

Project Requests for State Funds					
Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	2026	2028	2030
Pre-Design: MSAD Student Center	1	GO	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 0
Pre-Design: MSAB Therapy Pool and Related Improvements	2	GO	\$ 450	\$ 0	\$ 0
Asset Preservation	3	GO	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
MSAB Library Renovations	4	GO	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Project Requests			\$ 9,950	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 9,950	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

**Pre-Design: MSAD Student Center****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$500**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota State Academies are requesting \$500,000 to complete a predesign for the MSAD Student Center - with the goal of replacing up to 5 aging and inefficient buildings into a single accessible building that matches our current students' academic, physical, and transition needs.

**Project Description**

To hire architects to evaluate our needs and recommend an energy efficient/low-maintenance building that is fully accessible and code compliant, potentially replacing up to 5 aging, high-maintenance buildings and outdated/inaccessible facilities. This center will incorporate our athletic/PE facilities; cafeteria; career/technical education; storage; and other needs on our MSAD campus.

Buildings that will be evaluated include Mott Hall (our outdated vocational instructional building); Lauritsen Gym (our outdated and inaccessible gymnasium and athletic facilities); Rodman Hall (our cafeteria and related spaces); Laundry Building (unsafe and unused); and Rodman Garage (storage space for our physical plant).

Additional considerations include physical access, ease of use, exterior spaces around this building, and additional athletic, educational, and transition needs.

**Project Rationale**

We have aging and inefficient buildings on our MSAD campus that do not match our current safety, accessibility, and educational needs. Multiple buildings are over 90 years old and we need assistance in determining if renovation or replacement is more feasible. We anticipate reviewing the use of 5 buildings and other facilities on the MSAD campus and potentially replacing them with a single building, saving costs in energy, maintenance, workmen compensation, and other related costs.

Our current buildings have been repaired/renovated numerous times, draining funds from our Asset Preservation and General Funds and we believe that replacement is a more cost effective approach towards having buildings on our campuses that match our students' current needs. An increasing number of students at MSAD have additional physical challenges and our current buildings are not fully accessible for them.

**Project Timeline**

After funding is obtained, we hope to consult with architects quickly and come up with a plan for consideration during the next legislative session.

**Other Considerations**

According to our most recent facilities condition report, the 5 buildings that we are examining in this process are either in Crisis or Poor condition. The deferred maintenance costs of those buildings add up to over \$9,000,000 - we believe that replacement with a modern, efficient, and low maintenance building will serve us better and reduce the use of future Asset Preservation/General Funds.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Future savings will be determined during the design process. Significant savings are anticipated (energy, maintenance, asset preservation, staffing)

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

This is a request that has not been funded yet. We have requested funds during previous legislative sessions, but this has not been included in previous bonding bills.

**Project Contact Person**

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**Pre-Design: MSAB Therapy Pool and Related Improvements****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$450**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota State Academies are asking for \$450,000 to complete a predesign plan for the replacement of our existing MSAB therapy pool/therapeutic hot tub and related campus/building improvements. This project will include building an addition to our MSAB instructional building to house a new pool/hot tub that is designed appropriately for our students' physical therapy needs-with the goal of improving the existing spaces for other academic needs.

**Project Description**

To hire an architectural firm to investigate and evaluate our existing pool/building conditions and propose a new design and cost estimates for relocating and building an accessible, energy efficient, and low maintenance pool area, including renovations of the existing pool area for academic/transition spaces/performing arts center, relocation of utilities, parking spaces and roads, security measures, and other necessary site improvements required to relocate the therapy pool and therapeutic hot tub so that they are fully accessible and compliant with current codes. Aligned with this, anticipated changes in the layout of the building will require other upgrades to be completed (relocation of roads/parking spaces; power/water supply, security measures, etc.).

**Project Rationale**

We have a therapy pool/therapeutic hot tub that is aging (over 50 years old) - we have spent considerable time and funds trying to maintain and use the equipment/facilities and due to a variety of factors, it is our intent to replace them instead of continuing to invest additional funds/time. The current pool and hot tub are also minimally accessible, and it is difficult for our students to enter/exit the pool/hot tub. We need a fully accessible environment for our students, many of whom have numerous physical challenges requiring the use of assistive technology.

Furthermore, we anticipate expanding our academic/transition/performing arts courses for our students into the current pool area in order to meet our school's mission and goals. When designing and replacing the pool, we anticipate that this will require the removal of an existing road that passes through our campus to the Faribault Correctional Facility and will require additional site/campus improvements to ensure that our campus remains safe (fencing, cameras, lighting, etc.).

**Project Timeline**

After funding is obtained, we hope to consult with architects quickly and come up with a plan for consideration during the next legislative session.

**Other Considerations**

By replacing this pool, we will reduce the need for future Asset Preservation funds. The pool/hot tub have undergone numerous repairs/renovations over the past 8-10 years and have reached the end of its operational life.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Future savings would be determined through the design process. Significant savings are anticipated (energy, maintenance, asset preservation, safety).

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

This request has not been funded yet. We have requested funds during previous legislative sessions, but this has not been included in previous bonding bills.

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## Asset Preservation

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$3,000**Priority Ranking:** 3

**Project Summary:** The State Academies are requesting \$3 million in asset preservation funds to continue work on completion of projects and renovations to ensure compliance with ADA, safety/security concerns, and DHH/BVI accessibility needs on both campuses of the Minnesota State Academies. We are asking for continued funding to catch up with our backlog of necessary repairs/renovations.

**Project Description**

The State Academies operate boarding schools for deaf and blind students that reside throughout the state of Minnesota on their two campuses in Faribault. The campuses both contain dorms, cafeterias, classrooms, gyms, and offices. Asset Preservation appropriations, along with operating funds, are the only source of money the Academies have for maintaining their historic and varied facilities.

Projects covered by this include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Replacement of deteriorated walks and drives
- Safety upgrades to doors and windows
- Tuck pointing
- Wheelchair lift project for accessibility
- Update restroom facilities to bring them up to current accessibility codes
- Accessibility upgrades to older buildings to support our students with physical challenges
- Security upgrades to improve the safety of our students on both campuses
- Replacement of heating boilers and piping
- Replacement of HVAC systems
- Playground accessibility/expansion

**Project Rationale**

Our capital needs are extensive because our campuses have multiple buildings that are aging and require continued attention and renovations to meet current safety and accessibility codes. Our student population is also changing and requires additional accessibility and safety features to be implemented. Several of our buildings are in Crisis, Poor, or Fair condition and need to be maintained/upgraded to ensure the safety and function of those buildings for our students' needs.

The money that we are requesting will allow us to address many projects that have been deferred over the years.

**Project Timeline**

We will utilize the funds over the next 3-4 years to complete projects; however, the exact timing will rely on guidance from RECS and the overall bidding process.

**Other Considerations**

Our student population includes students who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired. Many of those students also have additional physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities which means that we need to continually evaluate and upgrade our buildings and facilities to ensure that our students are safe and supported appropriately during their educational activities on our campuses.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

By improving the safety and accessibility of our buildings, we will reduce workmen compensation claims; avoid any litigation regarding accessibility; and ensure compliance with current laws, regulations, and codes. Some renovations will also reduce the manpower needed within our physical plant department to maintain our buildings.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

The State Academies received \$700,000 in 2014, \$2,000,000 in 2017, \$2,000,000 in 2018, \$3,150,000 in 2020, \$1,200,000 in 2023, and \$1,000,000 in 2025 for Asset Preservation.

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## MSAB Library Renovations

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$6,000**Priority Ranking:** 4

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota State Academies is requesting \$6 million for predesign, design, and renovations of the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Library building that was previously vacated by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The space was previously leased by MDE and called the Minnesota Talking Book and Braille Library.

**Project Description**

To design and renovate the MSAB Library building to match our students' current needs. The predesign plan, along with the overall design will allow us to maximize the use of the building, ensure safety and accessibility, increase energy efficiency, reduce maintenance needs, and remedy asbestos and any other potentially dangerous materials in the building. We are requesting funds to design and implement upgrades to make the building accessible and functional for our students' use.

The upgrades include building a connection between the library and the main instructional building for safety/security reasons; adding a new boiler/mechanical room to serve the heating and cooling needs of the entire campus; and demolition of another building (Industrial Building) after the functions of this aging building are transferred into the renovated library building. By removing this other building once renovations are complete, it will give us the ability to relocate services, activities, and essential functions. By doing this, our maintenance, energy, upkeep, and staffing needs will be reduced, supporting our current and long-term budget and staffing needs.

**Project Rationale**

The MSAB Library building previously housed the Minnesota Talking Book and Braille Library that is managed by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). After MDE made the decision to relocate their services to Minneapolis, this building became vacant. We need to ensure that the building is safe and designed appropriately for our students to use.

We want to preserve the building and move classes, services, and other functions from another aging building so that our needs are better served. By connecting the library building to the main instructional building, we will enhance the safety/security of all students, staff, and visitors to our campus. This is especially critical as we are located adjacent to the Faribault Correctional Facility, and we want to ensure that our students and staff are safe.

**Project Timeline**

After funding is obtained, we hope to start the project within one year. The anticipated duration of the project is also approximately one year.



**Other Considerations**

We are hoping to reduce the square footage that we are required to maintain (staff, heating/cooling, energy use, cleaning/maintenance, and so forth). By improving the quality and function of this library building, we believe we can become more efficient and use our state funding more wisely, setting us up well for the future.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

By improving the safety and accessibility of this building, we will reduce workmen compensation claims; avoid any litigation regarding accessibility; and ensure compliance with current laws, regulations, and codes. Some renovations will also reduce the manpower needed within our physical plant department to maintain buildings on our campuses. Demolition of an existing aging building after this building has been renovated will reduce the square footage that we need to maintain.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

This is a request that has not been funded yet. We requested funds during the previous legislative session, but this has not been included in previous bonding bills.

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