



News Release

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Special Schools Prepare for Fall Start

PIERRE, S.D. –South Dakota’s School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Aberdeen and School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls continue to plan for the return of students for the 2020-2021 school year.

“Things might look a little different this year, but we will continue to serve our students to the best of our abilities,” said SDSD Supt. Kim Wadsworth.

At SDSD, the audiology clinic will be seeing patients on a reduced schedule in order to limit the number of people in the office at a time and to allow for a thorough cleaning in between each patient. SDSD’s outreach consultants will work with teachers to identify tools and practices that will aid students who are deaf or hard of hearing in adapting to school districts’ pandemic policies.

“The plan at SDSBVI is to conduct education services as normal as we can for as long as we can. There will be some modifications and requirements that will be used to provide the best learning environment possible while adhering to CDC COVID-19 guidelines,” stated Supt. Dan Trefz.

The dormitory at SDSBVI will be open. Classes begin on Sept. 9. The school’s classroom capacities have been adjusted to practice social distancing and additional cleaning times have been added to the everyday cleaning schedule. Staff and students will be encouraged to practice social distancing, use proper hand hygiene, and wear face coverings in the building when social distancing is not practical.