American Sign Language and Interpreting. Holly Pedersen, Deaf Education Instructor from Minot State University, made the proposal to Minot State Academic Affairs Council and stated that they were in Stage 1 of the proposal between Minot State and Lake Region. She will continue to work through Stage 2 of the process with the Academic Affairs Committee following the Standards of Practice.
- Encourage teachers, interpreters, nurses and other professionals to visit the model school to increase awareness of deaf education
- Promote expertise of outreach staff in public schools so all deaf and hard of hearing students receive high quality services.

- Continue to expand outreach services to adults. Develop a client search system for locating adults who are deaf or hard of hearing who may be in need of service or resources.
- Promote educational workshops for staff from state agencies and professionals that serve aging individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Become nationally involved - important that North Dakota continue to provide the full continuum of services for ages 0 to 21.

TRENDS and GOALS – AdvancEd

A visiting team of professional educators assessed educational programming at the North Dakota School for the Deaf and provided the following information related to the AdvancED re-accreditation process.

Powerful Practices in Place:

1. The school has engaged in systematic, inclusive and comprehensive processes to review, revise and communicate its purpose and direction.
2. The school leadership and staff are committed to a culture that supports challenging experiences whereby all students develop learning, thinking and life skills.
3. The governing body ensures that the school leadership has the autonomy to meet goals for achievement and instruction and to manage day-to-day operations effectively.
4. Teachers engage students in the learning through the use of instructional strategies specific to students who are deaf.
5. A formal program in which each student has a teacher advocate is in place.
6. Qualified professional and support staff support the school's purpose, direction and educational program.
7. The school offers a wide range of media and information resources for students, staff and community.
8. The school provides technology resources to meet the needs of students, staff, and community.



Opportunities for Improvement:

1. Develop and implement an effective teacher evaluation system that focuses on improving instructional practice.
2. Develop and implement a curriculum plan aligned to Common Core Standards.
3. Develop and implement a plan to assure qualified staff in the future.
4. Finalize and implement a security plan for the school campus.
5. Assess professional development needs necessary to support teachers in their work with students who have multiple disabilities and incorporate findings in the process of developing school's comprehensive professional development plan.

Ongoing School Improvement

1. A Director of Education has been hired and implemented the school improvement plan to advance the mission of the school.
2. Established a clearly defined, comprehensive student assessment system.
3. Collected, analyzed and applied learning from a range of data sources, including comparison and trend data about student learning, instruction, program evaluation, and organizational conditions.
4. Providing ongoing training of staff in the evaluation, interpretation and use of data.
5. Professional Learning Community were established for a continuous process to determine verifiable improvement in student learning, including readiness and success at the next level that meets weekly.
6. Monitored and communicated comprehensive information about student learning and the achievement of school improvement goals to stakeholders.

SHORT and LONG RANGE GOALS – Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan to advance the concept of the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing was completed the fall of 2016.

Developed a plan of action, though the strategic planning process facilitated by Marv Erhardt working with the management team, advisory committee, community members, and parents to develop a positive plan to move NDSD/RCDHH forward as the state leader in providing services for individuals who are deaf of hard of hearing across the state of North Dakota.

Facilitator

Dr. Marvin Erhardt, a teacher, administrator, college professor and consultant for schools across North Dakota. He has facilitated the strategic planning process in over 40 schools in North Dakota.

Strategic Plan Primary Goal

To change the mission from a residential school to a residential/Model school and become a resource center for anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Goal #1 – The NDSD/RCDHH will write new Mission and Philosophy Statements

Goal #2 – The NDSD/RCDHH will become a Model School for deaf and hard of hearing education.

Goal #3 – The NDSD/RCDHH will become a Resource/Outreach Center for deaf and hard of hearing children, age 0-21.



Goal #4 – The NDSD/RCDHH will become a Resource/Outreach Center for deaf and hard of hearing adults, age 22-death.

Goal #5 – The NDSD/RCDHH will address the problem of recruiting and retaining quality staff.

**Statistical Information
Outreach Services Provided
Biennium Comparisons
15-16 and 16-17**

	7/1/15- 6/30/16	7/1/16- 6/30/17
Outreach Services		
Parent Infant		
Consultations	1,000	783
Evaluations	58	59
Direct Service	650	457
School Age		
Consultations	812	873
Evaluations	44	35
Direct Service	250	214
Summer Camps	12	13
Adult Services		
Consultations/Evaluations	844	604
Persons served	101	120
Communications		
American Sign Language Students	294	220
Interpreting Services Persons Served	2,843	4,340
Total	6,908	7,718

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

Revenues by Source:

Lease rent	\$	244,575.00
Transfer from Federal Programs	\$	286,832.00
Transfer from Land Commission	\$	1,180,000.00
Sales and Meals-Prepared Food	\$	202,992.00
Miscellaneous Sales and Services	\$	102,934.00
Total Revenue for 2015-2017	\$	2,017,333.00

Expenditures by Program	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund	Total
Capital Improvements	\$ 152,174.00	\$ -	\$ 690,869.00	\$ 843,043.00
Grants to Colleges	\$ 127,511.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127,511.00
Auxiliary Services				
<i>(Plant, Custodial, Food Service)</i>	\$ 1,902,060.00	\$ 21,620.00	\$ 2,402.00	\$ 1,926,082.00
Administration	\$ 822,572.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 822,572.00
Resident Living	\$ 787,474.00	\$ -		\$ 787,474.00
Student Weekend Transportation	\$ 116,417.00	\$ -	\$ 2,399.00	\$ 118,816.00
Education				
<i>(Ed., Library, Tech., Interpreter)</i>	\$ 2,552,911.00	\$ 52,762.00	\$ 665.00	\$ 2,606,338.00
Outreach Services (Adult Service <i>Parent Infant, Dual Sensory)</i>	\$ 1,953,062.00	\$ 212,450.00	\$ -	\$ 2,165,512.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,414,181.00	\$ 286,832.00	\$ 696,335.00	\$ 9,397,348.00

Breakdown of Expenditures by Line Item

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and Wages	\$	4,405,766.00
Temporary Salaries	\$	110,363.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	2,324,406.00

Total Salaries and Wages

\$ 6,840,535.00

Operating

IT Data Processing	\$	92,647.00
IT Communications	\$	60,818.00
IT Contractual Services	\$	15,869.00
Travel	\$	304,679.00
IT Software/Supplies	\$	19,189.00
Utilities		
Water/Sewer/Gar	\$	31,364.00
Coal	\$	41,329.00
Natural Gas	\$	62,815.00
Electricity	\$	62,625.00
Postage	\$	9,201.00
Lease/Rent Equipment	\$	8,350.00
Lease/Rent Bldg/Land	\$	45,833.00
Professional Development	\$	26,575.00
Operating Fees & Services	\$	182,340.00
Repairs	\$	42,506.00
Professional Services	\$	78,703.00
Insurance	\$	15,215.00
Office Supplies	\$	12,219.00
Printing	\$	9,060.00
Professional Supplies & Materials	\$	45,504.00
Food and Dry Goods	\$	126,349.00
Bldg. Grnds. Vehicle Supplies	\$	102,463.00
Dishes/Laundry/Rec	\$	13,336.00
Equip. Under \$ 750	\$	19,055.00
Supp. Not Classified	\$	52,768.00
IT- Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	70,917.00
Other Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	25,921.00
Office Equipment & Furniture	\$	8,610.00

Total operating Expenses

\$ 1,586,259.00

Capital Assets		
Land and Buildings	\$	781,277.00
Equipment	\$	61,766.00
		<hr/>
	\$	843,043.00
Grants		
Grants To Colleges	\$	127,511.00
		<hr/>
	\$	127,511.00
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Total Expenditures	\$	9,397,348.00

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

- NDSB Banner
- The Dual Sensory Informer
- The Connections (Outreach Newsletter)
- Brochures
 - Model School
 - Interpreters in the Mainstream
 - Professional Sign Language Interpreting
 - Communications Department
 - Parent/Infant Program
 - Adult Outreach Services Program

EVALUATION

The North Dakota School for the Deaf is accredited with the North Central Accreditation Association and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. The new accreditation will take place the spring of 2018.

CONCLUSION

NDSB/RCDHH has seen a substantial increase in needs for adults who are deaf and hard of hearing across the state. The on campus school has seen a decrease in students and become a model school for training teachers and interpreters who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The school age outreach program has expanded as there is an increase in students who are deaf or hard of hearing attending their home school districts. The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing continues to adhere to its purpose and mission as it transitions into the next biennium; to maintain a comprehensive continuum of services for all citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing and provide an environment where they may access services and support that they need to become and remain integrated, productive citizens of the state.