

# **Minnesota State Academies**

**serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Blind, and Visually Impaired students**

Terry Wilding, MSA Superintendent

# Who We Are

- State agency under the Executive Branch
- Two academies serving deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind and visually impaired students
- Established in 1858, we are among the oldest public schools in Minnesota





# Who We Serve

- Broad range of educational options from infancy through age 21
- Our deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired students come from all corners of the state
- All of our students meet special education criteria and have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- In addition to being deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, or visually impaired, many of our students also have additional learning needs or other challenges.



# What Makes MSA Unique

- Our teachers are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Education and use MN state standards in our curriculum
- Our staff are professionals who have additional training and skills to serve this population
- We provide a wealth of resources, educational tools and strategies, and trained/knowledgeable personnel that are available to support students statewide
- Our residential option provides opportunities for social and emotional development and opportunities to practice independent living skills





# What Makes MSA Unique

- Over 150 years of experience
  - Familiar with local and nationwide trends in education
  - Strong resource network/connection
  - Qualified, trained staff (of which many have had similar life experiences)
- Learning doesn't stop at 3 PM
  - After school and residential programs offer many socialization and extended learning opportunities
- We have the resources to provide an individualized education to fit each student



In addition to traditional and specialized curriculum, we offer:

- Birth-2 Home Visit Program
- Ages 2-5 Early Childhood
- Living Skills
- Career Education
- Adaptive Technology
- Transition/Work Study
- 18-21 Transition Programs
- Opportunities to take classes at the local school district and/or community college (PSEO)

## Academics





- School counselors, Psychologists, and Social Worker
- Additional Mental Health Therapy and Services
- American Sign Language (ASL) and Speech-Language Services
- Audiology Support and Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility
- Braille
- Assistive Technology
- Push-in (in-class) or pull-out services

## Support Services



- Health Clinic
- Student Nutrition Services
- Fiscal Services (student accounts)
- Physical Plant
- Information Technology
- Interpreting Staff
- Security Patrol (contracted)

## Campus Services





# Family Involvement

- Literacy Nights
- Family Immersion Weekends
- Parent ASL classes
- Parent/Teacher Association
- After School Programming



# How We're Funded

- Yearly allocations from the legislature based on recommendations from the Governor's office and some additional federal funding through the Minnesota Department of Education
- Bonding requests support major construction projects and asset preservation funds help maintain buildings on our campuses





# What the Future Holds

- Opportunity to support more students, parents, families and staff members who work with deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired children statewide as part of our five-year strategic planning
- Opportunity to rebuild programming that were terminated/reduced due to budget limitations



# What the Future Holds

- Opportunity to collaborate with school districts, parent organizations, the Minnesota Department of Education, and others to provide educational materials, resources and support
- Opportunity to develop connections and provide support to many school districts who are lacking trained/licensed professionals





# What the Future Holds

- 5-Year Strategic Plan with goals in the following areas:
  - Instruction and Assessment
  - Statewide Visibility
  - Transition
  - School Climate
  - Student Life
- To see our full strategic plan, go to our website:  
[www.msa.state.mn.us](http://www.msa.state.mn.us)



# 2019 Requests for Legislature

- Biennial Budget Needs
  - Operating Adjustment
  - Renewal of our Technology Initiative
  - Enhancing Services
- Bonding requests
  - Safety and Security Corridor
  - MSAB Dorm Renovations
  - Asset Preservation Funds
- Revision of 125A.71
  - Staff Development Funds





# Additional Considerations

- I-35 Signs
- Blind/Visually Impaired Teacher Preparation Program

