

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

**The MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER
for the DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



DEAR MECDHH/GBSD COMMUNITY & FRIENDS



As I close out a 32 year career in Deaf Education in Maine I am thrilled to share our annual report with all you. As we prepared this report I was in awe as I reflected on the amazing changes and success in all of our programs. We created a new structure for our organization that created much more support for those that matter most: our students, families and our staff. With collaboration

and creativity, we created new programs and brought back activities that were so important to our community: basketball, athletic banquets, our graduation activities, and family days. In addition, we focused on growing our collaboration with the Deaf Seniors and Deaf community.

With the guidance of an outside consultant, we put a strong focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and improved our organization's culture and climate. With training, consultation, and team discussions, we have grown our knowledge and understanding.

With grant funding we were able to reach more stakeholders and build stronger collaboration with the medical community to ensure we reach infants and toddlers from the day of their identification as a Deaf or hard of hearing child. Our grant team has worked to create a path for families that ensures every family has the information, resources and support they need.

Our mission states, "In collaboration with families and professionals throughout Maine, we provide transformative learning, language-focused education, and opportunities for social-emotional growth, empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, birth to 22, to reach their full potential."

I see this mission in action everyday in all of our programs and I am so very proud of the work we have done together. Our staff are passionate, dedicated, and among the most talented deaf educators in the field. Maine's children and families are so fortunate. We have accomplished our goal of being able to provide evidenced based early intervention and deaf education to every deaf and hard of hearing child. In doing so, we have embraced our entire community. Parents, alumni, and our staff have all come together for our students. Thank you all for your heart and passion for making the world a better place for Maine's deaf and hard of hearing children. It has been my distinct honor to lead this organization. Thank you for your collaboration! I will miss you all and wish you all the very best in continuing the incredibly important work we have done together.

Warmly,

Karen Hopkins, MECDHH/GBSD *Executive Director*



On behalf of the MECDHH/GBSD school board, I am proud of our organization and the many accomplishments made this year. We have a new administrative structure at MECDHH/GBSD and thanks to our administration and the

collaboration with the Board we are on the right trajectory. We are excited to see more opportunities for growth at MECDHH/GBSD. We fully believe our programs and services support our students to become outstanding citizens and leaders.

The Board and our Leadership Team under the guidance of our Executive Director have worked collaboratively in the best interest of our school. We have been excited to see more parent engagement in all areas. Parent engagement is the key to success in our students. We will continue to advocate for the best possible education for our students and work tirelessly to ensure they get nothing but the best so they can succeed personally, socially, and academically.

In closure, our Executive Director, Karen Hopkins will be leaving MECDHH/GBSD after years of service to Deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Maine. The growth we have seen at MECDHH/GBSD would not be possible without her outstanding leadership. Her departure is a huge loss for Maine and MECDHH/GBSD. We wish her well and will do our best to carry on the legacy she is leaving behind. We wish you the best, Karen, and thank you for all you have done for MECDHH/GBSD.

Best,

Lisette Belanger

MECDHH/GBSD Board Chair



VISION

In collaboration with families and professionals throughout Maine, we provide transformative learning, language-focused education and opportunities for social-emotional growth that empowers Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals from birth to 22 to reach their full potential.

MISSION

A community where all individuals, families, and professionals are united in support of Deaf and Hard of Hearing success.

VALUES

Statewide Support & Collaboration • Compassion & Understanding
Language Growth • Family Involvement • High Standards
Whole Child Approach

STATEWIDE EDUCATION



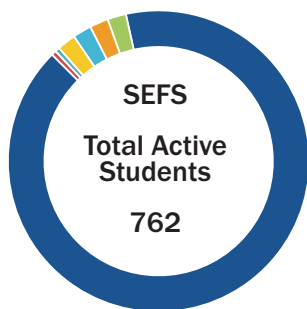
Total number of children served: 494

Our Statewide Education and Family Services (SEFS) programming supports children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families from ages 3-22. Staff include: Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Special Educators, Educational Technicians, Speech/Language Pathologists, ASL Specialists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Audiologists, and a Social Worker. All staff have specialized education and training to support deaf and hard of hearing children. Our ultimate goals are linguistic competence and educational success.

As a statewide organization, our team members and families of deaf and hard of hearing individuals ages 0-22 have access to a variety of resources including:

- American Sign Language instruction
 - For staff and families
- Audiological Services
 - Coaching
 - Technical support
 - Consultation to families and educational teams
- Special Education Services
 - Direct service for deaf students with disabilities and deafblind students as determined by IEP teams
 - Consultation to families and educational teams
- Speech-Language Services
- Direct service for students as determined by IEP teams targeting expressive and receptive language, auditory skills, speech development, and pragmatic language use
 - Consultation to families and educational teams
- Occupational Therapy Services
 - Direct service for students as determined by IEP teams
 - Consultation to families and educational teams

Language Use by Modality



- Listening/Spoken Language 91%
- Bilingual/Bimodal 2%
- Manually Coded English: Sign 2%
- Augmented Communication 2%
- ASL 2%
- Visual-Gestural 0.5%
- Undetermined 0.5%

AND FAMILY SERVICES

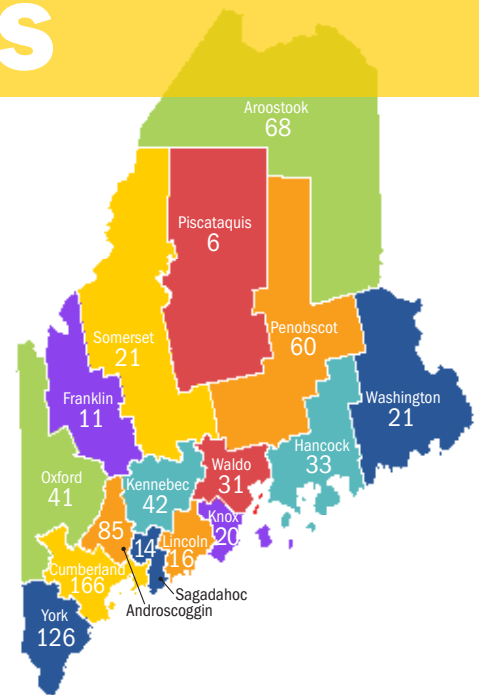
Department-wide SEFS Services

We offer a variety of services through Statewide Education and Family Services (SEFS) to meet the needs of students who are deaf or hard of hearing ages 3-22.

Services include:

- Evaluations requested by IEP and 504 teams and completed by SEFS staff:
- Academic Evaluations
- Observation in the Learning Environment
- American Sign Language Evaluations
- Speech/Language Evaluations
- Functional Listening Evaluations
- Occupational Therapy Evaluations
- Functional Behavioral Assessment
- Psychological Evaluations (through a contracted provider)

Public School Outreach
761 Students including
inactive students



Public School Outreach
Total number of children served: 761

Through the 504 and IEP process, the Public School Outreach (PSO) program supports school-based teams in providing appropriate educational programming for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in ages three through 22. Service is provided directly with students through specially designed instruction (SDI) and/or through consultation where our staff members consult with the professionals at each student's school district. When SDI is included in a student's IEP, that time is dedicated to targeting that student's IEP goals, which could include academic areas such as literacy and math, language development such as ASL skills, and self-determination skills such as self-advocacy.

Educational Consultation

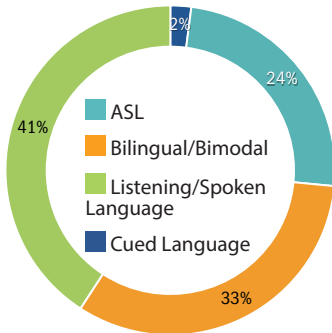
Consultants provide on-site classroom observation and consultation on array of topics, including:

- Assistance in care and use of hearing assistive technology (HA, CI, BAHA, RM)
- Instructional strategies
- Curriculum Adaptation
- Visual and auditory access
- Use of sign language interpreters and cued speech transliterators
- Social/emotional needs
- Transition considerations and resources
- Access to resource materials
- IEP/504 team participation

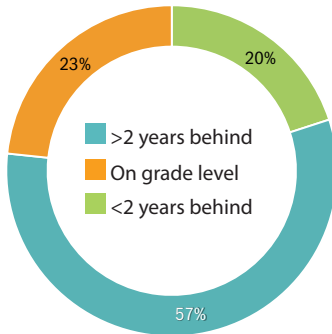


SITE-BASED PROGRAMS

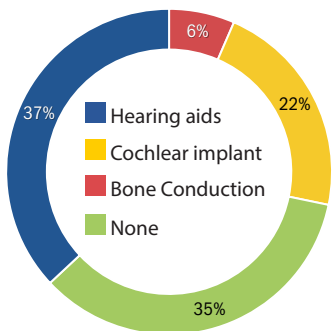
SITE-BASED LANGUAGE



SITE-BASED READING



SITE-BASED TECHNOLOGY



Our site-based programs use the pedagogical approach of bilingual (ASL and English) and bimodal (signed and spoken), which provides opportunities for language access for all of our students. All of our site-based program students have IEPs and are transported from their home towns to their site-based program. Students in site-based programs have access to classes with their mainstream hearing peers for some or all of day while they also are part of a community of deaf and hard of hearing peers within their school. Our site-based programs have the following enrollment:

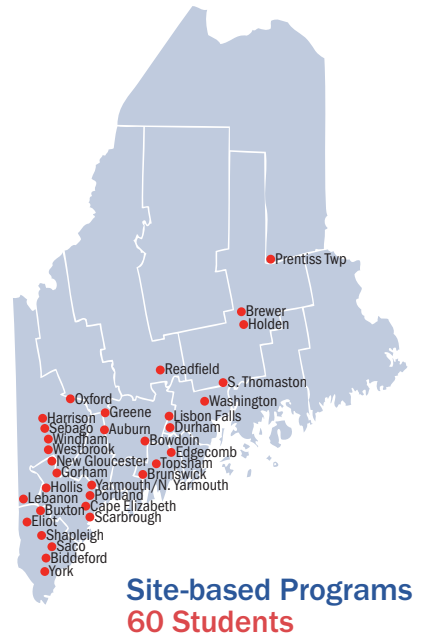
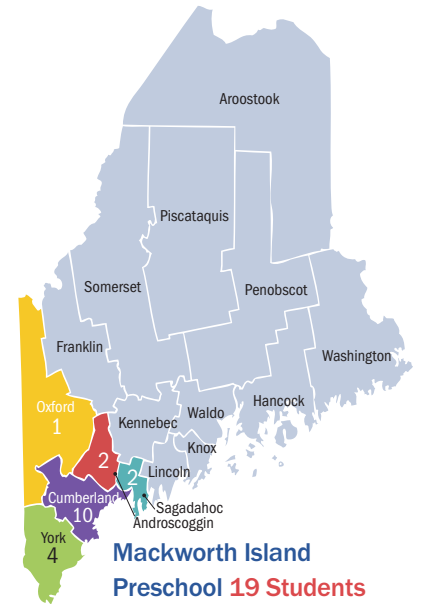
- Portland Area
 - Mackworth Island Preschool: 22 students
 - East End Community School: 14 students
 - Lyman Moore Middle School: 5 students
 - Portland High School: 6 students
- Brewer
 - Brewer Community School: 13 students

Mackworth Island Preschool

Our site-based preschool program is on Mackworth Island in Falmouth. It is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which means it meets rigorous national standards for high quality early learning programs. It is available to deaf and hard of hearing students as well as hearing peers. Preschool students may participate in our after-care program.

Site-Based Programs within Portland Public Schools

At our elementary, middle, and high school site-based programs, all students participate in mainstream specials including physical education and art. Some students also participate in mainstream academic classes as determined by the IEP teams. All of our site-based programs have dedicated rooms for specially designed instruction and social opportunities with deaf and hard of hearing peers and staff who are fluent in ASL.



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL PROGRAMS



Social Emotional Programming, Kids Like Me Program

Kids Like Me (KLM) provides peer support and interaction for students who are deaf or hard of hearing across the state of Maine. The majority of students who are deaf or hard of hearing are in mainstream educational programs. KLM gives students opportunities to connect with peers who are “like them” and understand what it’s like to be deaf or hard of hearing. Programming is led by Deaf adult role models.

Junior National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

Students in grades 7-12 have the opportunity to participate in the Junior National Association of the Deaf where they can develop leadership skills and demonstrate citizenship. They also have the chance to interact with students who are deaf or hard of hearing from other schools and states. The focus is on advocacy, attitude, awareness, commitment, cooperation, friendship, information exchange, involvement and leadership skills.

EARLY INTERVENTION



Total number of children served: 372

Maine Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

MECDHH was awarded a 4-year grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support Maine's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program. Work supported by this grant includes:

- A recently completed statewide needs assessment focusing on the needs of families, early intervention specialists, primary care providers, birthing facility staff, midwives, and audiologists. Community needs assessed through this process included needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Development of Maine's EHDI App for families, primary care providers, birthing facility staff, midwives, audiologists, and early intervention specialists to support the newborn hearing screening process, and resources for parent-to-parent and deaf and hard of hearing adult-to-parent support
- Materials created for families to more easily be connected to parent-to-parent and deaf and hard of hearing adult-to-parent support through our family-based organization, Maine Hands & Voices and their Guide By Your Side Program
- Educational videos created to allow families to learn about the newborn hearing screening and early intervention processes at a time that works for them

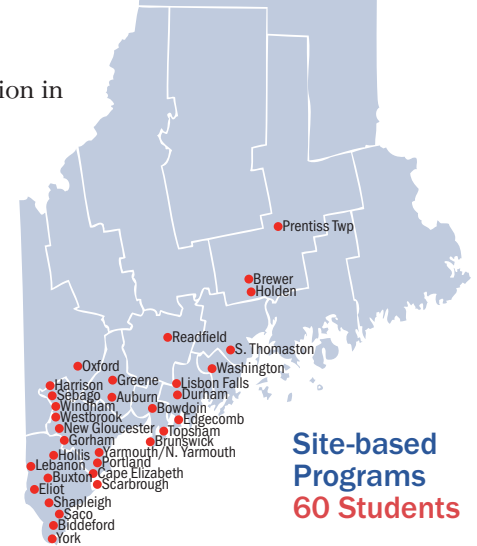
Birth to 5 years

Our Early Childhood & Family Services (ECFS) program provides services to families with children birth to five years of age who are deaf or hard of hearing. We provide information and resources to meet the individual needs of their infants or young children. In our Memorandum of Understanding with Maine's Child Development Services (CDS) we have created one statewide early intervention and early childhood education system for deaf and hard of hearing children. We collaborate with all birth to 5 providers serving this population, and coordinate hearing assistive technology and interpreting services statewide.

AND FAMILY SERVICES

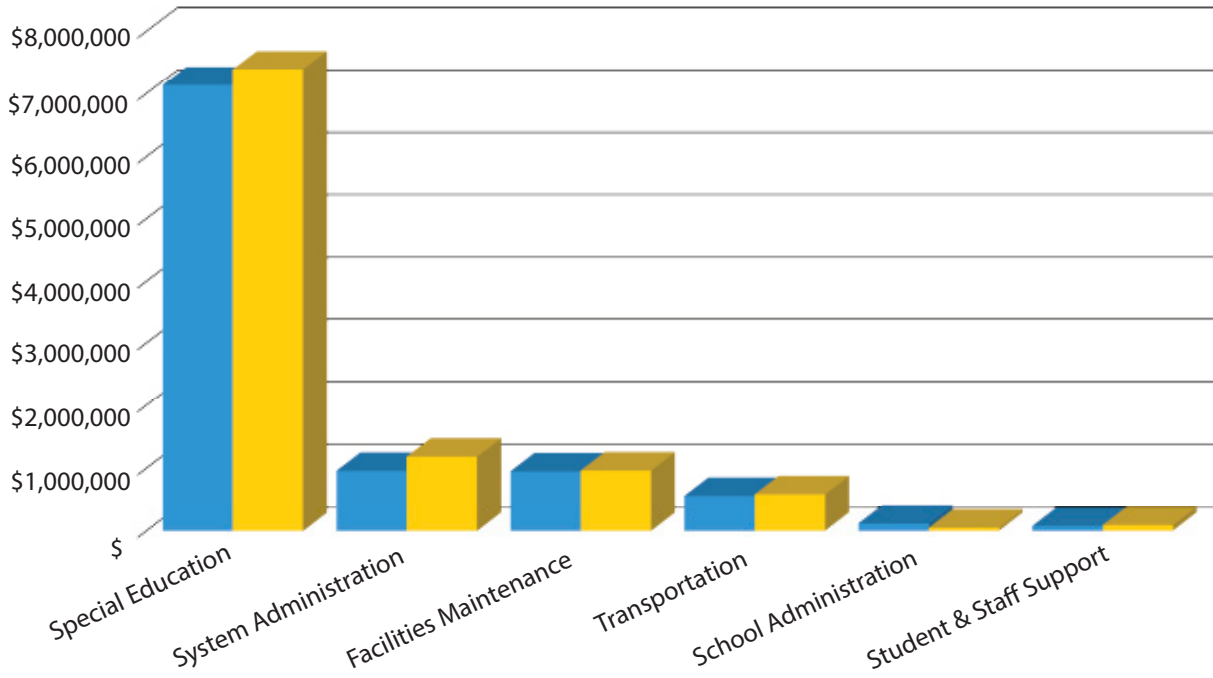
Birth through 2 years of age

- Emphasis on family/child connections and language acquisition
- Routines-based early intervention maximizing opportunities for child interaction in natural environments
- Family exploration of various communication and language opportunities
- Supporting family in learning about their child's hearing levels and developmental needs
- Support for child and family outcomes
- Presentations to relevant stakeholders regarding the newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, and entry into early intervention process.
- Development of the Earliest Interactions website (www.earliestinteractions.com), which serves as a landing page for all resources developed through the grant.
- Oversight of the Statewide pediatric audiology work group, supporting collaboration, professional development, and improved reporting to the Maine Newborn Hearing Program among pediatric audiologists in Maine.
- Funding for multiple positions, including a Quality Improvement Specialist, Parent Consultant, Audiology Consultant, and Family-Based Organization Program Staff

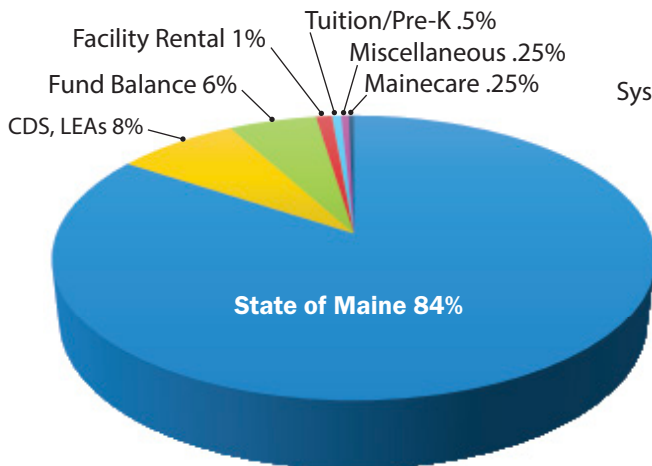


FINANCIALS

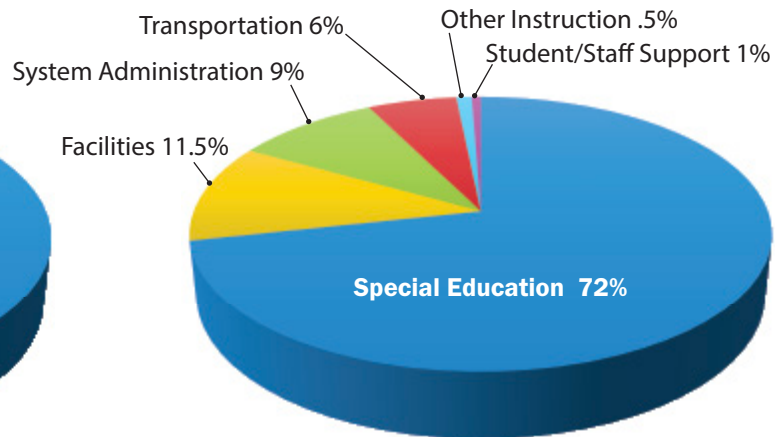
■ 2021 Budget to ■ 2022 Budget



Budgeted Revenue 2022



Budgeted Expenses 2022



SUPPORTERS AND GRANTS



Thank you to the following partners!

Catholic Charities
Child Development Services
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools
and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD)
Deaf Senior Citizen Group
Disability Rights Maine (DRM)
Hear ME now!
Helen Keller National Center for Deafblindness
Maine Administrators of Services for Children
with Disabilities (MADSEC)
Maine Association of the Deaf
Maine Behavioral Health

Maine CITE (Assistive Technology)
Maine Department of Education
Maine General Hospital
Maine Hands & Voices
Maine Newborn Hearing Program
Maine Public School Districts
Morrison Center
National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes
New England Consortium on Deafblindness
Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Northeast Gallaudet University Regional Center
The University of Maine System

We are proud and honored to have received the following grants

Health Resources and Services Administration: 1-3-6 Family Engagement in Maine Newborn Hearing Program
New Hampshire Department of Education: All Together Now



The purpose of this report was to not only show you who we are and what we do, but also to visually represent the overwhelming need for expanding our services to reach every deaf and hard of hearing child in Maine.

Thank you for taking the time to explore our organization. Please visit our website at www.mecdhh.org. For further information call 207-781-3165. **We look forward to hearing from you.**

