



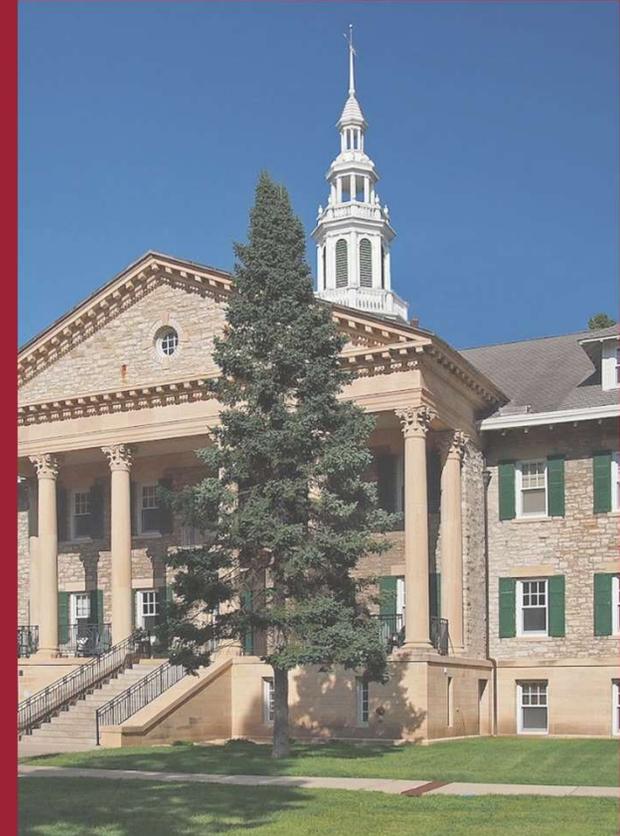
Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind

Spring 2026



Who We Are

- 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.
- Statewide resource with expertise, staff, and programs designed specifically for our learners





Who We Serve

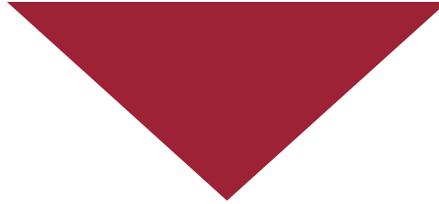
- We serve children from birth through age 22, supporting students from across Minnesota's diverse school districts
- Every student has an IEP/IFSP
- Many have additional learning/physical disabilities
- Residential and day programs help students build independence, confidence, and lifelong skills
- We give families access to specialized staff and adaptive resources





MSAB

Serving blind, visually impaired, and deafblind students.



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 from all parts of the state. About 60% of our students commute daily from their homes while 40% of our students are residential students in our dorms.



How We are Funded

For any of our construction or asset preservation projects, we are not funded through the usual levy referendum process or Long Term Facilities Maintenance Funds utilized by public schools.

We rely solely on bonding funds allocated by the legislature, based on the Governor's recommendations. Those funds support major construction projects and asset preservation funds help maintain buildings and grounds on our campuses.



2025 Asset Preservation Funds



Spring 2025 Bonding Funds

\$1M appropriated

Expenditures/Encumbrances to date: \$451,730.58

Projects include (costs approximate until final invoices are completed):

- Plumbing Replacements/Repairs - \$55K
- Building Management System Repair - \$20K
- Boiler Repairs/Replacements - \$75K
- Wheelchair Lift for accessibility - \$235K
- Water Heater Replacement – \$31K
- Tate Hall Cupola/Roof Repairs – \$105K

Upcoming Projects (Spring/Summer 2026)

- Concrete/Asphalt Repair/Replacements - \$75K
- Classroom Storage Upgrades - \$32K
- HVAC Systems Repair/Upgrades - \$100K
- Tate Hall Water/Sewer Piping replacement - \$150K



Our 2026 Bonding Requests

We have three bonding requests for this legislative session (listed within our governor's recommendations)

MSAD Student Center Pre-Design Funds
MSAB Therapy Pool Replacement Pre-Design Funds
Asset Preservation Funds



Student Center PreDesign

\$500,000

- This project will fund architects to evaluate our needs and recommend a modern, energy-efficient, low-maintenance building that is fully accessible and code-compliant.
- The new Student Center would bring together career/technical education, the cafeteria, athletics and PE facilities, and other essential spaces on the MSAD campus.
- Replacing up to five aging buildings (75–100 years old) with one modern facility would reduce staffing, maintenance, energy, and workers' compensation costs.
- This investment positions us for the next 25 years by creating safe, efficient, and student-focused spaces, while easing the burden on Asset Preservation and General Funds.



Additional Information

This project is especially important because:

- Current buildings are outdated, inefficient, and not fully accessible
- Limitations directly affect the quality of educational programs
- Growing number of students and staff with physical disabilities require accessible spaces
- A modern, user-friendly facility supports both learning and well-being
- Aligns with MSA's long-term strategic goals





Therapy Pool Replacement PreDesign - \$450,000

- Significant time and Asset Preservation funds have gone into maintaining the 60-year-old therapy pool, which is outdated, costly, and not fully accessible
- Students with physical disabilities face barriers safely entering and exiting the pool
- Predesign study will create a plan for a modern, accessible replacement connected to the MSAB instructional building
- New facility will enhance therapy services while allowing the old pool space to be repurposed for academic use
- Investment will reduce long-term costs for staffing, energy, maintenance, and workers' compensation
- Repurposed space will expand academic, transition, and performing arts programs in line with MSA's mission

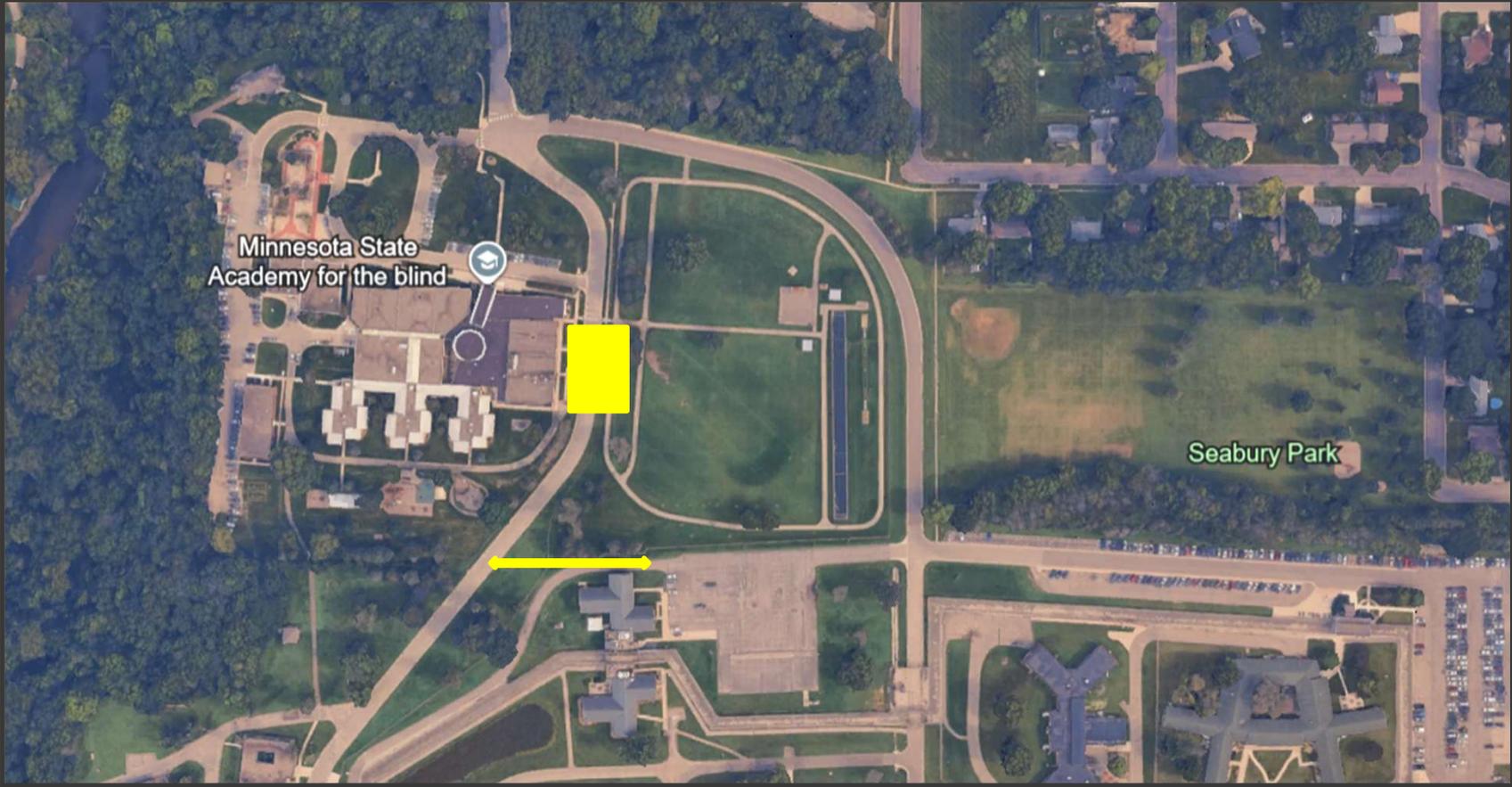


Additional Information

Our students need this project because:

- Current pool and hot tub are not fully accessible and do not meet current standards/codes.
- Facilities are inefficient and require frequent repairs, limiting student use. When the pool is closed, our students cannot receive their required therapy services.
- These limitations negatively affect our delivery of educational and therapeutic programs.
- More students now have physical disabilities that require pool-based therapy and exercise.
- A fully accessible environment is essential for students with physical disabilities.
- This project will require collaboration with the Department of Corrections as access roads will be affected.





Asset Preservation Funds – \$2.5 M

- Asset Preservation funding has helped reduce needed campus projects, but ongoing work is required due to building age and design.
- Continued funding ensures maintenance, safety, security, accessibility, and long-term upkeep so programs can operate effectively.
- Current priorities include: electrical upgrades (transformers, generators, switches), HVAC and plumbing improvements, accessibility projects, fire system updates, and building/exterior safety enhancements.
- Projects are prioritized based on life/safety, accessibility, program needs, and efficiency.
- Completed projects deliver savings and benefits: lower maintenance, reduced workers' compensation costs, improved safety and accessibility, and increased productivity.



Additional Information

- Most campus buildings pre-date the ADA, requiring ongoing updates to meet student needs.
- We have invested time, money, and energy to improve security and safety for students and families.
- About 65% of MSA's square footage is rated fair, poor, or crisis condition.
- Completing all Asset Preservation projects would cost \$18–20 million; some larger AP projects are bundled with facility upgrades to reduce the backlog (e.g., Student Center project).
- Goal: maintain state facilities and educational programs in compliance with state, federal, and regulatory standards.



Recent AP Projects

Recent Improvements Supported by AP Funding (2023 and 2025 appropriations)

- Replacement of Tate Hall Roof (MSAD Dorm)
- Repairs to Lysen Hall Roof (MSAB school)
- MSAB Dorms Heating/Cooling system upgrade
- Replacement and relocation of a freezer in the MSAD cafeteria
- Repairs to Tate Hall Cupola (roof leak)
- Updating controls for Heating/Cooling in Quinn/Smith Halls (MSAD school)
- MSAB Pool Repairs
- Steam Condenser repairs/replacement at MSAB
- Repair of sidewalks and asphalt on both campuses
- Smith/Quinn Hall exterior door replacement (security and accessibility)



Additional Information

Project goals:

- Bonding projects aim to optimize building use while meeting students' educational needs.
- Proposed projects will reduce square footage and maximize existing spaces.
- Benefits include lower energy use, reduced staffing and maintenance costs, and safer, more accessible facilities.
- Full funding could cut approximately 100,000 sq. ft. and significantly reduce operating costs.



Thank you for your support

www.msa.state.mn.us

