

# Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD)

## 2003-2004

<b>I. Types of Programs/Services</b>	
Total Enrollment	148
Ski*Hi Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 39 students.</li> <li>❖ Students from birth through three years of age are provided services in their homes.</li> </ul>
Pre-Kindergarten / Kindergarten Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 8 students.</li> <li>❖ Services for students from four through five years of age. There are 3 day and 2 residential students.</li> </ul>
Elementary Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 56 students.</li> <li>❖ Services for students first through sixth grade, six through twelve years of age</li> <li>❖ The elementary school provides services to 48 residential students and 8 day students</li> <li>❖ Placement of students within the academic program depends on communication and academic ability, not age; therefore the transition ages within the academic and residence programs are not the same for all students.</li> </ul>
Secondary Program blizzard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 84 total students; 48 junior high and 36 senior high students</li> <li>❖ Services for students from thirteen through twenty-one; consists of grades seven through twelve</li> </ul>
Vocational Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 40 students enrolled</li> <li>❖ Graphic Arts, Food Services, Building and Grounds/Horticulture, and Business and Office Practices</li> </ul>
Diploma/Certificate Awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Vocational students receive a diploma in the chosen area upon completion of requirements</li> <li>❖ Academic students receive a diploma upon completion of Carnegie units</li> <li>❖ Certificate students receive an IEP Certificate of Completion</li> </ul>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ State certified</li> <li>❖ Regular course offerings</li> <li>❖ Aligned with MDE guidelines</li> </ul>
Statewide Assessments	MDE state-testing program is followed
Curriculum	MSD is implementing the Miss. Curriculum Framework Pre-K through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, with modifications based on the Individualized Education Plans of each student
Athletic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Based on the requirement of the Mississippi High School Activities Association</li> <li>❖ Football, basketball, track, cheerleading, and volleyball are offered to high school students</li> <li>❖ Junior high and peewee training programs for basketball, football and cheerleading are also offered</li> </ul>
<b>II. Other Programs</b>	
Residence Education Program	Provides development of study skills (including set study hours), development of social skills, and development of communication skills (most students come from homes where family members have little or no formal signing skills).
Support Services Program	Provides assessment, speech, audiology, social welfare, counseling, interpreting and other related services.

Professional Development Programs	Provide training in the areas of curriculum development, student/classroom management and other areas as indicated by a staff needs assessment; administered according to the MDE guidelines.
Related Services	Services such as transportation, medical, maintenance, and food service are provided by Combined Services, Financial operations are under the direction of MDE
Innovative Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Programs being implemented with emphasis placed on communication, reading and language arts. Deaf individuals must be able to read since 90% of deaf individuals outside a deaf environment receive information through reading.</li> <li>❖ MSD is providing new technology and resources such as computer software using a laser disc that signs vocabulary words and literary stories.</li> <li>❖ Every academic classroom has an Apple computer system, which serves as a resource tool for the teacher.</li> <li>❖ A computer lab has been set up in the Library/Media Center to reinforce classroom learning.</li> <li>❖ MSD continues to implement a reading program that features five components to aid the students' total language development. This program includes American Sign Language development, Written English Development, Adapted Dolch Word List, Bridge Lists, Reading comprehension, and phonemic awareness. This program started as a pilot study at MSD and steady gains in reading comprehension are evident. Utilization of the component of the program has been determined to be an acceptable accommodation for students involved in the statewide testing program.</li> </ul>

### **III. Long Range Plans**

- ❖ Phase 4 of the building program is well underway for the Mississippi legislature for the Mississippi Schools for the Blind and the Deaf
- ❖ The academic program will be expanded. These expansions will occur through, but not limited to Ski\*Hi, curriculum and vocational programs
- ❖ Assistance for special needs students will be addressed through the addition of a multi-handicapped unit. MSD will work in association with Vocational Rehabilitation and other agencies that address job placement and independent living skills
- ❖ A continuous staff development program has been implemented
- ❖ An assessment tool will be established to evaluate staff on sign language skills
- ❖ An evaluation will be established to assist in regulating all the components of the program
- ❖ MSD will have a SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation evaluation during 2005-2006
- ❖ Improve technology program and support
- ❖ Greater participation of parent and community projects
- ❖ Greater inter-governmental approach to support MSD students
- ❖ Greater participation with parents and public schools