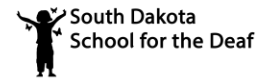




# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS



## Policy Manual

**SUBJECT:** South Dakota School for the Deaf Mission Statement

**NUMBER:** 1:10:7

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### **A. PURPOSE**

The South Dakota Board of Regents governs the South Dakota School for the Deaf. The South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) was established in 1880 to serve children identified as deaf or hard of hearing. SDSD's mission is to be a partner in educational success for children from birth through high school graduation (or up to age 21). SDSD serves as a resource by providing informed, evidence-based consultation to families, schools, and educational teams statewide, including both screening and diagnostic audiology services, multidisciplinary evaluations and direct services.

The principles outlined in this policy serve as overarching policy directions for the School for the Deaf. The functions of the SDSD will align with Board of Regents strategies to advance students. Therefore, SDSD is devoted to delivering specialized educational services and resources for South Dakota children who are deaf and hard of hearing, leading to their full and active participation. This shall be carried out through cooperative efforts with all appropriate state agencies, educational cooperatives, local education agencies, and colleges and universities.

### **B. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Board of Regents:** Defined as the constitutional body responsible for governing the Unified System of Public Higher Education including the special schools in South Dakota, which encompasses its supervision, coordination, management, and regulation. Board of Regents Policy 1:0, 1:1 and SDCL § 13-62 provides the authority to govern the SDSD.
- 2. Institution:** Defined as one of the two (2) special schools: South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) and South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD).
- 3. Statutory Mission:** The institutional mission defined under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL).

### **C. STATUTORY MISSION**

- 1.** The legislature established the statutory mission of South Dakota School for the Deaf under SDCL § 13-62-1 as:

The State School for the Deaf, located at Sioux Falls, in Minnehaha County, shall be under the control of the Board of Regents and so maintained and managed as to afford an appropriate education to those persons entitled to its benefits.

## **D. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) was granted the responsibility to serve the children of this state in 1880. South Dakota School for the Deaf home office is physically located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The institution also has many other outreach offices throughout the state. Audiology sites are in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City, South Dakota.

## **E. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING**

- 1. Audiology:** SDSD has Pediatric Audiologists who provide diagnostic audiologic evaluations, hearing assistive technology recommendations/fittings/troubleshooting, as well as educational audiology consultation services at no cost to families and school districts. The SDSD audiology assistants provide hearing screenings at schools and daycares. Any child from birth through high school graduation that resides in South Dakota has access to SDSD audiology services. Services are provided at the SDSD on-site clinics in Sioux Falls and Rapid City or off-site with the use of the mobile hearing lab.
- 2. Direct Services:** SDSD offers a direct service program for Outreach Clients utilizing technology. The services include counseling and direct services from a Teacher of the Deaf. This program is based on need and offered at no cost.
- 3. Outreach Program:** Children living in the state of South Dakota who have been professionally identified as deaf or hard of hearing may be eligible for services through the SDSD Outreach Program. These no-cost services can continue until graduation or at the completion of the qualified age limit.
- 4. Student Evaluations:** External evaluations are available for educational agencies that serve students who are deaf or hard of hearing. These evaluation services include initial evaluations, three-year re-evaluations, and on an as-needed basis. Evaluations provide eligibility determination information, student-specific recommendations, and educational resources. Evaluations are designed to look at the whole-child and assess achievement across multiple areas.

## **FORMS / APPENDICES:**

None

## **SOURCE:**

BOR March 1991; BOR May 1996; BOR December 2003; BOR May 2011; BOR October 2019; BOR October 2022.