



YOU BELONG HERE



**Florida School for
the Deaf & the Blind**

Do More. Be More. Achieve More.

YOU BELONG **HERE!**

In every moment, from significant accomplishments to everyday experiences, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) offers a one-of-a-kind educational journey.

Since its establishment in 1885, FSDB has been the only school of its kind in the state and one of the few across the country dedicated to students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, and deafblind. As a fully accredited, tuition-free school, we serve over 1,700 children across the state. We offer a wide range of programs from a statewide parent infant program and outreach services to on-campus early childhood, elementary, middle and high schools as well as further education opportunities for students who have deferred their standard diploma.

At FSDB, we are committed to educating the whole child. Our approach to learning extends beyond the classroom, providing enrolled students with opportunities to engage in athletics, performing arts, clubs, recreation, and more. Whatever their interests, students will find something here at FSDB.

Our students discover their true potential, find a place where they belong, and soar!

Tracie C. Snow
FSDB President

Tracie C. Snow



FSDB AT A GLANCE

TUITION-FREE
State Pre-K & K-12 Public School

1885
School Founded

80+
Acre Campus
Located In
Historic St. Augustine



6
Pre-K & K-12 Schools

2 Statewide
Parent-Infant
Early Interventions Programs

ACCREDITED
by CEASD & Cognia

1,000+
Students Served on
Campus & Statewide

TRANSPORTATION
Free for Day & Boarding Students

1:1
Technology Devices

841
Seat Auditorium

20
Member Police
Department

24/7
Health Care Center

2
Libraries &
Media Centers

3
Gymnasiums

14
Mental
Health Professionals

21
Athletic Team Sports

25K
Gallon Salt
Water Swimming Pool

8K sq. ft
Dedicated Music Building

2
Bowling Alleys

VISION

FSDB will prepare each student for a lifetime of success.

MISSION

The mission of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is to utilize all available talent, energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public education for eligible sensory-impaired students of Florida. As a school of academic excellence, the school shall strive to provide students an opportunity to access education services in a caring, safe, unique learning environment to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school shall provide outreach services that include collaboration with district school boards and shall encourage input from students, staff, parents, and the community. As a diverse organization, the school shall foster respect and understanding for each individual. (Florida Statute 1002.36)

VALUES

FSDB is committed to carrying out its mission with emphasis on high-quality education, integrity & respect, safety & security, innovation, and trust.

LEADERSHIP

FSDB operates under the direction of a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Florida governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The FSDB president reports to the board; serves as the educational leader of the school; and is responsible for the organization, operation, and management of the school and its programs and services.

ACCREDITATION

FSDB is nationally accredited by Cognia and the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD).



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



MONTESSORI EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The FSDB Early Learning Center (ELC) provides Montessori education for children ages 3-5 on its St. Augustine campus at no cost to local families. Our nurturing teachers create an environment that fosters a curiosity for learning, encourages discovery, and promotes a sense of independence.

DEAF ELC

Our D/HH classrooms engage students with a wide range of hearing levels, hearing technologies, and communication styles. Certified teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing utilize ASL/English Bilingual Educational strategies to provide all students with full-day access to language. Classrooms focus on early academic skill development, language acquisition, and pragmatic/social interaction.

BLIND ELC

Our B/VI classrooms engage students with a wide range of vision acuity levels. Certified teachers of the Blind/Visually Impaired focus on the development of fluent language, early academics, and early literacy skill development through both braille and large print. Classrooms are adapted so that students have full access to tactile and multi-sensory information as they learn and interact with their peers and teachers.



ACADEMICS

What makes FSDB different from other programs is full access to language acquisition, development, and mastery.

FSDB instructional materials are geared to accommodate each student's learning needs, abilities, and styles. Students who are deaf/hard of hearing benefit from American Sign Language and English instruction, and students who are blind/visually impaired benefit from braille instruction.

Dual-certified teachers, specialized services, small class sizes, and state-of-the-art technologies create a strong foundation for student achievement. Advanced technologies also ensure that parents are an integral part of their child's education through distance learning, video streaming, and videophone conferencing.

FSDB has small class sizes and advanced technologies that allow teachers to provide individualized and group instruction for increased student success.

TEACHER - STUDENT CLASS RATIOS

- **1:6** PK-Grade 3
- **1:8** Grades 4 - 8
- **1:10** Grades 9 - 12



INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

- **94%** DUAL + CERTIFICATIONS
- **66%** ADVANCED DEGREES (MASTERS & BEYOND)

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

- Academic Bowl
- Battle of the Books
- Braille Challenge
- Culinary Bowl
- Robotics Challenge
- Science Fair
- SkillsUSA Contests
- Speech Contest
- Spelling Bee
- Writing Contests



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

FSDB prepares students for success in college and careers by integrating academic and career coursework and on-the-job training activities.

Career development at FSDB begins early; elementary students explore and gain exposure to the world of work. Middle and high school students can take Career and Technical Education (CTE) skills development courses in specific career paths at FSDB and First Coast Technical College (FCTC).

FSDB works closely with campus departments and local business partners to provide students real-world learning experiences through on- and off-campus employment opportunities.



25

FSDB & CTE
PROGRAMS



SUPPORT SERVICES

As part of our focus on putting each student's unique needs first, FSDB personnel work with students to develop confidence, acquire new skills, and strengthen their ability to succeed both within and outside the classroom.

Staff longevity and expertise allow students to get to know the academic, extracurricular, boarding, and specialized service personnel who support them on their path to success at FSDB.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

- Adaptive Physical Education Specialists
- American Sign Language (ASL) Specialists
- Bilingual Specialists
- Assistive Technology Specialists
- Braille Specialists
- Educational Diagnostics
- English Language Learner (ELL) Specialists
- Interpreter Service Providers
- Mathematics Specialists
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists
- Literacy Specialists



HEALTH & RELATED SERVICES

- Audiologists
- Behavior Specialists
- Health Care Specialists
- Occupational & Physical Therapists
- Psychologists
- School Counselors
- Social Workers
- Speech-Language Therapists
- Vision Specialists



STUDENT LIFE

FSDB students have a wide variety of choices for enrichment and growth through extracurricular clubs and activities. Recreational activities are available for boarding students to promote a well-rounded and healthy lifestyle.

EXTRACURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Blind Winter Sports and Ski Club
- Close-Up and Government in Action
- Chess and Outdoor Clubs
- Coding, Robotics and STEM Clubs
- Deaf Golf Camp
- Girl Scouts
- Junior NAD
- Safety Patrol
- Student Council



RECREATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Arts and Crafts
- Exercise and Fitness
- Basketball, Bowling, Softball, and Volleyball
- Canoeing, Fishing, Kayaking and Swimming
- Movie Nights and Themed Dances
- Special Events/Trips



ATHLETICS & ARTS

ATHLETICS

Students can compete in 11 team sports (cheerleading, cross country, basketball, football, flag football, goalball, swimming, track and field, volleyball, weightlifting, and wrestling) against public, charter and private schools across the state and nation. The Athletics Department promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership among student-athletes, encouraging pride in achievement and passion for success.

ARTS

Students can unleash their creativity and self-expression through various visual and performing arts across academic and extracurricular activities. They achieve these through different art forms, including ceramics, chorus, dance, drama, film, fine arts, graphic design, instrumental and vocal music, orchestra, photography, poetry, sculpture, theatre, and video.



BOARDING

Students in the FSDB boarding program benefit from a comfortable environment that serves as their home away from home. Boarding personnel are teachers, mentors, advisors, and surrogate family members. Boarding students learn the life skills essential for a successful transition to the adult world of independent living, employment, postsecondary education, and community involvement. Students also engage in recreational and leisure activities after school and during evening hours.

FSDB provides transportation services free of charge for day and boarding students. Local students who live in St. Augustine and surrounding areas go home daily. Students who live throughout the state travel home every Friday and return to school on Sunday.

BOARDING OVERALL SATISFACTION

- **97% PARENTS**
- **88% STUDENTS**

12

DORMITORIES & APARTMENTS



STATEWIDE OUTREACH SERVICES

FSDB is a trusted resource across Florida, offering comprehensive programs and services for children and their families from infancy through their school years as well as for the community members and professionals who support them. Offerings are both campus-based and statewide and include parent education, ASL classes, braille literacy opportunities, campus expos and tours, online and regional student and family workshops, trainings, consultation, evaluation services, and more.

INFANTS, TODDLERS & FAMILIES

The Parent Infant Program promotes bonding and early development within the home, striving to help each child reach their full potential through tailored solutions for access and independence. We provide families with coaching in natural settings and honor parents' decisions for their child's best interests.

The Stay and Play programs provide caregivers with the opportunity to interact with their Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired infants and toddlers (from birth to 36 months) on the St. Augustine campus. Early childhood professionals assist caregivers in developing strategies to promote development and engagement.

MENTORS & MODELS

The Mentors and Models program connects children and their families with Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired adults, as well as with similar families. By sharing common experiences, families find strength in their journey with their child.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

FSDB offers multiple academic camps for currently enrolled students that provide a fun, meaningful learning experience in the areas of language arts, reading, math, and concept development.

Prospective students can participate in Summer Quest, an overnight camp offering Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) activities during the day and various recreational and social experiences in the evening. Blind/Visually Impaired students learn about assistive technology, orientation and mobility, and daily living skills development, while deaf/hard of hearing campers focus on leadership, self-advocacy, team building, and life skills. Recreational activities include kayaking, swimming, arts & crafts, team sports, and much more!



VISIT & APPLY

ARRANGE A CAMPUS VISIT

The best way to discover if you'll love it at FSDB is to come for a visit. A personalized tour will give you the chance to explore our campus, meet current students and teachers, and ask the admissions team and administrators any questions you may have.

PH: 800-344-3732
VP: 904-201-4527
info@fsdbk12.org



APPLY FOR ADMISSION

FSDB enrollment information is available on our website, including an online application. We're also happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have—contact us!

PH: 904-827-2220
VP: 904-201-4460
registrar@fsdbk12.org



**READY.
SET.
APPLY!**





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207 San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084



www.fsdbk12.org



[@fsdbk12](https://www.instagram.com/fsdbk12)

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, political opinion, affiliation, marital status, genetic information, disability, veteran status or any other basis as mandated by federal and state law in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. FSDB also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law.