



# Minnesota State Academies

Faribault, Minnesota

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## 2 Academies –

**Minnesota State Academy for the Blind (MSAB)** – serving blind, visually impaired, and deafblind students

**Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD)** – serving deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deafblind students

Some students attend classes or receive services on both campuses, depending on their individual needs.

We serve students statewide – students come from more than 60 districts and we also provide resources and supports for many others.

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## **MSAD Educational Programs**

Starting at 18 months of age – through 21 years of age.

Age-appropriate academics, curriculum, language development, and critical thinking skills.

ASL-English Bilingual Instruction Program

A+ Transition Program for older students

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## **MSAB Educational Programs**

Starting in Kindergarten – through 21 years of age.

Age-appropriate academics, curriculum, language development, and critical thinking skills.

Braille, Orientation and Mobility, and Music programs

Expanded Core Curriculum

A+ Transition Program for older students

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## **Whole Child Development:**

### **Athletics, Music, Drama, Organizations/Clubs, After School Programs**

Provided to develop students' abilities, knowledge, and skills in various areas – academics, language, social-emotional skills, mental health, communication, problem solving, teamwork, self-advocacy, and so forth

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## **Residential Programs**

Incorporates after school educational programs – including athletics, extracurricular activities, workshops, independent living skills, and other daily life skills necessary for life after graduation.

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## **Funding:**

We are funded primarily through a biennial appropriation from the state legislature rather than by the funding formula that applies to other districts in Minnesota.

We are not able to issue any tax levies or bonding and rely on legislative action to fund all needs on our campus.

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# **2023 FUNDING REQUESTS**

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- **Operating Budget :**

We are requesting funds to cover the cost of our continued operations, with projected increases in salary and benefits costs. Based on historical data and information from the Minnesota Management and Budget, we have calculated the costs of maintaining our current levels of services and are requesting sufficient funds to continue our current operations. Inflation has increased our fixed costs significantly more than previous years.

- **Safety/Security Technology Initiative :**

We are also requesting funding to address necessary upgrades of hardware and software in the classrooms, computer labs, and server rooms as well as completion of our Mass Communication System and upgrades to our security camera/card key system to provide a secure/safe environment for our students and staff. This includes but is not limited to; upgrades to classroom and office computers, upgrades to our internal networks, servers, and switches, upgrades to and purchase of software components used by staff and students, plus accessibility and adaptive technologies for use by staff and students that need them and staffing to support the infrastructure and programming needs.

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- **Retention of Rental Income :**

The Minnesota State Academies is requesting a change to Statute 125A.71 to remove “excluding rent for land and living residences” from the first sentence in Subdivision 1. This will allow us to get extra funding for staff development needs.

- **Audiology Booth and Equipment:**

We are also requesting funds to purchase a new audiology booth and related testing equipment so that we can accurately test our students’ hearing and support their use of technological devices. We will also provide support for all school districts statewide with audiological testing and reports for students’ Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

- **Mental Health Day Treatment Program Fund**

Lastly, we are requesting the establishment of a fund to support the establishment and maintenance of a mental health day treatment program at MSA. Based on information gathered in a survey completed by the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing, it was indicated that there is a great need for additional mental health services for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing youth in Minnesota, going beyond the usual school counselor/social work services provided in school districts. The establishment of a mental health day treatment program is one step towards meeting the mental health needs of deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing youth statewide.

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