

September 5, 2023



Dear Board Members and Governor's Office,

RE: Urgent Request to Initiate a Search for New Leadership at Minnesota State Academies

We write to you on behalf of the Faribault Deaf Club, representing the deaf community in Faribault, Northfield, Kenyon, Owatonna, and beyond. Our organization is deeply concerned about the leadership, communication, enrollment, and campus climate issues at both the blind and deaf campuses of Minnesota State Academies.

Enrollment challenges have created significant uncertainty and unease within our community, raising serious doubts about the current leadership's ability to address this critical issue.

Effective communication is vital for trust and transparency within educational institutions. Regrettably, our community has experienced a troubling lack of effective communication from the administration.

Given the gravity of these concerns, we insist that the Board of Minnesota State Academies promptly initiates a comprehensive search for new leadership. We firmly believe that a change in leadership is necessary to address these concerns and guide the academies toward a more promising future.

We greatly appreciate your immediate attention to this critical matter and your dedication to the betterment of our community. Transparency and urgency in addressing these concerns are essential as we collectively work to advance the academies.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lydia Christesen, Assistant Director
Sonny Wasilowski, Treasurer

P.S. Julia Forti, our director, has abstained from this communication due to her employment status with the Minnesota State Academies.