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https://www.msa.state.mn.us/

AT A GLANCE

- The Minnesota State Academies oversees two schools the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind (MSAB), and the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) on 2 campuses in Faribault, Minnesota.
- The Academies have provided educational services to blind/visually impaired (B/VI), deafblind (DB), and deaf/hard-of-hearing (D/HH) students since the 1860s. Many of our students also have additional disabilities and learning/communication needs.
- The Academies are a public school district, utilizing the same educational standards and expectations as other districts in the state. All of our students are special education students on Individual Education Plans.
- Students from over 60 different school districts attend classes at the Academies.
- The Academies are funded primarily through a biennial appropriation rather than by the funding formula that is applied to other districts in the state. The Academies are not able to issue any tax levies or bonding and rely on legislative action to fund all needs on our campuses.

PURPOSE

The Minnesota State Academies contribute to the goals for education of providing a world class education, safe and nurturing environment, and caring and qualified teachers. Our school programs incorporate fully accessible and specially designed instructional services to our state's deaf, hard-of-hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired students. We provide educational programming that ensures their full access to academics, language, social development, and mental health. Our mission is: "Minnesota State Academies empowers every student to achieve, care, and thrive in an ever-changing world." In our efforts to prepare students, we provide educational programming to support students in their development of knowledge, critical thinking, and skills necessary to become contributing members of Minnesota's economy, promoting transition skills to support successful employment and independence after graduation.

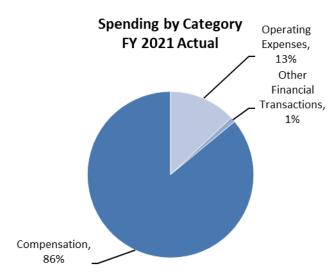
Each student is provided with opportunities to maximize their education and skills so that they can reach their transition goals, in conjunction with their Individual Education Plans. Our students range in age from infants who participate in Early Childhood services through 21-year-old students who are working to meet graduation requirements and Individual Education Plan expectations beyond the usual four years of high school. During most years, we have approximately 140-160 students. Our numbers have recently declined somewhat due to the COVID-19 pandemic, similar to the experiences of many school districts in Minnesota. However, we have begun to see an uptick in enrollments and anticipate returning to our usual enrollment numbers within the next year or two.

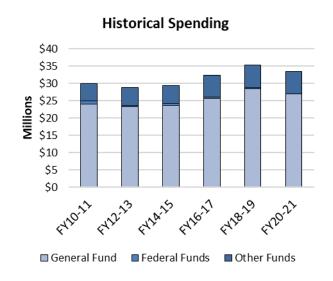
In our educational programming, we incorporate instruction and training for families in supporting communication access and educational growth for their B/VI, DB, or D/HH child – this contributes to strong family connections and support for their child, and we are working to expand our services to support communities around the state. As a part of our legal obligations to be a resource to school districts, we also serve school districts statewide, providing support in staff training, assessments for students, and certain support services that are required by students' Individual Education Plans.

While D/HH or B/VI students are the majority of our enrollment, Minnesota State Academies also serves students who are both deaf and blind (DB), and many also have significant physical or cognitive disabilities. School districts usually have very few students with those disabilities and have collaborated with Minnesota State Academies to provide the best available and least restrictive educational environment because 1) the needs of the students are

met fully; 2) it is more efficient to enroll a student at Minnesota State Academies in an established program that is designed to meet their needs and has a larger critical mass of peers/students rather than trying to develop a minimally effective program for a small number of students with limited services and a much smaller critical mass; and 3) our staff members are highly trained in instructional methodology that matches the needs of our students — they are able to design effective and accessible lessons, using student-centered methods and appropriate technology/strategies, including full and direct communication in the students' most accessible language/mode of learning.

BUDGET





Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The annual operating budget for FY21 to the Minnesota State Academies is approximately 17.3 million dollars. The Academies use operating funds as well as capital appropriations (not included in the chart above) to maintain buildings on two campuses, two of which are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

STRATEGIES

- Rather than serving one geographical location, the Academies serve B/VI, DB, and D/HH students from the entire state. The Academies provide a fully accessible educational environment that is designed specifically to meet their needs, serving as an additional option for districts which have very few deaf or blind students in their schools. Rather than hiring special education teachers and purchasing needed support services and equipment, especially with the limited number of qualified individuals available for those positions/services, the districts have the ability (with parental agreement) to send a student to the Academies with no tuition costs.
- The mission of the Academies is to empower students to achieve, care, and thrive in an ever-changing world. We meet the challenges of a student population with varied communication and learning needs through using state standards, Individual Education Programs (IEP), transition planning, and incorporation of research-based best practices for instruction of B/VI, DB, and D/HH individuals. We incorporate instruction in Braille, Orientation and Mobility, American Sign Language/English bilingual strategies, speech & language services, among others in ensuring that each of our students' needs are met both in the classroom and outside the classroom. We focus on development of each child as a whole, enhancing opportunities for further success in life.
- The role of the Academies is to provide a comprehensive and appropriately designed educational program for our student population. We have a responsibility and obligation to provide top-quality education

programming in an efficient and accountable way. Our teachers prepare lessons and instructional units to ensure that our students work towards achievement of Minnesota state standards and IEP goals established by their IEP teams. We provide professional development/learning opportunities for our teachers to maintain their knowledge and skills, ensuring that we continue to utilize research-based methodology and best practices for teaching blind and deaf students, including any additional needs that they may have. Outside of the classroom, we provide enrichment and extracurricular opportunities so that students can develop fully as a whole child (meeting their mental health, social, physical, and communication needs).

- In alignment with the expectations established by Minnesota's Olmstead Plan, our school supports students with coursework, experiential activities, work readiness, and independent living skills that support their ability to have an independent life after graduation that allows for them to choose a variety of occupations, living situations, and recreational/social opportunities. The Olmstead Plan is defined as a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting. This enhances their ability to be contributing neighbors and employees in Minnesota. We collaborate with other state agencies and school districts to provide a variety of transition programming.
- The Academies' special education program is involved in a continuous review cycle developed and
 overseen by the Minnesota Department of Education to ensure that we follow established processes and
 procedures to develop individual education plans and evaluations following the needs of each student.
 Our special education professionals have specific training and knowledge related to evaluations, teaching,
 and designing educational programming that matches our student population.
- Our Early Childhood services include instruction for students, starting as soon as the child is identified as B/VI, DB, or D/HH. We provide home-based services, supporting students and their families with communication, language, and learning access at home until the child becomes 2 years of age. At that time, parents have the option of enrolling their children in our site-based early childhood classes for part-day/full-day instruction designed to maximize the students' learning and language opportunities. This supports the family structure and encourages continued communication and learning at home, outside of the classroom, which enhances further learning and academic success of the child.
- Lastly, we issue diplomas to students who have met the requirements for graduation, including special education goals. While working towards earning a diploma, each student receives individually designed educational programming, accommodations, and services to support his/her growth towards achieving transition goals established in their Individual Education Program.

Statutes applied to the Minnesota State Academies:

M.S. 125A.61; M.S. 125A.62; M.S. 125A.63; M.S. 125A.64; M.S. 125A.65; M.S. 125A.66; M.S. 125A.67; M.S. 125A.68; M.S. 125A.69; M.S. 125A.70; M.S. 125A.71; M.S. 125A.72; M.S. 125A.73; M.S. 125A.74

Agency Expenditure Overview

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	Base	Enacted E	Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24 FY25		FY25	
Expenditures by Fund									
1000 - General	13,194	14,246	13,136	15,237	14,323	14,323	17,766	17,189	
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	186	0	263	373	372	351	372	351	
2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue	3,345	3,016	3,366	3,556	3,591	3,570	3,591	3,570	
2400 - Endowment	3	0	0						
2403 - Gift	122	3	67	61	67	64	67	64	
3000 - Federal	267	89	438	495	245	249	245	249	
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency	62	1	68	50	52	58	52	58	
Total	17,179	17,356	17,337	19,772	18,650	18,615	22,093	21,481	
Biennial Change				2,573		156		6,465	
Biennial % Change				7		0		17	
Enacted Budget Change from Base								6,309	
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								17	

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Ba	ise	Enacted Bu	dget
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		553		920				
Direct Appropriation	13,746	13,787	14,056	14,317	14,323	14,323	17,766	17,189
Transfers In	916	1,650	1,444	460				
Transfers Out	916	1,650	1,444	460				
Cancellations		93						
Balance Forward Out	552		920					
Expenditures	13,194	14,246	13,136	15,237	14,323	14,323	17,766	17,189
Biennial Change in Expenditures				932		273		6,582
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				3		1		23
Enacted Budget Change from Base								6,309
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								22

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

2000 Reserved Wilse Special New								
Balance Forward In	2,056	2,236	2,529	2,482	2,417	2,353	2,417	2,353
Receipts	366	293	216	308	308	296	308	296
Transfers In	70	60	38	30	30	30	30	30
Transfers Out	70	60	38	30	30	30	30	30
Balance Forward Out	2,236	2,529	2,482	2,417	2,353	2,298	2,353	2,298
Expenditures	186	0	263	373	372	351	372	351
Biennial Change in Expenditures				449		87		87
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				241		14		14
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0

2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	2,292	2,460	2,966	2,736	2,658	2,530	2,658	2,530
Receipts	3,440	3,483	3,136	3,478	3,463	3,463	3,463	3,463
Balance Forward Out	2,387	2,927	2,736	2,658	2,530	2,423	2,530	2,423
Expenditures	3,345	3,016	3,366	3,556	3,591	3,570	3,591	3,570
Biennial Change in Expenditures				560		239		239
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				9		3		3
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0

Agency Financing by Fund

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Ba	ase	Enacted Bu	ıdget
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
2400 - Endowment								
Balance Forward In	9	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Receipts	0	0	0					
Balance Forward Out	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Expenditures	3	0	0					
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(3)		0		
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(100)				
Enacted Budget Change from Base								
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								
2403 - Gift Balance Forward In	620	553	601	557	551	533	551	53
Receipts	55	50	23	55	49	55	49	5
Transfers In			0					
Transfers Out			0					
Balance Forward Out	553	601	557	551	533	524	533	52
Expenditures	122	3	67	61	67	64	67	6
Biennial Change in Expenditures				3		3		
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				3		2		
Enacted Budget Change from Base								
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								
3000 - Federal								
Balance Forward In	61	8	159	83	89	102	89	10
Receipts	214	241	361	501	258	258	258	25
Balance Forward Out	8	159	83	89	102	111	102	11
Expenditures	267	89	438	495	245	249	245	24
Biennial Change in Expenditures				576		(439)		(439
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				162		(47)		(47
Enacted Budget Change from Base								
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

Agency Financing by Fund

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget		
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25		
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency										
Balance Forward In	131	133	144	125	134	140	134	140		
Receipts	64	12	50	59	58	58	58	58		
Balance Forward Out	133	144	126	134	140	140	140	140		
Expenditures	62	1	68	50	52	58	52	58		
Biennial Change in Expenditures				55		(8)		(8)		
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				87		(7)		(7)		
Enacted Budget Change from Base								0		
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								0		

Agency Change Summary

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	14,317	14,317	14,317	28,634
Base Adjustments				
Pension Allocation		6	6	12
Forecast Base	14,317	14,323	14,323	28,646
Change Items				
Maintain Current Service Levels		1,574	2,073	3,647
Safety/Security Technology Initiative		978	287	1,265
Audiology Booth and Equipment		125		125
Mental Health Day Treatment Program		445	185	630
Unemployment Costs		321	321	642
Total Enacted Budget	14,317	17,766	17,189	34,955
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	373	372	351	723
Forecast Base	373	372	351	723
Total Enacted Budget	373	372	351	723
Fund: 2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	3,556	3,591	3,570	7,161
Forecast Base	3,556	3,591	3,570	7,161
Total Enacted Budget	3,556	3,591	3,570	7,161
Fund: 2403 - Gift				
Planned Spending	61	67	64	131
Forecast Base	61	67	64	131
Total Enacted Budget	61	67	64	131
Fund: 3000 - Federal				
Planned Spending	495	245	249	494
Forecast Base	495	245	249	494
Total Enacted Budget	495	245	249	494
Fund: 6000 - Miscellaneous Agency				
Planned Spending	50	52	58	110
Forecast Base	50	52	58	110
Total Enacted Budget	50	52	58	110

Agency Change Summary

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	308	308	296	604
Total Enacted Budget	308	308	296	604
Fund: 2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	3,478	3,463	3,463	6,926
Total Enacted Budget	3,478	3,463	3,463	6,926
Fund: 2403 - Gift				
Forecast Revenues	55	49	55	104
Total Enacted Budget	55	49	55	104
Fund: 3000 - Federal				
Forecast Revenues	501	258	258	516
Total Enacted Budget	501	258	258	516
Fund: 6000 - Miscellaneous Agency				
Forecast Revenues	59	58	58	116
Total Enacted Budget	59	58	58	116

Enacted Budget Changes

(Dollars in Thousands)

			Biennium			Biennium
FY23	FY24	FY25	2024-25	FY26	FY27	2026-27

Maintain Current Service Levels

This provision provides additional operating funds to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Minnesota State Academies.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	1,574	2,073	3,647	2,073	2,073	4,146
Expenditures	0	1,574	2,073	3,647	2,073	2,073	4,146

Safety/Security Technology Initiative

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

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	978	287	1,265	534	291	825
Expenditures	0	978	287	1,265	534	291	825

Audiology Booth and Equipment

This provision provides onetime funding for MSA to purchase a new audiology booth and related testing equipment to accurately test students' hearing and support their use of technological devices. MSA will also provide support for all school districts statewide with audiological testing and reports for students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	125	0	125	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	125	0	125	0	0	0

Mental Health Day Treatment Program

This provision funds the establishment and maintenance of a mental health day treatment program at MSA. The FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations are available until June 30, 2027. 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, going beyond the usual school counselor/social work services provided in school districts.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	445	185	630	185	185	370
Expenditures	0	445	185	630	185	185	370

Unemployment Costs

This provision provides additional funding to cover unemployment insurance costs. A provision in Laws 2023, Chapter 55 (the E-12 education bill) makes school employees (if working in roles other than instructional, research, or principal administrative capacities, i.e. "hourly workers") eligible for unemployment benefits between school terms if they otherwise meet unemployment eligibility requirements.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	321	321	642	321	321	642
Expenditures	0	321	321	642	321	321	642

Enacted Budget Changes

(Dollars in Thousands)

			Biennium			Biennium
FY23	FY24	FY25	2024-25	FY26	FY27	2026-27

Pension Contributions to the Teachers Retirement Association

This provision from Laws 2023, Chapter 64 (the tax bill) increases the budget base in FY 2026 and later for increased employer pension contributions to the Teachers Retirement Association.

1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)	0	0	0	0	44	44	88
Expenditures	0	0	0	0	44	44	88

Retention of Rental Income

The provision amends M.S. 125A.71 to allow the Minnesota State Academies to retain income received for renting out land and living residences. Previously such income was directed to the state general fund. In the base budget for FY 2024-25, the estimate for this revenue was negligible, so this provision does not carry a cost.