

# North Dakota School for the Deaf Resource Center



**Donna E Sorensen, Superintendent**

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

## 2021-2023 BIENNIAL REPORT



**“Looking back with pride, looking forward with confidence”**

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



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. NDSD/RC AGENCY FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION</b>	
Vision, Mission, and Purpose .....	1
History .....	2
Organizational Chart .....	4
Statutory/Constitutional Responsibilities .....	5
Major Programs and Activities.....	7
• Education Programming .....	7
• Residential Program .....	8
• Media Resources - Information and Resources .....	9
• Adult Outreach Service.....	10
• Parent Infant & School Age Outreach Services .....	12
• Communications & Advocacy .....	14
• Technology .....	15
Legislation 2021-2023 .....	16
Responsibilities – Added and Deleted .....	16
 <b>II. EVALUATION</b>	
Accomplishments-Activities.....	17
Accomplishments-Professional Development .....	19
Advisory Committee .....	20
Cognia Accreditation .....	21
Cognia Strategic Plan .....	21
Statistical Information.....	22
 <b>III. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES.....</b>	<b>23</b>
 <b>IV. RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
 <b>V. CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>25</b>
 <b>VI. CONTACT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>25</b>

# NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER

## AGENCY FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION

### ***Vision:***

To support individuals with hearing differences in achieving their dreams.

### ***Mission:***

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

### ***Purpose:***

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

### **Our Beliefs**

All students are **ABLE**:

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

## 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 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.

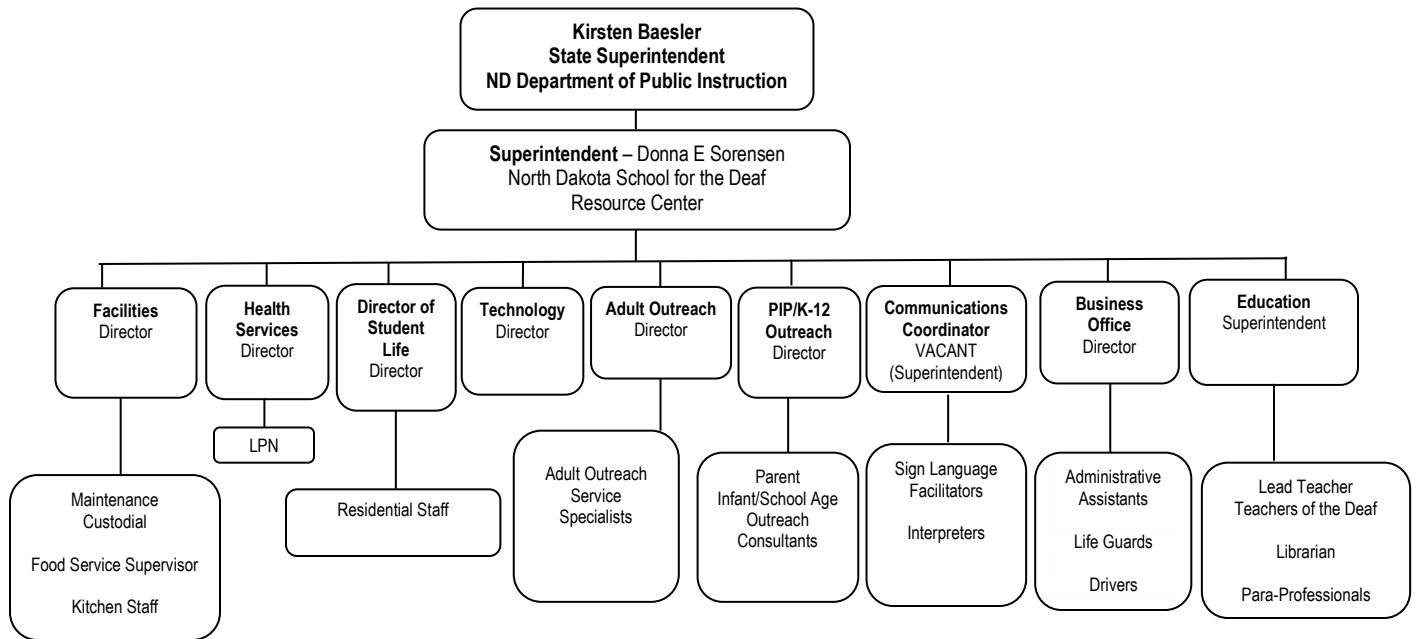
At the first official meeting (July 1, 1890), the Board of Trustees met with the City Council of Devils Lake and agreed to accept the vacant former bank building as a school building (situated on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street). The City Council agreed to 'put the building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

### On-Campus Education Program



The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center provides students with a robust education based on each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). NDSD/RC provides early access to the acquisition of language to ensure students' progress at the highest level of which they are capable through intense visual language, spoken language, and auditory instruction. It provides a diverse bilingual community in a nurturing engaging and

challenging environment that is open to observations from teachers of the deaf, families and other interested professionals.

- Teachers of the Deaf address the unique educational needs of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind based upon each child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Programming emphasizes the development of the whole child. Students learn American Sign Language (ASL) and English (reading, writing, and spoken language as appropriate and able) with focus on social-emotional development.
- NDSD/RC nurtures the development of positive self-image as a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.
- 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 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, behavioral, audiological, and optometric health. Health Services collaborates with families and outside medical entities to ensure our students are prepared for optimal learning experiences. The ultimate objective is always to protect and promote total wellness and a sound education.

### **On-Campus Education Services (2021-2022 School Term)**

**Preschool – 5**

**Kindergarten – 0**

**Elementary – 5**

**Middle – 7**

**Secondary enrolled at DLHS – 1**

### **On-Campus Education Services (2022-2023 School Term)**

**Preschool – 7**

**Kindergarten – 1**

**Elementary – 6**

**Middle – 8**

**Secondary enrolled at DLHS – 1**

Students returned to campus full-time after the COVID pandemic. The preschool class started with several part-time students who became full-time as the year progressed. At our highest number this biennium, we had 23 students (with 1 attending Devils Lake High School and residing in our Student Life program). Of these, fifteen (15) students were residential.

## **Residential Program**

The Residential Program provides students with a home-away-from-home environment so students can attend the on-campus education program, including mainstreaming opportunities in Devils Lake Public Schools. The Residential Program, also called the Student Life Program, focuses on social-emotional development, language and communication, Deaf identity and culture, and independent living skills. Students participate in projects, activities, and workshops, literacy learning, and field trips, including shopping.

Transportation is provided to and from school to various meeting spots across the state. Students are typically brought to school on Sundays and return home on Fridays.



Students visited the Fall Festival in Webster, attended the Devils Lake High School play production, went bowling and watched a movie, had an awesome Christmas celebration, rang the bell for the Salvation Army during the holidays, visited the nursing home, visited the local Fire Department, and so many more community opportunities.

## Media Center – Information and Resources

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

### Books

Children's literature  
Professional Collection  
Reference  
General interest

### Periodicals

Children's titles  
Professional  
Deaf Community  
General interest

### 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 NDSD/RC 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 NDSD 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. Also included on ***Digital Horizons*** are historic original NDSD registration ledgers and biennial reports, as well as vintage photos of graduation classes, sports teams, special events, and building and grounds.

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 by inviting foreign exchange students to complete volunteer work, conduct programs about their home countries and to engage with deaf children.



Novel Group



Hands-On Activities



Guest Presentations



Literacy Fun



## Adult Hearing Outreach Services

The Adult Hearing Outreach Program at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center advocates on behalf of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and those who have diminished hearing later in life 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 Hearing Outreach Program provides assistance to North Dakotans who are:

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

## Information and Consultation

Adult Hearing Outreach maintains a central location for statewide resources 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.

## Adult Hearing Outreach Activities:

- Adult Hearing Outreach department facilitated 36 Statewide Resource Groups\* in Devils Lake, Minot, Bismarck, Fargo, Harvey, Valley City, and Wahpeton, where there were more than 244 attendees.
- Currently developing a new presentation: "First Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community."
- "Law Enforcement trainings" were presented to the Fargo Police Officer Training Academy, the Jamestown Corrections department, Jamestown Police Department, Sheriff's department and some dispatch and county workers.
- Presentations this quarter on hearing loss were given to Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as senior coalition groups in Cando and Cavalier.
- One of our greater challenges over this past year has been the researching of safety equipment as many products have gone from the market. We have done this with the collaboration of Vocational Rehabilitation and ND Assistive.
- A new client packet was designed specifically for those with a cochlear implant.
- Participated in 6 booths to share information to the public/participating agencies.

*\*It has been a slow climb back from the pandemic and lower numbers at our groups. People are just starting to return.*

## **Adult Hearing Outreach Agency Collaborations**

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

### **Health Systems**

Sanford Health Systems  
Altru Clinic- DL & GF  
Faith Community Nurses  
Mercy Hospital/CHI St Alexius Williston  
CHI St Alexius Devils Lake  
Essentia Health Systems  
Prairie St. Johns  
Central Valley Health District  
Mountrail Regional Health District  
Bridging Center

### **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 Individuals Who Are Blind  
ND School for the Blind/Vision Services  
Veterans Administration  
Human Service Centers statewide  
MN Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
Statewide Senior Centers  
Public Health Nurses

### **Private Agencies**

Starkey—Hear Now Program  
HERO  
Miracle Ear Foundation  
Beltone Foundation

### **Law Enforcement**

Stutsman County Correction Center  
Jamestown Law Enforcement  
LRSC Peace Officer Training  
Mountrail Law Enforcement  
Valley City Police Department  
Grand Forks Police Department

### **Boards of Education**

Nursing  
Social Work  
Law Enforcement

### **Secondary Education**

University of North Dakota  
Lake Region State College  
Bismarck State College  
North Dakota State University  
Minot State University  
Cass County Law Enforcement  
Cass County Correction Center  
US Marshalls

### **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  
Region 3 Homeless Coalition  
Safe Alternatives for Abused Families  
Border States Aging Alliance

### **Centers of Long-Term Care**

Towner County Living Center  
Eventide Heartland Devils Lake  
Bridgeview Assisted Living  
Eventide Assisted Living Jamestown  
Crossroads Senior Living  
North Sky Senior Living  
Sunrise North Senior Living  
Maddock Memorial Home  
Somerset Court Assisted Living  
Edgewood Vista Minot  
Valley Senior Living Grand Forks  
Valley 4000 Grand Forks  
Valley Eldercare  
Parkwood Senior Living  
Oakwood Place Fargo  
Good Samaritan Larimore  
St. Anne's Guest Home Grand Forks  
Eventide Moorhead  
Siena Court Assisted Living  
Wahpeton One Oak Place  
Independent Living, Fargo  
Heritage House, Independent Living,



## Parent-Infant and School Age Outreach Services

Parent-Infant & School Age Outreach specialists provided services across the state addressing the diverse needs of citizens that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Outreach support is designed to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, deaf plus 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. The Parent-Infant/School Age Outreach Services maintained the following guiding principles:

- Encouraged the maintenance of high yet realistic expectations for children's standards, programs and personnel.
- Provided resources needed for children who are deaf/hard of hearing to facilitate the appropriate trajectory of learning.
- Advocated for environments specially designed to help deaf/hard of hearing children reach their potential through communication, exploration and socialization opportunities.
- Understood and addressed the need for highly qualified, knowledgeable staff; training needs utilizing and promoting current best practices and materials

The Parent-Infant/School Age Outreach program continues to work to meet the unique needs of each individual.

### Our Guiding Principles have continued to drive us to:

1. Refine and improve services to serve the heterogeneous population of learners with differentiated hearing levels.
2. Build collaboration and partnership to support children, families, students, and professionals, throughout the state to create a language rich environment for learning to occur.
3. Provide early intervention services for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf plus or deafblind by experienced staff, knowledgeable of the impact and unique needs related to hearing loss.
4. Provide 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 plus, deaf-blind students with all degrees of hearing loss (direct and indirect, consultation and/or technical assistance).
5. Provide parents and consumers necessary support and training through dissemination of information, organizational contacts and workshops and/or in-service opportunities.
6. Continue to develop and maintain statewide communication networks via listserv(s), Facebook, Skype, Zoom and other virtual formats as well as face-to face.



7. Promote 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. Create an environment where continued professional development promoting current and best practices in the field of Education of the Deaf is valued and encouraged, offering opportunities to families, professional and/or agencies.
9. Provided social and functional opportunities for individuals around the state that are Deaf/Hard of Hearing to form peer relationships increasing their overall well-being and self-confidence.
10. In June 2022, camp was held in-person with 14 campers from age 7 to 18 years old participating. In June 2023, there were 18 campers.

### **Activities and services during 2021-2023 biennium:**

- The PIP/School Age Outreach team met bi-weekly via video conferencing to develop plans and resources for families and professionals statewide.
- Initiated a pilot Microtia/Atresia Parent Support Group (MAPS).
- Initiated a Growing Up Deaf series.
- Organized Midwest Conference on Deaf Education.
- Initiated Deaf Mentor pilot program in August 2023 by training two Deaf adults as Mentors. Deaf Mentors providing services to families in their homes and virtually.
- Virtual Deaf Santa for 7 home visits and 8 school visits.
- Presentation to 60 UND OT students.
- Family Learning Vacation/Engagement program at NDSD/RC in May 2022 and May 2023.
- Hosted 6 Pumpkin Patch events with Hands & Voices in the fall of 2022 and the fall of 2023. These events encourage families with deaf children to interact and support each other.



In summary, the Outreach Programs are designed to benefit children with hearing loss, their families, and school district staff throughout North Dakota. A variety of services for children, newborn to 21 years of age, who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind, Deaf Plus were available. Outreach Programs include the following statewide services for children, students, their families, educators, etc.

- ▶ Parent-Infant Services
- ▶ School-Age Services
- ▶ Professional Development
- ▶ Resource



## Communications and Advocacy Department

In the past, the Communications Department has been instrumental in preserving the history of NDSD/RC, providing communication and language access between hearing and Deaf individuals, providing interpreting services in mainstream setting, and providing sign language classes to staff and to consumers across the state. In December 2022, the Communications Coordinator retired after 43 years of dedicated work to NDSD/RC and the Deaf Community in North Dakota.

In the fall of 2023, the Communications Department became the Communications and Advocacy Department. This department will continue to evolve during the 2023-2025 biennium.

Members of the Communications and Advocacy Department:

- Provide educational interpreter services to students who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind and are mainstreamed in classes at Devils Lake Public Schools at all levels: kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school.
- Provide interpreter services for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind 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, Driver's ed and swim lessons.
- Assist other schools with provision of educational interpreter services per contract/agreement. During the past biennium, NDSD/RC provided interpreter services to deaf students enrolled in Devils Lake Public Schools and Bismarck Public Schools.
- Assist in identifying need for and provision of support services to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind including: tutors, note-takers, signing paras and interpreters.
- Maintain and update, on the NDSD/RC website, contact information for certified interpreters in North Dakota in order to assist those in need of locating an interpreter. Contact information for certified interpreters may be accessed on NDSD/RC website at [www.ndsd.nd.gov](http://www.ndsd.nd.gov).
- 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.
- Provide field experience and supervision of internship opportunities and mentor services (per request) to pre-certified interpreters or interpreters-in-training.
- Promote and provide professional development interpreter workshop opportunities for certified interpreters, interpreters-in-training, and students enrolled in Interpreter Training Programs.
- Encourage adherence to the communication policy at NDSD/RC to ensure that visual accessibility is available to all those who are deaf or hard of hearing so that they may have equal access to communication that happens around them.

- Provide varying levels of sign language skill development opportunities to staff (Coffee Break sign classes, one-on-one instruction and evening sign classes including Basic Sign Language, Level 1 and Basic Sign Language, Level 2).
- Provide tours and/or historical information regarding the ND School for the Deaf, per request.

## Technology

NDSD/RC is part of the State of North Dakota's network on the K12 tier. Technology is integrated throughout the campus and off-campus locations including the educational, residential, business, and outreach areas.

Accomplishments during this biennium include:

- Completed, submitted and received approval of NDSD/RC's section in the 2023-2025 ND Statewide IT Plan.
- Renewed the Microsoft Ofc365 License (EES Agreement) through the state.
- Purchased updated mini laptops for students to accommodate the 1:1 program.
- Continued to monitor and maintain a secure system keeping critical updates and patches on computers and utilizing safety measures to protect the students via the state network.
- Purchased, configured and placed computers/laptops as needed on and off campus.
- Purchased new iPads for classrooms and utilized the old iPads for students to take during weekend transportation to and from home.
- Mounted and setup smartboards purchased earlier into the classrooms, library and dorm.
- Setup student and teacher schedules for each school year in PowerSchool and assisted with issues as needed.
- Assisted a couple teachers with setting up smartboard, computer and other technologies used during a classroom move.
- Added Access Points to the Administration bldg. (main floor west end of hallway and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor east hallway), Resource Ctr (library) and Blackhurst Dorm (lobby) on campus.
- Updated the Assurance CM/NM State of Emergency Plans (ongoing).
- Updated agency website information, as needed, and continue to attend state training when software is upgraded (ongoing). ([www.ndsd.nd.gov/](http://www.ndsd.nd.gov/))
- Maintain and posts daily activities and notifications on the schools' Facebook page (ongoing).
- Initiated and started the move from Windows 10 to Windows 11 on campus and eventually to the off-campus locations.
- Completed installation of Tenable Nessus (state software used to monitor computers for vulnerabilities) on computers on and off campus.
- Initiated and worked with Adult and Outreach staff in transitioning to using MS Teams/SharePoint and continue to assist when requested.

- Replaced and updated the campus copier; moving the old one to our Fargo Outreach Office.
- Attended various technical conferences/workshops including Cyber Security, NDATL and Accessibility ADA website trainings sponsored by Edutech, DPI and/or NDIT.
- Relocated technology office and technology equipment from other rooms in the Resource Center to temporary locations on campus during the heating/air/lighting project; set up 'temporary' office and other equipment if needed during this move (scheduled to be completed end of year).
- Purchased and upgraded additional technical and AV equipment as needed including cell phones, projectors, printers, classroom document cameras, webcams, etc.

## **LEGISLATION PASSED**

No new legislation specific to the operation of NDSD/RC was enacted.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES – Added or Deleted**

No changes in agency responsibility were added or deleted.

## EVALUATION

The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center (NDSD/RC) went through the accreditation process with Cognia in October 2023. NDSD/RC plans to engage with the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) Accreditation during this biennium.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS – ACTIVITIES

#### NDSD Resource Center

- Newsletter is sent monthly to showcase what is happening at NDSD/RC.
- Newspaper spotlighted pictures of staff and students for Deaf Awareness week.
- NDSD/RC Facebook account is focusing on sharing information about our students' learning, opportunities for families and the community, and about Deaf education.
- Monthly meetings with Leadership Team to share information, make decisions that impact the agency as a whole, and engage in team-building activities.
- Back to School Inservice, August 2022 and August 2023. August 2022 featured special guest Dr. Gulati who presented about language deprivation. August 2023 focused on our vision, mission, and purpose as well as Conscious Discipline training.
- The Resource Center HVAC and roofing project renovation is almost completed. We are projecting the reopening of the library and Resource Center in January 2024.
- Provided testimony to Legislative Committees regarding the programs offered at NDSD/RC and the budget needed for those programs.
- Participation in state facility review and planning and ND Budget reviews.

#### Parent Infant Program/School Age Outreach (from page 13 and additional)

- Completed Book Study, ***Supporting Success for Kids with Hearing Loss*** by Karen Anderson.
- Participation and attendance ND Hands & Voices Board meeting
- Provided in-services for over 200 staff in schools on deaf education for schools including Grand Forks Red River HS, Flasher School, Fort Yates, Mandan, Underwood, and Hope-Page.
- Presentations for Deaf Awareness week across North Dakota Schools
- Provided integrated sign language support to classroom students and staff as requested by the school.
- Home visits were in person and offered virtually depending on the families' preference.
- The PIP/School Age Outreach team met bi-weekly via video conferencing to develop plans and resources for families and professionals statewide.
- Initiated a pilot Microtia/Atresia Parent Support Group (MAPS).

- Initiated a Growing Up Deaf series.
- Organized Midwest Conference on Deaf Education.
- Initiated Deaf Mentor pilot program in August 2023 by training two Deaf adults as Mentors. Deaf Mentors providing services to families in their homes and virtually.
- Virtual Deaf Santa for 7 home visits and 8 school visits.
- Presentation to 60 UND OT students.
- Family Learning Vacation/Engagement program at NDSD in May 2022 and May 2023.
- Hosted 6 Pumpkin Patch events with Hands & Voices in the fall of 2022 and the fall of 2023. These events encourage families with deaf children to interact and support each other.

### **Adult Hearing Outreach (from page 10)**

- Adult Hearing Outreach department facilitated 36 Statewide Resource Groups\* in Devils Lake, Minot, Bismarck, Fargo, Harvey, Valley City, and Wahpeton, where there were more than 244 attendees.
- Currently developing a new presentation: "First Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community."
- "Law Enforcement trainings" were presented to the Fargo Police Officer Training Academy, the Jamestown Corrections department, Jamestown Police Department, Sheriff's department and some dispatch and county workers.
- Presentations this quarter on hearing loss were given to Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as senior coalition groups in Cando and Cavalier.
- One of our greater challenges over this past year has been the researching of safety equipment as many products have gone from the market. We have done this with the collaboration of Vocational Rehabilitation and ND Assistive.
- A new client packet was designed specifically for those with a cochlear implant.
- Participated in 6 booths to share information to the public/participating agencies.

*\*It has been a slow climb back from the pandemic and lower numbers at our groups. People are just starting to return.*

### **Communications**

- Provided interpreters for Devils Lake individuals served in after-school activities including Special Olympics.
- Provide interpreter services via Zoom for NDSD/RC teacher meetings, staff meetings, VR meetings with students, DLHS, etc. as needed.
- Ensure that NDSD/RC students continue to receive interpreter and/or tutoring services.
- Undergoing program changes.

### **Education Program**

- Updated the Educational Communication Policy to include American Sign Language (ASL), sign language, and visual access.
- Updated assessments to show student growth.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Professional Development**

Leadership changed during this biennium and some systems were not maintained during the leadership change. For this reason, this list is not exhaustive. Staff Development/Professional Development training opportunities staff members participated in during the 2021-2023 biennial cycle:

### **2021**

- NDSD/RC Back-to-School Orientation (8/21)
- Dr. Gulati presentation during Orientation about Language Deprivation (8/21)
- Beginning Braille Bonanza (8/21)
- Mental Health with Deaf Adults (8/21)
- Addressing Acquired Hearing Loss (8/21)
- Northeast Education Services Cooperative (8/21)
- Northern Plains Conference on Aging (10/21)
- Medications and Transition of Care (10/21)
- VA Training on Women and Resiliency (10/21)
- Recovery Reinvented (10/21)

### **2022**

- Power Up Conference (8/22)
- Collecting Data and Ensuring IEP Compliance (8/22)
- Five Day Classifier Camp (9/22)
- Data Driven Present Levels and Goals (10/22)
- Taming the Internet Beast (10/22)
- Speech Retreat (11/22)
- Language Deprivation: Old Concept, New Word (12/22)
- New Developments in Diagnosis and Treatment for Hearing Loss (12/22)
- Regions Hospital Annual Training (5/22)
- Hearing Loss Association of America (6/22)
- Bismarck Early Learning Conference (7/22)
- Soar to Success Summit (7/22)
- EdWeb various trainings (8/22-12/22)
- Center for Literacy and Deafness trainings (8/22-12/22)
- Hear to Learn trainings (9/22-10/22)
- MD EHDI Virtual Conference (12/22)
- Language First: Language Deprivation (12/22)

### **2023**

- Conscious Discipline (1/23-5/23)
- Five Days of ASL (1/23)
- Challenges in Assessing Bilinguals (1/23)
- Speech Development and Assessment in LSL Intervention (1/23)
- Clarke School Webinars (1/23)

- CI CAN CMV & ACI Alliance (2/23)
- Secret to Making CVI-Friendly Books (2/23)
- ND CEC Conference (2/23)
- National EHDI Conference (3/23)
- Strategies to Develop Auditory Comprehension (3/23)
- Bullying from Ear Community (3/23)
- Pediatric Cochlear Implant ACI (3/23)
- Helen Keller Information Meeting (4/23)
- Digital Accessibility 101 (5/23)
- Deaf CI Surgeon and Deaf Audiologist Webinars (5/23)
- Deaf Mentor Training (6/23)
- Midwest Conference on Deaf Education (6/23)

### **NDSD/RC Advisory Committee**

The NDSD/RC Advisory Committee is made up of educators, parents, legislators, ND state agency representatives, and ND college representatives. The Advisory Committee met twice this biennium.

#### **December 2021**

- New PIP/School-Aged Outreach Director
- Combined Facilities Department – Maintenance, Custodial, and Kitchen
- New Residential Staff
- Grant from DPI to update assessments
- Pool remodel
- Grant to purchase equipment for Adult Hearing Outreach to demonstrate

#### **December 2022**

- Funding ended that provided support to colleges to pay for interpreters
- Student opportunities shared – mainstreaming, sports
- Challenges facing PIP/School-Aged Outreach in terms of child find and IEP primary disability designations
- Adult Hearing Outreach partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation
- NDSD/RC Employee elected to ND Legislature
- State Library Project for the Banner
- Accreditation plans
- Policy Manual updating system
- Revised Communication Policy
- DPI's DHH Information Paper review

## Cognia Accreditation

North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center went through the Cognia accreditation process in 2022 with the review being complete in October 2023. Our original accreditation visit was scheduled for the spring of 2023. Due to staffing shortages, we asked to delay our accreditation visit until the fall, which was approved by Cognia.

A visiting team was scheduled for an in-person visit in October when a snow storm hit. The visit was rescheduled to a virtual visit. The accreditation team spent time with the Superintendent, a group of upper elementary and middle school students, and teachers and paraeducators. The team learned a lot about our unique school, our students' needs, our staff qualifications and struggles within the education and special education system.

While we won't have any official word about our accreditation status until later this school year, we are excited about the future. NDSD/RC has a good foundation of practice, staff dedicated to improvement and to their students, and a plan for the way forward.



## Cognia Strategic Plan

The Superintendent facilitated short conversations during weekly Education staff meetings related to the Cognia accreditation process. Teachers discussed self-assessment items, rated ourselves against each standard, and brainstormed evidence that would verify our self-rating. From those ratings, three goals were selected for focus in the continual self-improvement cycle.

**Goal #1** – Staff will explore social emotional learning for Deaf children and will select and implement a program school-wide.

- a. All staff will be trained in Conscious Discipline.
- b. Establish a committee to review behavior referral data.

**Goal #2** – Staff will explore assessments for Deaf children, develop a systematic assessment system to show student growth over time, and implement assessment system with fidelity.

- a. Establish an assessment committee to create a school-wide assessment plan and a system to analyze and share data.
- b. Create a “library system” for checking out assessments.
- c. Create / implement training on using assessment data to inform instruction.
- d. Explore options or report cards.

**Goal #3** – Staff will explore ASL-English Language Arts curricula (reading, writing, signing, speaking, listening) for Deaf children.

- a. Establish a committee to explore ASL-English Language Arts curricula.
- b. Examine curricula through the lens of language deprivation vs. deaf with disabilities.
- c. Continued training and implementation in Science of Reading methods using the Benchmark Reading Curriculum.



**Statistical Information  
Outreach Services Provided  
Biennium Comparisons  
21-22 and 22-23**

	<b>7/1/21- 6/30/22</b>	<b>7/1/21- 6/30/23</b>
<b>Outreach Services</b>		
<i>Parent Infant</i>		
Consultations	999	1,307
Evaluations	53	66
Direct Service	313	316
<i>School Age</i>		
Consultations	1,121	1,296
Evaluations	48	49
Direct Service	57	49
Summer Camp Attendees	15	18
<b>Adult Services</b>		
Consultations/Evaluations	601	234
Persons served	83	60
<b>Communications</b>		
American Sign Language Students	180	226
Interpreting Services Persons Served	2,709	2,380
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,179</b>	<b>6,001</b>

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

### Revenues by Source:

Lease - Rent of Buildings	\$	194,442
Transfer from Federal Programs	\$	132,525
General Fund Prior to Biennium	\$	-
Transfer from Land Commission	\$	2,014,000
Sales and Meals-Prepared Food	\$	293,577
Miscellaneous Sales and Services	\$	155,858
<b>Total Revenue for 2021-2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,790,402</b>

Expenditures by Program	General Fund	Federal Fund	Special Fund	Total
Capital Improvements		\$ -	\$ 208,272	\$ 208,272
Grants to Colleges	\$ 111,723	\$ -	\$ 14,060	\$ 125,783
Auxiliary Services (Plant, Custodial, Food Service)	\$ 1,588,729	\$ 34,163	\$ 406,837	\$ 2,029,729
Administration	\$ 851,555	\$ -	\$ 177,897	\$ 1,029,452
Resident Living	\$ 797,447	\$ -	\$ 73,826	\$ 871,273
Student Weekend Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 146,152	\$ 146,152
Education (Ed., Library, Tech., Interpreter)	\$ 2,359,441	\$ 86,789	\$ 352,230	\$ 2,798,460
Outreach Services (Adult Service Parent Infant/School Age)	\$ 1,835,709	\$ 11,573	\$ 253,405	\$ 2,100,687
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,544,604</b>	<b>\$ 132,525</b>	<b>\$ 1,632,679</b>	<b>\$ 9,309,808</b>

## **Breakdown of Expenditures by Line Item**

### **Salaries and Wages**

Salaries and Wages	\$	4,578,348
Temporary Salaries	\$	176,644
Fringe Benefits	\$	2,669,838

<b>Total Salaries and Wages</b>		<b>\$ 7,424,830</b>
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### **Operating**

IT Data Processing	\$	111,086
IT Communications	\$	57,600
IT Contractual Services	\$	12,000
Travel	\$	264,754
IT Software/Supplies	\$	11,132
Utilities		
Water/Sewer/Gar	\$	30,568
Coal	\$	-
Natural Gas	\$	146,754
Electricity	\$	56,392
Postage	\$	8,515
Lease/Rent Equipment	\$	12,432
Lease/Rent Bldg/Land	\$	50,874
Professional Development	\$	31,937
Operating Fees & Services	\$	38,336
Repairs	\$	46,075
Professional Services	\$	60,773
Insurance	\$	24,965
Office Supplies	\$	9,420
Printing	\$	6,522
Professional Supplies & Materials	\$	51,259
Food and Dry Goods	\$	156,469
Bldg. Grnds. Vehicle Supplies	\$	124,549
Dishes/Laundry/Rec	\$	19,795
Equip. Under \$ 750	\$	33,754
Supp. Not Classified	\$	47,364
IT- Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	76,833
IT Equipment/Software Over \$5000	\$	5,500
Other Equipment Under \$ 5000	\$	34,372
Office Equipment & Furniture	\$	20,893

<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 1,550,923</b>
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**Capital Assets**

Land and Buildings	\$	180,240	
Equipment	\$	28,032	
			\$ 208,272

**Grants**

Grants To Colleges	\$	125,783	
			\$ 125,783

**Total Expenditures** \$ 9,309,808

**RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS**

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

**CONCLUSION**

NDSD/RC serves as an educational and residential program for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. NDSD/RC serves as a statewide Resource Center to provide advocacy, leadership, and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Adult Hearing Outreach specialists continue to support individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and experiencing hearing loss later in life by offering services and trainings across the state. The Parent Infant Program and School Age Outreach specialists continue to expand their expertise to assist families and school personnel in providing services for deaf, hard of hearing, deaf with disabilities, and deafblind children. NDSD/RC partners with agencies across the state and country to accomplish our vision and mission of supporting those with hearing differences in achieving their dreams.

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