

September 2024



South Dakota Services for the Deaf



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Storybook Island Event in Rapid City

On a sweltering August Saturday morning in Rapid City, South Dakota Services for the Deaf Outreach Consultants Shawna Goldhammer, Nina Ringstmeyer, and Kerry Ruth hosted a family signing event with Makenzie Ovenstone from SD Deaf Outreach Resources Program. Families practiced their signing skills at Storybook Island: "The Place Where Magic Happens" on August 24th. Children enjoyed a train ride and bottled water courtesy of the SDSD Foundation. MaKenzie led everyone through the park and taught new sign vocabulary to the families. Conversations in the cool grass and shade was the perfect ending to a fun event.

Strategic Plan Approval by the Board

SDSD Superintendent Van Sickle proudly presented the SDSD's strategic plan to the Board of Regents this fall, earning their full approval. The plan focuses on fostering student achievement, expanding outreach and audiology services, and enhancing community partnerships.

- Strategic Priority 1: Build capacity of SDSD and strengthen collaborative partnerships to meet the unique needs of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing across the state.
- Strategic Priority 2: Raise local, state, and national awareness of SDSD's roles and responsibilities as a vital resource for children, families, and educational teams.
- Strategic Priority 3: Establish a center of excellence in transitional support services spanning various developmental phases for children in South Dakota from birth through high school graduation.
- Strategic Priority 4: Expand and provide equal access to audiology services across the state.



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SDSD is proud to share our annual summary numbers. Proud to be partners in education of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

SD SERVICES FOR THE DEAF ANNUAL SUMMARY

2023 - 2024




13 OUTREACH CONSULTANTS
155 NEW CLIENT REFERRALS



2 PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGISTS
4 AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

329
CLIENTS SERVED
2009-2010

691
CLIENTS SERVED
2023-2024

116
AGES 0-5
575
AGES 6-21
GRADUATED 35

26,919
HEARING SCREENINGS



1,151
AUDIOLOGY
EVALUATIONS

229 Audiology Services Site Visits



2,433 SOUTH DAKOTANS
EDUCATED BY SDSD STAFF



105,039 MILES DRIVEN
BY SDSD TEAM

24 TOTAL
SDSD
STAFF



**HANDS IN MOTION
SUMMER ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM**

40 Students



ASL CLASSES

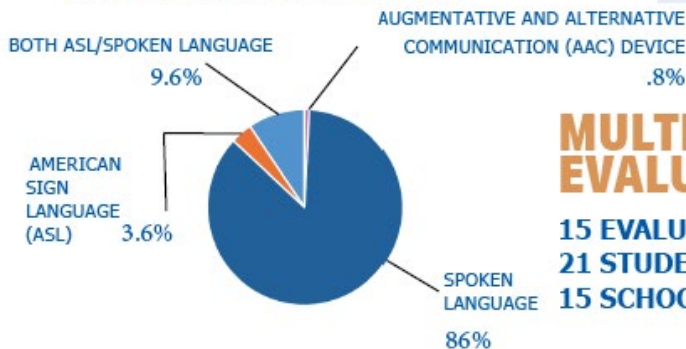
179 Participants



FACEBOOK

1,937 Followers

MODES OF COMMUNICATION



MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EVALUATIONS

15 EVALUATION STAFF MEMBERS
21 STUDENT EVALUATIONS COMPLETED
15 SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTNERED WITH



Sioux Falls Canaries Game

On a lively evening at the Canaries baseball stadium in September, a group of upper elementary and middle school aged SDSD clients enjoyed a night out with their families and friends. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as they gathered to watch the game, sharing moments of fun and conversation. SD Services for the Deaf consultants, Jodi and Alissa, joined them, providing support and ensuring that everyone had a good time throughout the event. The students focused on the action on the field, enjoying the game and the company of their peers as they created memories together.

New Mobile Audiology Lab

SDSD is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new, custom-designed Mobile Audiology Lab!

On September 23rd, SDSD's audiology team from the eastern part of the state embarked on their first trip with our new state-of-the-art mobile audiology lab. We're thrilled about the opportunities this creates for our families, as this mobile lab supports our strategic goal of expanding and equalizing audiology services across the state.

Want to learn more about the Mobile Audiology Lab or schedule a hearing screening for your school district or daycare? Get in touch with SDSD at hearingtest@sdsd.sdbor.edu.



Super Hearoes 5K – Miller, SD

The 11th Annual Super Hearoes 5k was held on August 3rd in Miller, SD.

Eleven years and running, this 5k event sponsored by local families in Miller, SD has brought together the community and has contributed donated funds to the SDSD Foundation to help support camps, scholarships and activities across the state for children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. SDSD Outreach Consultant, Sarah Lingle said she is always impressed with the turnout the event brings year after year. Lingle says it is her favorite Saturday morning of the summer. \$2893.56 was raised for SDSD Foundation! We are so proud of our Super Hearoes!





Annual Keith Wintersteen Memorial Family Fishing Day

Last month, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, hosted the annual Keith Wintersteen Memorial Family Fishing Day at the Game, Fish, and Parks Outdoor Campus – West in Rapid City.

Over 40 SDSD clients and their family members had the opportunity to fish with the Outdoor Campus staff and hike the beautiful grounds. The older clients and their family members were also able to learn archery.

Keith's wife, Jeana Wintersteen, and daughter, Kelsey, were also in attendance.

The first family fishing day was held in 2012 with the support of Keith Wintersteen, Game Fish and Parks, Group Program Coordinator. Keith passed away unexpectedly on May 8, 2020. He worked for the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) Department for 35 years. Keith was a tremendous supporter of the South Dakota School for the Deaf family events. He was instrumental in coordinating an annual fishing day at the campus with SDSD outreach consultants. Keith always had a smile on his face and a can-do attitude.

Katie Peterson, ASL Interpreter, provided communication access. Pizza was served for lunch, courtesy of the SDSD Foundation.

Hands in Motion Summer Program

SDSD's Hands in Motion summer program, held July 8-26 at John Harris Elementary, brought together over 40 students who are deaf or hard of hearing for a fun-filled and enriching experience. Students connected with peers who use hearing aids, cochlear implants, and sign language, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Deaf and hard of hearing teens also volunteered, serving as role models and offering additional support. Participants explored exciting field trips aligned with classroom themes, creating hands-on learning opportunities. The program was a wonderful success, promoting friendships, personal growth, and a vibrant connection within the deaf and hard of hearing community.





SDSD Numbers

Audiology Numbers

of children screened by SDSD's Mobile Lab = 5,394

of sites visited by SDSD's Mobile Lab and audiology outreach services = 59

of SDSD appointments in Sioux Falls and Rapid City Clinics = 133

The table to the right details audiology services provided to South Dakota children from July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, at SDSD's Sioux Falls Clinic, Rapid City Clinic, and via the mobile lab.

OUTREACH NUMBERS

of Children Currently Being Served by SDSD Outreach Consultants:

671

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach and Audiology teams as an extension of support for children with varied hearing levels. These in-services relate to varied hearing status and its educational impact, technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM/DM systems, sound field systems, and/or interpreters, or educational strategies and materials that may benefit SDSD clients. The information to the right details trainings provided by SDSD staff July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

OF INSERVICES AND TRAININGS:

34

OF SOUTH DAKOTANS EDUCATED:

559