

Minnesota State Academies

Projects Summary

(\$ in Thousands)

Project Title	2014 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request for State Funds (\$ by Session)				Governor's Recommendations 2014	Governor's Planning Estimate	
		2014	2016	2018	Total		2016	2018
Asset Preservation Funds	1	\$3,100	\$2,000	\$0	\$5,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
New Dormitory	1	810	9,900	0	10,710	0	0	0
Pollard Hall Renovation	2	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0	0
Employment Center/Museum Study	3	15	0	0	15	0	0	0
Total Project Requests		\$5,425	\$11,900	\$0	\$17,325	\$0	\$0	\$0

Asset Preservation Funds**2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** \$3,100,000**AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY:** 1 of 4

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Project At A Glance

Priority 1: \$3,100,000

Asset Preservation needs on the State Academies in Faribault: The MN State Academy for the Blind and The MN State Academy for the Deaf.

Project Description

Five of the nine targets in this project result in energy savings. The energy savings targets include: roof replacement, automated energy management, steam system & HVAC upgrades, and emergency back power sources. Other targets include sidewalk replacements, stone restoration, security upgrades, and water line replacement.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The General Fund of the agency must absorb unanticipated preservation needs of an aging and valued institution when Asset Preservation funds have been exhausted. Shifting financial resources from people to buildings compromises the mission of the Academies to educate deaf and blind students from across the state.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

Over the last decade, Asset Preservation allocations for the Academies have ranged between two and four million dollars for a given Biennium. The Asset Preservation Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014 is \$1,000,000 is in keeping with that trend.

Other Considerations

Asset Preservation allocations have not kept pace with the preservation needs at the Academies.

Project Contact Person

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New Dormitory

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$810,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 4

Project At A Glance

Priority 1: \$810,00 2014, \$9,990,000 for 2015

Replacement of the boys' dormitory at the MN State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault.

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Project Description

Fiscal year 2014 is the 6th year of a project to replace the existing dormitory, Frechette Hall. The building was constructed in 1967 and is deteriorating. Rehabilitation was considered but ruled out because renovation costs are nearly equivalent to that of new construction. New construction, as exemplified in the latest Pre-Design, has the added benefit of "deaf space" incorporated into an environmentally friendly design.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

Costs for heating, cooling, and on-going repair are not stable, they continue to increase and remain unpredictable. This uncertainty puts enormous stress on the agency's operating budget because it forces resources to be shifted from students and staff to buildings.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

Two Pre-Designs were appropriated by the legislature. The initial study produced a dormitory plan that was too extensive and did not lead to the "Design Phase" of the project. The second Pre-Design (December 2102) also did not lead to a Design Study but for a very different reason: the study was requested during a non-bonding year and consequently lost support in the legislature. This second Pre-Design also reduced the costs of the project by approximately \$5.5 million dollars.

Other Considerations

The physical safety of the residents is becoming a concern as the building deteriorates. Plans are in place to house the resident boys in existing facilities on campus as this project moves forward.

Pollard Hall Renovation

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 2 of 4

Project At A Glance

Priority 2: \$1,500,000

Completion of the Pollard Hall renovation on the campus of the MN State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault

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Project Description

This project focuses on the completion of renovation project which began five years ago with agency funds. This project has an energy savings focus: replacing the inefficient and outdated major internal systems of the building. The systems needing replacement are heating, ventilation & cooling (HVAC), electrical, and plumbing.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The renovation of Pollard Hall is nearly complete. The system up-grades will bring the electrical, plumbing and HVAC components of the building into compliance with building and safety codes. These improvements are beyond the ability of the agency's general fund to absorb. It should be noted that three positions are scheduled to be eliminated for the 2013-14 fiscal year as a cost cutting measure to balance the General Fund budget. Similarly, the agency's asset preservation allocation is not sufficient to pay for these up-grades.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

No direct appropriations from the legislature supported this project. The renovation of Pollard Hall began in 2008 with approximately \$250,000 of agency funds dedicated to increasing usable instructional space for the school. In 2011, roughly \$150,000 of Asset Preservation funds were used to complete work on the living area on the third floor.

Other Considerations

The proposed demolition and construction of a new dormitory on the MSAD campus makes a secondary living space essential. Pollard Hall is an essential part of the plan to house the boys during construction.

Employment Center/Museum Study

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$15,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 3 of 4

Project At A Glance

Priority 3: \$15,000

Feasibility study to help determine if an existing building on the MN State Academy for the Deaf grounds can be converted into a Museum and Employment Center

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Project Description

Two old but architecturally compatible buildings have been “mothballed”. This project seeks to determine if either building is structurally sound enough to sustain conversion into a dual purpose facility. If converted, the facility would house a museum for the state-wide deaf community and its substantial archive of materials and memorabilia. It would also function as an Employment Center for students and adults both deaf and blind.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The agency’s operating budget cannot absorb the expenditure at this time. Three positions are scheduled to be eliminated from the 2014 fiscal year as a cost cutting measure to balance the General Fund budget.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

This is an initial request

Other Considerations

Employment is a tremendously important issue for the state of Minnesota. Deaf and blind individuals are disproportionately unemployed. The employment center has the potential to become a non-threatening, welcoming resource for deaf and blind individuals seeking employment.

The museum is a concept brought forward by representatives of the deaf community. The community is seeking a location on the MSAD campus to house, preserve, and display artifacts from the earliest days of the Academy.

Project Contact Person