

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



Dr. Connie Hovendick, Superintendent

www.nd.gov/ndsd

2017-2019 BIENNIAL REPORT



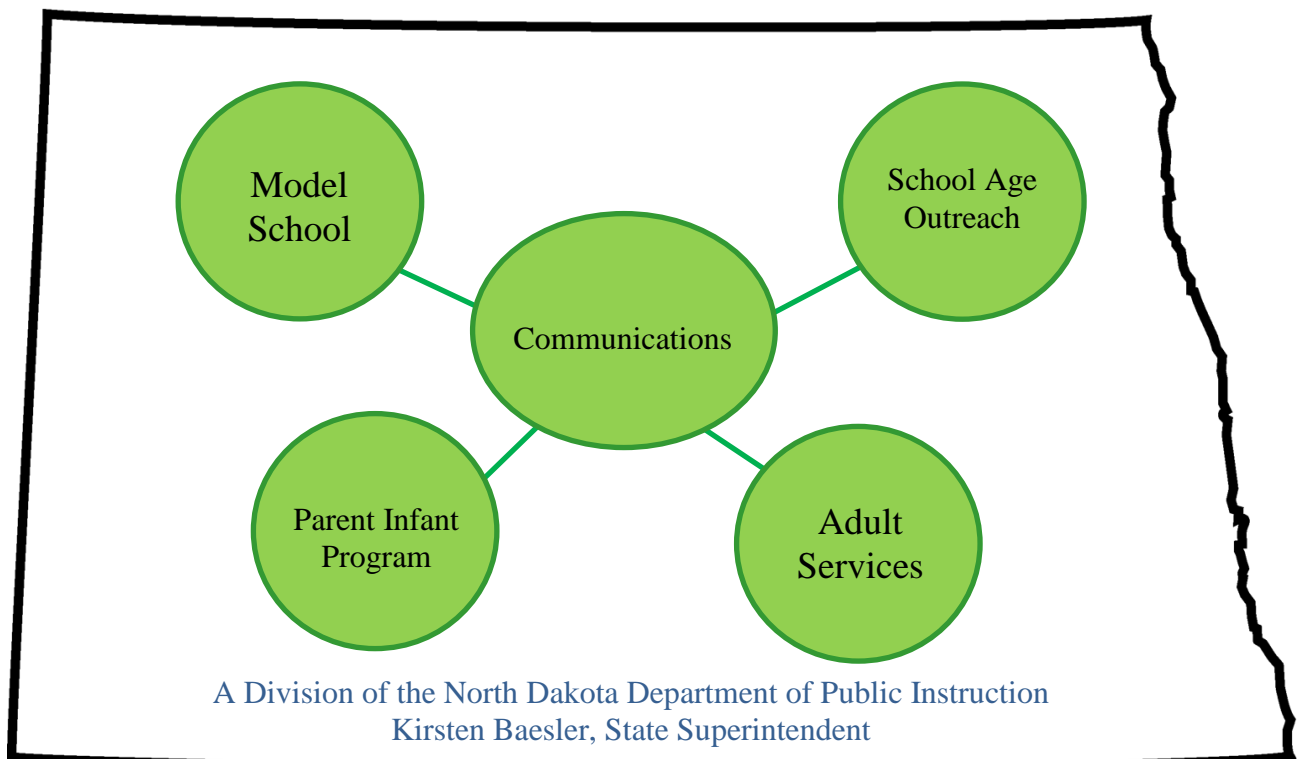
EMPOWER PEOPLE



INSPIRE SUCCESS



IMPROVE LIVES



“Looking back with pride, looking forward with confidence”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. NDSD AGENCY FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION	
Mission and Vision	1
History	2
Organizational Chart	4
Statutory/Constitutional Responsibilities	5
Major Programs and Activities.....	7
• Education Programming	7
• Media Resources - Information and Resources	8
• Statewide Outreach Services	9
• Adult Outreach Services.....	10
• Communications.....	12
• Technology.....	13
Legislation 2017-2019	14
Responsibilities – Added and Deleted	14
II. EVALUATION	
Accomplishments-Activities.....	15
Accomplishments-Professional Development	17
Trends and Goals-Advisory Council	20
Trends and Goals-AdvancED Accreditation Team	21
Short and Long Range Goals - Strategic Plan	22
Statistical Information.....	24
III. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES.....	25
IV. RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS.....	27
V. CONCLUSION.....	27

**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.

Values:

We express our values by treating everyone equally with respect, courtesy, and dignity.

Lead - improve lives

Advocate - empower people

Collaborate - build partnerships

Educate - inspire success

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 Honorable 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.

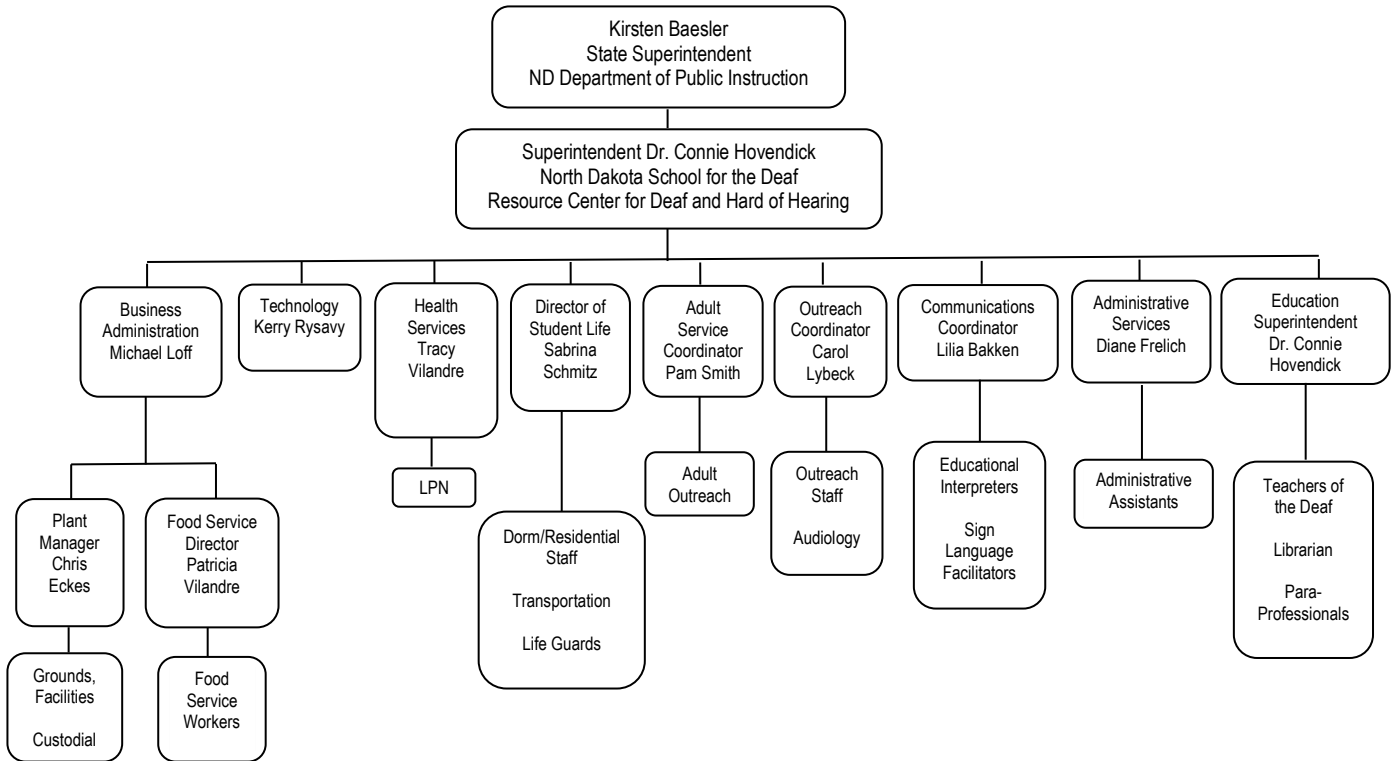
At the first official meeting (July 1, 1890), the Board of Trustees met with the City Council of Devils Lake and agreed to accept the vacant former bank building as a school building (situated on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 5th Street). The City Council agreed to 'put the building into suitable condition' for the occupancy 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.

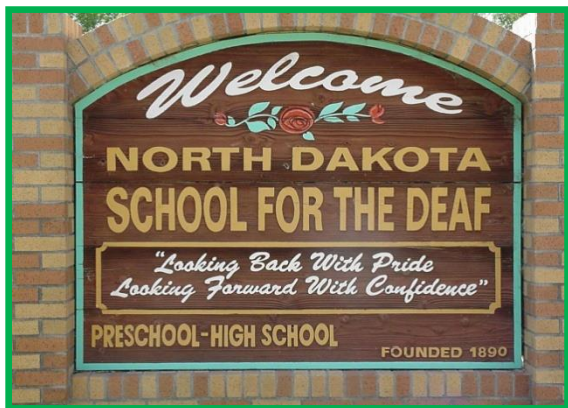
The School for the Deaf opened on September 10, 1890. On that day four pupils enrolled. Each week saw additional arrivals and soon the number of pupils had increased to twenty-two. This was far more pupils than had been expected for the first year. In March 1981, it became necessary to employ a teacher. 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 as determined by the student IEP 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. 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 (2017-2018 School Term)

- Preschool** – 1
- Elementary** – 6
- Middle** – 5
- Secondary** enrolled at DLHS – 5

On Campus Education Services (2018-2019 School Term)

- Preschool** – 1
- Elementary** – 10
- Middle** – 5
- Secondary** enrolled at DLHS – 3

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
Deaf Culture

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 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 has added the entire ***Banner Collection*** 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 participate in a variety of activities and Novel Groups. MakerSpace projects and special literacy events are held periodically. Community guests are invited to read to students or speak about 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



MakerSpace



Hands-On 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, 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.
- Encourage 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 include:

1. Continue to refine and improve services to serve the heterogeneous population of deaf/hard of hearing learners.
2. Build collaboration and partnership to support children, families, students, and professionals, throughout the state to learn in language rich environments.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. Provided parents and consumers necessary support and training through dissemination of information, organizational contacts and workshops and or in-service opportunities.
6. Continued to develop and maintain statewide communication networks via listserv(s), Facebook, Skype and face-to face.

7. 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.
8. Collaborated 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 (NDSR/RCDDH) 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.

Statewide Resource Groups

Adult Outreach provides monthly Resource Group meetings in the following cities:

- Devils Lake, Fargo, Minot, Bismarck, Valley City, Jamestown, and Wahpeton
- Coming soon to Grand Forks and West Fargo

Agency Collaborations

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

Health Systems

Sanford Health Systems
Faith Community Nurses
Mercy Hospital/CHI St Alexius Williston
CHI St Alexius Devils Lake
Essentia Health Systems
Prairie St. Johns

Government Agencies

Protection and Advocacy
Developmental Disabilities
Aging Services of North Dakota
ND Housing Authority
ND Mental Health Services
ND Department of Transportation
Vocational Rehabilitation
Older Blind Program
ND School for the Blind
ND Vision Services
Veterans Administrations
Human Service Centers
MN Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Statewide Senior Centers

Boards of Education

Nursing
Law Enforcement
Social Work

Secondary Education

University of North Dakota
Lake Region State College
Bismarck State College
North Dakota State University
Minot State University

Law Enforcement

Stutsman County Correction Center
Jamestown Law Enforcement
LRSC Peace Officer Training

- Devils Lake, Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo

Mountrail Law Enforcement
Valley City Police Department
Cass County Law Enforcement
Cass County Correction Center

Service Agencies

ND Assistive
Lutheran Social Services
Options for Independent Living
ND Association of the Deaf
Sign Language Interpreter Services
Alzheimer's Association
Long Term Care Association

Private Agencies

Starkey—Hear Now Program
HERO

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 by providing sign language interpreter services to those who rely on a visual language in order to understand the sounds in their environments.

In addition to interpreting services, members of the Communications Department:

- Provide educational interpreter services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing and are enrolled (mainstreamed) into specific classes at Devils Lake Public Schools at all levels: kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school.
- Provide interpreter services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing who 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, hockey, dance 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, Lake Region State College 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. Contact information for interpreters 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, Fargo, Mandan, Lisbon, Williston, Minot, Hettinger, 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. Three students from the Lake Region Interpreter Training Program and one graduate student from the University of North Dakota completed their field experience/mentorship work with NDSD/RCDHH during the past biennium.

- Create and distribute instructional materials to participants of NDSD/RCDHH's online sign language courses.
- 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. NDSD/RCDHH collaborated with these agencies/organizations to provide statewide training: North Dakota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Lake Region State College and the Moorhead, MN Interpreter Training Program.
- Promote and provide professional development opportunities for nationally certified interpreters to earn CEU's in order to maintain their professional credentials.
- Assist in design and development of public relations materials related to school programs and services including articles to the Banner (NDSD/RCDHH magazine).
- Encourage staff adherence to the communication policy at the North Dakota School for the Deaf to ensure that visual accessibility is provided to all those who are deaf or hard of hearing so that they may have equal access to communication that happens around them.
- 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.

Accomplishments during this biennium include:

- Submitted/approved 2019-21 NDSD/RCDHH Technology Plan in alignment with the Statewide Information Technology Plan.
- In final stages of changing to Windows 10.
- Redesigned/updated agency website sections (www.nd.gov/ndsd).
- Attended Cyber Security conference and virtual cyber security workshops sponsored by Edutech, DPI and ITD.
- Removed 'roaming profiles' on LAN.

- Switched/installed the state’s antivirus and anti-spyware solutions TRAPS.
- Purchased/installed Virtual Server (VMware) for Alertus software.
- Implemented/installed Alertus server/client software on campus as another means of emergency notifications.
- Updated/tested software for emergencies and pertinent information (DialMyCalls/Alertus) sent to families/staff.
- Purchased mini laptops for each student and launched the 1:1 program.
- Arranged/setup/monitored Interactive Video Conferencing (IVN) opportunities for sign language class offerings (from NDSD and Fargo location), meetings, professional development and training opportunities as requested.
- Upgraded technical and AV equipment as needed including computers/laptops, smartboards/interactive boards, iPads, projectors, printers/copiers, classroom document cameras, etc.

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.
- Increase in usage of Special Funds to maintain current budget.
- Residential school will continue to be a model school and training site.
- Discontinue sponsorship of Dual Sensory Program subsequently administered by Minot State University.

EVALUATION

The North Dakota School for the Deaf Model School is accredited with AdvancED (Cognia) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. The new accreditation will take place the spring of 2023.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – ACTIVITIES

NDSB Resource Center

- NDSB/RCDHH Facebook account is focusing on sharing information highlighting that we are a Resource Center for the state regarding deaf and hard of hearing.
- Back to school training for 50 staff with Back to School Parent meeting and supper for 48 parents and family members. End of year awards day attended by over 70 staff, parents and students.
- Climate & Culture Staff Survey Results 2017-showed NDSB/RCDHH is a great place to work with low turnover, staff feel supported by co-workers and administration.
- The remodeled Superintendent's house has been used as a meeting place and outreach staff have stayed there when attending meetings at NDSB/RCDHH.
- Newsletter is sent monthly to over 200 individuals to showcase what is happening at NDSB/RCDHH.
- Newspaper spotlighted pictures of staff and students volunteering in the community and staff and students celebrating deaf awareness week.
- Website was updated.
- Advisory Council met to review the legislative packets and provided input for testifying (ND Vision Services staff observed the advisory council).
- Community Holiday Dinner served over 117 individuals who were entertained with a Christmas program by the students at NDSB/RCDHH Model School.

Parent Infant Program/School Age Outreach

- Provided in-services in schools in Flasher, Bismarck, Anne Carlson School, Harvey, and Underwood.
- Planned, co-sponsored and advertised for the "Early Intervention Collaboration Kickoff 2018".
- Planned and promoted Midwest Conference for Deaf Education.
- Facilitated Family Fishing Event for families with children with varying hearing levels in February 2018.
- Planned and facilitated Family Playgroup and Language and Auditory Fun child group. Participated in Engage for Change (Transition D/HH), and regional Moms' Night Out.
- Implemented "Pumpkin Patch" deaf awareness events around the state.
- Planned and implemented a Teen Day event for teens with hearing loss from across the state.

- Planned and implemented presentations to DPI Transition Community of Practices: University Students, Seratoma group, Public Library, North Dakota Childcare Conference, Early Intervention Partners and ND Vocational Rehabilitation providers.
- Participated on the DPI Early Intervention Advisory Board, ND EI Summit, EHDI Advisory Board meetings, Celebrate Sound Walk, Hands and Voices Guide by your side, Dual Sensory planning meeting, Virtual National Outreach conference, Friends of Part C meeting.
- School Age Outreach NDSD Summer Camp June 2018 attended by 18 and June 2019 attended by 17.
- Provided teleservices for families, summer sign class, and basic sign class online in Fargo.

Adult Outreach

- Adult Outreach specialists led Resource/Support Groups monthly in Fargo, Bismarck, Devils Lake, Minot & Bismarck, Wahpeton, and Valley City.
- Delivered training presentations to police, police in training, corrections and Sheriff's offices around the state.
- Outreach specialists had booths at Assistive Living Center, Health fairs and other related conferences.
- Outreach specialists presented on our services to the Coalition of Service Providers, Aging Collaborative groups, Good Samaritan Society Community of Care group, CHI Mercy Hospital, Senior Centers, North Dakota Retired Teachers Association, Optimist Club, and Lutheran Social Services.
- Presentations on hearing loss were given to community clubs, senior living centers, Devils Lake Human Service Center, North Dakota Long-Term Care Convention, and the Prairie Harvest Mental Health.

Communications

- Provided tour to: UND college student, Danielle Ende. She arranged to complete a semester-long internship at NDSD/RCDHH in the fall of 2018. Provided tour for 15 women from Northwood. Provided tour and arranged daylong job shadow opportunity at NDSD/RCDHH for senior student considering a future career in the field of deafness.
- Provided interpreters for field trips, job shadow opportunities, story time, Phonak presenter at NDSD/RCDHH, Amy Szarkowski workshop "Social/Emotional Functioning of children with hearing loss. NBA/Boston Celtics visit to Fort Yates, Lake Region State College play, NESO training, and other community events as requested.
- Provided deafness-related careers in-service to 300 fifth graders at Scrub Camp held at Lake Region State College. Presented at a Career Fair and Central Middle School Cultural Days.
- Helped set up a remote interpreting assignment for Lake Region Human Service Center.

- Events for Deaf Awareness Week at NDSR/RCDHH included: class tour of 25 students from Sweetwater, history presentation of NDSR/RCDHH and American School for the Deaf, and Interpreter Workshop at LRSC “Bringing the Stage to Life” (three NDSR/RCDHH interpreters participated).
- Completed first semester of Basic Sign Language classes (110 total participants with 11 who enrolled for graduate credit through Minot State). Received approval to offer Basic Sign level 1 and 2 for graduate credit in collaboration with Minot State University.

Model School

- Surveys were completed by parents, teachers, all NDSR/RCDHH staff, and students to look at overall school attitudes and climate. Survey results show that all parents and staff have high expectations for students and support the programming at NDSR/RCDHH Model School. Received accreditation from AdvancED.
- Professional Learning Community meetings were held weekly to develop transition plans for each student as they move to new grade level next year.
- NDSR/RCDHH Model School Curriculum committee has been meeting and developed an updated reading curriculum including strategies and a structured 60 minute schedule for reading classes.
- Events for Deaf Awareness Week at NDSR/RCDHH included class tour of 25 students from Sweetwater, presentation by former staff of deaf school in Africa, History presentation of NDSR/RCDHH and American School for the Deaf.
- Visitation by staff, parents and student to explore possible placements at NDSR/RCDHH next year.
- NDSR/RCDHH staff taught school swimming classes for elementary students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Professional Development

Staff Development/Professional Development training opportunities staff members participated in during the 2017-2019 biennial cycle:

2017

- Hearing Loss and Healthcare to Sanford Parish Nurses (7/17)
- Applying Linguistics to the Task (Interpreter Workshop) (7/17)
- NESC Mental Health training (8/17)
- NESC Student Motivation (8/17)
- NESC Suicide Prevention (8/17)
- NDSR/RCDHH Back to School In-service (8/17)
- NDSR/RCDHH Parent In-service (8/17)
- Continuing Ed Course (8/17)
- Wellness Coordinator Recharge Workshop (9/17)
- DPI Special Education Leadership Institute (9/17)
- Hearing Loss in North Dakota (9/17)

- New Wellness Policy (9/17)
- NDCEC Developing Legally Defensible IEP's (9/17)
- Deaf Education Symposium (9/17)
- King Jordan (9/17)
- Opioid Issues Today (9/17)
- Law Enforcement and the Deaf Community (9/17)
- Hearing Loss in North Dakota (9/17)
- NDLA Conference (10/17)
- Law Enforcement and the Deaf Community (10/17)
- Hearing Loss in North Dakota (10/17)
- ALICE training (10/17)
- Language Curriculum (10/17)
- Risk Management Seminar (10/17)
- Agency Providers Roundtable 3rd Annual Accessibility Workshop (10/17)
- EDHI Meeting Bismarck (10/17)
- National Outreach Conference - Laurent Clerc Center (10/17)
- NDATL F2F Fall Conference (10/17)
- Steve Dunn Shared Reading Workshop (10/17)
- Visions Forum - Grand Forks, ND (10/17)
- JDQ Agency HR Administrator Training (10/17)
- Bringing Worship to Life Interpreter Workshop Lake Region State College (10/17)
- Power School - Clean Data is Good Data (10/17)
- Hearing Loss in North Dakota (10/17)
- Active Shooter Awareness (10/17)
- AdvancED Preparations (11/17)
- Audiological In-service (11/17)
- Curriculum Development (11/17)
- Hearing Loss in North Dakota (11/17)
- 2017 Secondary Transition Interagency Conference (11/17)
- NESD Criminal History Record Check/Audit Training (11/17)
- Terp Expo (Interpreter Exposition), St. Louis Park, MN (11/17)
- Phonak (11/17)
- M State & NDRID Workshop - Am I Seeing It Right, But Saying It Wrong? (11/17)

2018

- Hearing Loss: Early Intervention Collaboration Kickoff 2018 (1/18)
- Diabetes Type 1 Overview/Diabetes Meal Planning (1/18)
- Diabetes Summary of Type 1 and Type 2 (2/18)
- Time & Labor Training, Bismarck, ND (2/18)
- Qualified Mental Health Interpreter Program, Alabama (2/18)
- ND Cyber Security Conference - NDSU Campus, Fargo, ND (3/18)
- Adaptive Physical Education & Lifetime Fitness Workshop, Mandan, ND (3/18)
- 2018 Family Weekend with Dr. Lauren Lieberman, Mandan, ND (3/18)
- Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Meeting (3/18)

- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Cognitive & Psycho Social Development (3/18)
- HR Conference on Local Government (4/18)
- Camp ASL, Camp Friendship, Annandale, Minnesota (4/18)
- IBARS Training (4/18)
- 2018 Regions Hospital Health & Wellness Workshop (5/18)
- Hearing Loss Association of America 2018 Convention (5/18)
- Spring Special Education Leadership Institute, Bismarck, ND (5/18)
- Back to School Workshop, School Nutrition (5/18)
- Hearing Loss Association of America 2018 Convention (5/18)
- 2018 OSEP Project Director Conference (7/18)
- NDPERS Authorized Agent Training (8/18)
- Early Intervention (8/18)
- Tough Kids, NESC (8/18)
- NDSD/RCDHH Back to School In-service (8/18)
- DPI Special Education Leadership Institute (9/18)
- ESSA Workshop (9/18)
- TFFR Retirement workshop (9/18)
- Shine your light - Social Functioning in children with reduced hearing. Pragmatics in deaf children. (10/18)
- Back to the Basics Workshop (10/18)
- Continuing Education required for License (10/18)
- Mental Health Workshop (10/18)
- Self-Advocacy for Transitioning High School Special Education Students (12/18)

2019

- Transition training videos (1/19)
- NESC Winter In-service (1/19)
- Effective Communication in the Criminal Justice System: Lessons from the case law (1/19)
- ESSA Continuing Education - Phase II Workshop (2/19)
- Self-Advocacy for Transitioning Special Education Students (2/19)
- Pesticide Certificate Renewal (3/19)
- MISO3 Data Cleanup Workshop (3/19)
- ND Childcare State Conference – Dickinson (4/19)
- Guide by Your Side (4/19)
- Quality of Life & Health Outcomes for Deaf Adults (5/19)
- WINK Interpreter Training Workshop (5/19)
- Human Resource Contacts Meeting (5/19)
- Special Education Leadership Institute (6/19)
- Champs/Achieve Workshop (6/19)
- NDSNA State Conference (6/19)
- Midwest Conference on Deaf Education (6/19)
- NDPERS Payroll Conference (6/19)
- Hearing Loss Association of America Convention (6/19)

TRENDS and GOALS – NDSD/RCDHH Advisory Council

The NDSD/RCDHH Advisory Council is made up of educators, parents, legislators, ND state agency representatives and ND colleges. The team reviewed the NDSD/RCDHH goals and trends and provided insight into NDSD/RCDHH's presentation to legislators at the 2019 Legislative Session.



1. Assistive technology available for individuals with hearing losses is continually changing with new devices becoming available.
2. Increased focus on mental health issues with deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families.
3. Parents are more informed about the wide range of choices for educational programs and have clearer expectations for their children as a result of the new technology.
4. Collaboration and partnerships with other agencies and programs is essential in providing needed services to the deaf and hard of hearing in rural communities.

Program changes to meet these trends:

1. All staff will be current on the newest technology available for their clients. The superintendent's house is a showcase for technology for students, families and adults to experience.
2. As a statewide resource center, we have increased our focus on professional development for staff working across the state with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. This includes teachers, professionals from other state agencies, adult service providers, lawyers, daycare providers, law enforcement officers, families and community members and health care professionals.
3. All programs are collecting and compiling data to show measurable outcomes that lead to the advancements in programming.
4. Staff are on state advisory boards and planning committees for numerous programs ranging from EDHI (Early Detection of Hearing Loss) to the ND state transition community.

TRENDS and GOALS – AdvancED

North Dakota School for the Deaf/Model School received AdvancEd accreditation through spring of 2023. A visiting team of professional educators assessed educational programming at the NDSD/Model School and provided the following information related to the AdvancEd re-accreditation process.

Powerful Practices in Place

1. Learners have equitable opportunities to develop skills and achieve the content and learning priorities established by NDSD/RCDHH.
 - a. School leaders formally and consistently monitor instructional practices through supervision and evaluation procedures beyond classroom observations to ensure that they are aligned with the school's values and beliefs about teaching and learning.
 - b. Teachers deliver an approved curriculum and are directly engaged with all students in the oversight of their learning, using content-specific standards for professional practice.
2. The learning culture promotes creativity, innovation, and collaborative problem solving.
 - a. All member of the school staff participate in collaborative learning communities that meet both formally and informally on a regular schedule.
 - b. Frequent collaboration occurs across grade levels and content areas.
 - c. Staff members implement a formal process that promotes productive discussion about student learning.
 - d. Learning from using and discussing results of inquiry practices such as action research, the examination of student work, reflection of implantation of student work, reflection of implementation of programs, mentoring and peer coaching are all part of a daily routine for school staff members.
 - e. School personnel can clearly link collaboration to improvement results in instructional practice of student performance.
 - f. NDSD/RCDHH plans and delivers professional learning to improve the learning environment, learner achievement and the NDSD/RCDHH's effectiveness.
 - g. In addition, digital resources are integrated into teaching, learning, and operations to improve professional practice, student performance and organizational effectiveness.



Opportunity for Improvement

1. Engage stakeholders to support the achievement of the institutions' purpose and direction.
 - a. A review of the evidence and narratives from various stakeholder groups revealed a need to broaden and enhance the stakeholders' understanding of the mission and function of the institution.
 - b. The general public, local community, school districts, legislature and national community could benefit from a clear understanding of the organizations' mission and function.
 - c. A comprehensive public relations and communication plan detailing student learning conditions and the achievement of school improvement goals could enhance stakeholder understanding and participation in planning processes.

SHORT and LONG RANGE GOALS – Strategic Plan

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.

Process

Developed a plan of action, through 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 or hard of hearing across the state of North Dakota.

2016-2021 Strategic Plan Primary Goals

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.

In order to meet these goals the following steps have been taken:

1. A new mission statement and values has been accepted and staff have received training on them. They are currently being reinforced across departments at NDSD/RCDHH.
2. The Model School has become a viable resource for public school staff, parents and other professionals across the state. It has been accredited for another 5 years.
3. Relay and emphasize the message that NDSD/RCDHH is serving 172 students, 18 students in Devils Lake and 154 statewide in homes, public and private schools.(important that North Dakota continue to provide the full continuum of services for ages 0 to 21).
4. Encourage teachers, interpreters, nurses and other professionals to visit the Model School to increase awareness of deaf education.
5. Promote expertise of outreach staff in public schools so all deaf and hard of hearing students receive high quality services. Co-sponsored the Midwest Conference for Deaf Educators.
6. 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. We have over 500 adults in the NDSD/RCDHH database. We also serve over 50 newly identified adults each year.
7. Promote educational workshops for staff from state agencies and professionals that serve individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
8. Address the problem of recruiting and retaining quality staff. Become nationally involved.

**Statistical Information
Outreach Services Provided
Biennium Comparisons
17-18 and 18-19**

	7/1/17- 6/30/18	7/1/18- 6/30/19
Outreach Services		
<i>Parent Infant</i>		
Consultations	682	1181
Evaluations	46	94
Direct Service	415	541
 <i>School Age</i>		
Consultations	1000	994
Evaluations	35	39
Direct Service	301	160
Summer Camp Attendees	18	17
 Adult Services		
Consultations/Evaluations	580	587
Persons served	176	156
 Communications		
American Sign Language Students	191	102
Interpreting Services Persons Served	7,538	7,233
Total	6,908	7,718

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

Revenues by Source:

Lease rent	\$	200,442.00
Transfer from Federal Programs	\$	187,006.00
General Fund Prior to Biennium	\$	688.00
Transfer from Land Commission	\$	1,598,000.00
Sales and Meals-Prepared Food	\$	267,806.00
Miscellaneous Sales and Services	\$	107,662.00
Total Revenue for 2017-2019	\$	2,361,604.00

Expenditures by Program	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund	Total
Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 612,546.00	\$ 612,546.00
Grants to Colleges	\$ 180,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000.00
Auxiliary Services <i>(Plant, Custodial, Food Service)</i>	\$ 1,412,267.00	\$ 21,520.00	\$ 405,614.00	\$ 1,839,401.00
Administration	\$ 723,879.00	\$ -	\$ 129,962.00	\$ 853,841.00
Resident Living	\$ 750,539.00	\$ -	\$ 16,566.00	\$ 767,105.00
Student Weekend Transportation	\$ 49,139.00	\$ -	\$ 94,377.00	\$ 143,516.00
Education <i>(Ed., Library, Tech., Interpreter)</i>	\$ 2,458,479.00	\$ 53,063.00	\$ 173,416.00	\$ 2,684,958.00
Outreach Services (Adult Service <i>Parent Infant, Dual Sensory)</i>	\$ 1,913,433.00	\$ 112,423.00	\$ 236,569.00	\$ 2,262,425.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,487,736.00	\$ 187,006.00	\$ 1,669,050.00	\$ 9,343,792.00

Breakdown of Expenditures by Line Item

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and Wages	\$	4,534,213.00
Temporary Salaries	\$	110,654.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	2,506,701.00

Total Salaries and Wages

\$ 7,151,568.00

Operating

IT Data Processing	\$	98,021.00
IT Communications	\$	65,831.00
IT Contractual Services	\$	27,101.00
Travel	\$	307,127.00
IT Software/Supplies	\$	8,794.00
Utilities		
Water/Sewer/Gar	\$	32,066.00
Coal	\$	-
Natural Gas	\$	101,556.00
Electricity	\$	57,237.00
Postage	\$	7,017.00
Lease/Rent Equipment	\$	14,628.00
Lease/Rent Bldg/Land	\$	49,560.00
Professional Development	\$	22,828.00
Operating Fees & Services	\$	34,644.00
Repairs	\$	42,708.00
Professional Services	\$	56,840.00
Insurance	\$	19,034.00
Office Supplies	\$	9,967.00
Printing	\$	8,124.00
Professional Supplies & Materials	\$	30,119.00
Food and Dry Goods	\$	139,683.00
Bldg. Grnds. Vehicle Supplies	\$	100,189.00
Dishes/Laundry/Rec	\$	21,052.00
Equip. Under \$ 750	\$	16,413.00
Supp. Not Classified	\$	40,515.00
IT- Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	52,718.00
Other Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	22,930.00
Office Equipment & Furniture	\$	23,838.00

Total operating Expenses

\$ 1,410,539.00

Capital Assets		
Land and Buildings	\$	528,549.00
Equipment	\$	73,136.00
		<u>601,685.00</u>
Grants		
Grants To Colleges	\$	180,000.00
		<u>180,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$	<u>9,343,792.00</u>

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Tidbits (NDSR/RCDHH Newsletter)
- NDSR/RCDHH Banner
- Facebook
- The Connections (Outreach Newsletter)
- NDSR/RCDHH Website
- Brochures
 - Model School
 - Interpreters in the Mainstream
 - Professional Sign Language Interpreting
 - Communications Department
 - Parent/Infant Program
 - Adult Outreach Services Program

CONCLUSION

NDSR/RCDHH serves as State Resource Center to provide advocacy, leadership, and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing. The adult outreach specialists have increased the number of support groups and trainings they offer across the state. The Parent Infant Program and School Age Outreach continue to expand their expertise to assist families and school personnel in providing services for deaf and hard of hearing children. The Model School has expanded programming as students with multiple disabilities need services. The resource center is a training site for nurses, interpreters, teachers, interventionists, and other individuals who are working with deaf and hard of hearing and their families.