Deaf Education in Michigan

October 1, 2014

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Introduction

- Personal bio
- Family life
- Experiences
- Employment

#DidYouKnow
More than 70% of hearing parents who have deaf children do not use sign language with their children.
This can sadly result in lowered self-esteem, delays in learning, and isolation— since the deaf child is unable to communicate or express himself to the people who matter most.*
Get Involved
www.nms-cares.org

Michigan Demographic Info

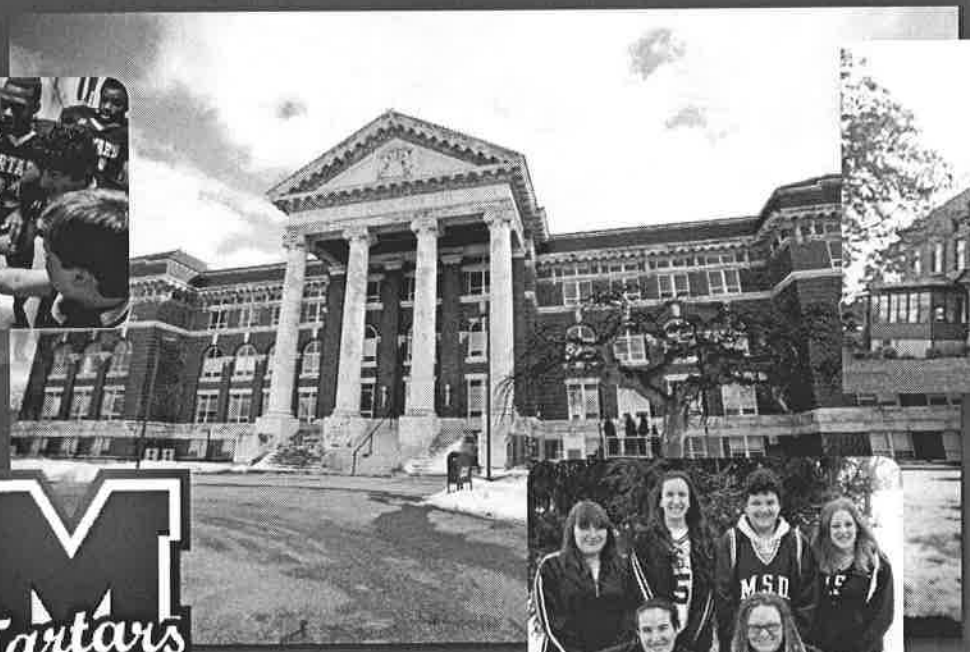
- 1.2 Million Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- 90% Deaf children born to hearing adults
- 10% Deaf children born to Deaf adults

Michigan School for the Deaf
History

- The Michigan School for the Deaf was founded in 1848 by an act of the State Legislature.
- 1937 The school was placed under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.
- 1934 Enrollment surpasses 500 students
- 1991 First Deaf Superintendent Dr. Brian D. McCartney is hired
- 1995 Blind students moved to Flint campus
- 2005 MSD has an enrollment of 150 students
- 2011 MSD campus sold to a developer. A new school built for MSD to lease from the developer. David Sanderson retired - position currently vacant

http://www.deaftartars.com/about.cfm?subpage=231934

MSD
Historic Significance for Community



Tartars

New MSD Building
October 2013

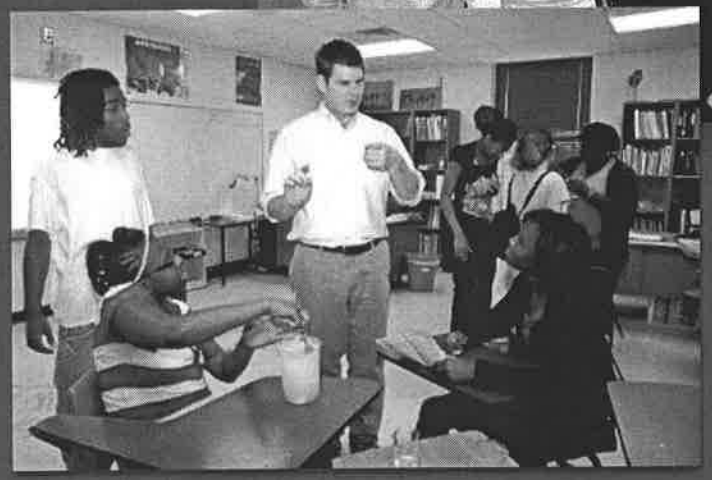
Mainstream Programs
Magnet Centers

- Detroit Public Schools - Detroit Day School for the Deaf (Closed)
- Bloomfield Hills Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program
- Warren Consolidated Schools
- Grand Rapids Oral Deaf Program
- Dearborn Public Schools
- Barrien County Hearing Impaired Program

http://www.michdhh.org/youth/schools.html

Deaf Education Philosophies

- Bi Lingual – Bi Cultural
- Total Communication
- Oral Education



http://wfdeaf.org/our-work/focus-areas/deaf-education

Conclusions

- Needs for Michigan Mainstream Programs
  - No Isolated Students
  - Top Quality Educational Interpreters
  - Teach Core Curriculum Directly
  (not through interpreters)

- Needs for Michigan School for the Deaf
  - Continue the legacy
  - Make parents aware of the school around the state
  - Help legislators see the value for deaf children

EDUCATION TALKING POINTS

1. **Fallacy: Oralism promotes higher reading levels.**
    - **a.** Children need language first before they can read or speak.
    - **b.** Teachers of the Deaf need to have the skills to teach their language.
    - **c.** ASL is a Deaf child's native (heritage) language.

2. **Fallacy: Mainstreaming is the least restrictive environment for Deaf children.**
    - **a.** No language model/role model is available in mainstreamed classrooms.
    - **b.** Deaf children are isolated due to lack of communication with peers, teachers, and administrators.
    - **c.** The mainstream environment is destructive to Deaf children's pride/identity.

3. **Fallacy: The Cost of Michigan's Deaf school is prohibitive**
    - **a.** The cost of unproductive citizens is very high
    - **b.** Mental health costs skyrocket when an individual is deprived of the ability to communicate effectively
    - **c.** Trades taught at the School for the Deaf support independent living

Provide Deaf children education in their native language in their least restrictive environment filled with cultural and linguistic role models and open communication.

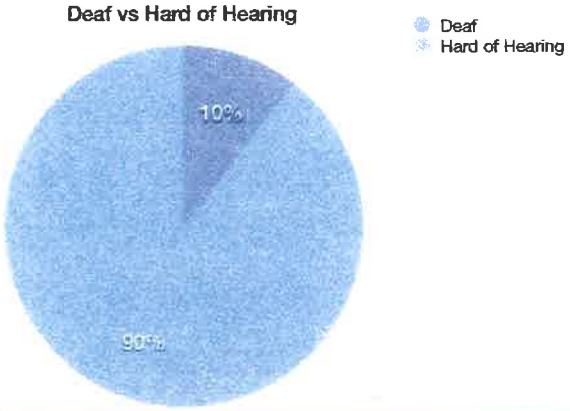
DODHH Annual Budget - $785,600 (FY 2015)
Total pop. of hearing loss - 866,879
(State 2005 Census Report)

Operating dollars per person	$0.91

Population Breakdown-Hearing Loss

CLASSIFICATION	# OF POPULATION
Deaf	90,720
Hard of Hearing	776,159
Total	866,879

Deaf vs Hard of Hearing

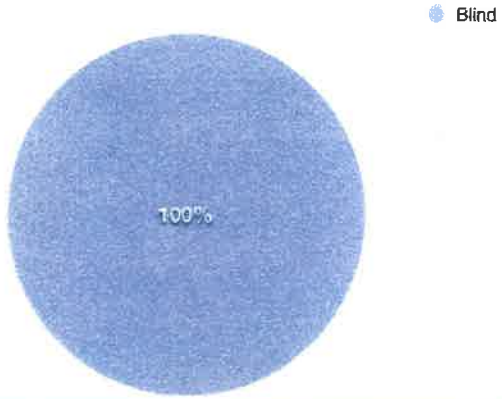


MCB Annual Budget - $23,567,722.00 (FY 2012)
Total pop. of blind - 199,400
(National Federation of the Blind 2012)

Operating dollars per person	$118.19

Population Breakdown-Blind

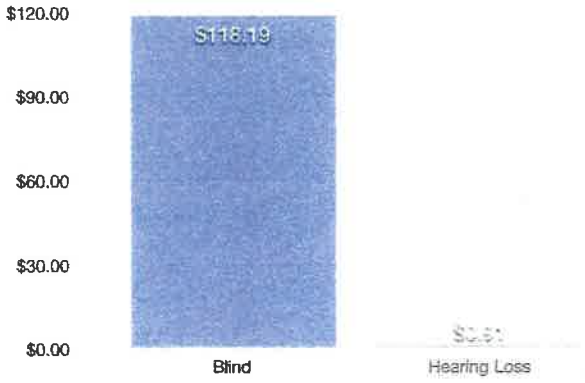
CLASSIFICATION	# OF POPULATION
Blind	199,400
Total	199,400



Operating Dollar Per Person Comparison:

Blind	$118.19
Hearing Loss	$0.91
Difference	$117.29

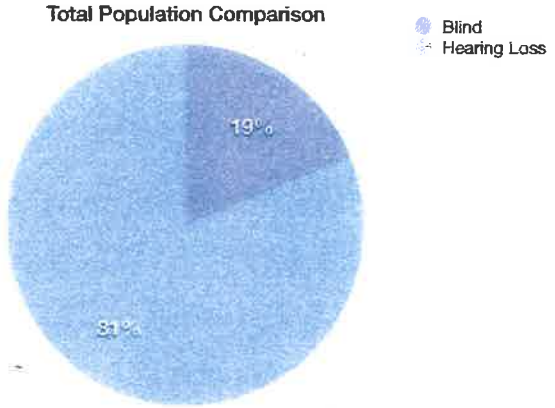
Operating Dollars Per Person: Blind vs Hearing Loss



Population Comparison

CLASSIFICATION	# OF POPULATION
Blind	199,400
Hearing Loss	866,879

Total Population Comparison



Source: DODHH 2015 FY Budget, page 90, http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/publicact/pdf/2014-PA-0252.pdf
DODHH 2005 Census Report, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Estimate_Report__02-05_119430_7.pdf
MCB 2012 FY Budget, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/MCB_FY2012_Operating_Budget_374625_7.doc
MCB Population data, https://nfb.org/blindness-statistics