

Department of Education
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF
Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request

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For the National Technical Institute for the Deaf under titles I and II of the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, [~~\$60,757,000~~] \$59,195,000, of which [~~\$1,705,000~~] \$1,175,000¹ shall be for construction and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That from the total amount available, the Institute may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207 of such Act². (Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2008)

Note.—Each language provision that is followed by a footnote reference is explained in the Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes document which follows the appropriation language.

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Analysis of Language Provisions and Changes

Language Provision	Explanation
¹ <u>...of which \$1,175,000 shall be for construction and shall remain available until expended....</u>	This language earmarks \$1,175,000 for construction and provides for these funds to remain available for obligation at the Federal level until expended.
² <u>... Provided, That from the total amount available, the Institute may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207.</u>	This language provides authority for the Institute to use funds from the general appropriation for the Endowment Grant program.

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Amounts Available for Obligation
(\$000s)

	2007	2008	2009
<hr/>			
Discretionary appropriation:			
Appropriation	\$56,141	\$60,757	\$59,195
Across-the-board reduction	<u> 0</u>	<u> -1,061</u>	<u> 0</u>
Subtotal, appropriation	56,141	59,696	59,195
Total, direct obligations.....	56,141	59,696	59,195

Obligations by Object Classification
(\$000s)

	2007	2008	2009
<hr/>			
Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	\$56,141	\$59,696	\$59,195

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**Summary of Changes
(\$000s)**

2008.....		\$59,696
2009.....		<u>59,195</u>
Net change.....		-501

	<u>2008 base</u>	<u>Change from base</u>
Decreases:		
<u>Program:</u>		
A reduced level of construction funding is needed for the set of projects planned for fiscal year 2009.	\$1,675	- <u>\$501</u>
Subtotal, decreases		-501
Net change		-501

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**Authorizing Legislation
(\$000s)**

Activity	2008 Authorized	2008 Estimate	2009 Authorized	2009 Request
Operations (<i>EDA-I-B</i>)	0 ¹	\$58,020	To be determined ¹	\$58,020
Construction (<i>EDA-I-112</i>)	0 ¹	1,675	To be determined ¹	1,175
Endowment (<i>EDA-II-207</i>)	<u>0¹</u>	<u>0²</u>	<u>To be determined¹</u>	<u>0²</u>
Total definite authorization	0		0	
Total appropriation (subject to reauthorization)		59,676		59,195

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2008 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2009.

² Funding for the Endowment Grant program is provided together with funding for operations through a single appropriations amount. Appropriations language is included to authorize NTID, at its discretion, to use funds for the Endowment Grant program from the total amount available.

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**Appropriations History
(\$000s)**

	Budget Estimate to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriation
2000	\$47,925	\$48,151	\$48,151	\$48,151
2001	51,786	54,000	54,366	53,376
2002	52,570	55,376	54,976	55,376
2003	52,014	53,500	54,600	53,699
2004	50,781	53,867	53,800	53,483
2005	53,803	55,790	55,790	55,344
2006	54,472	56,137	57,279	56,141
2007	55,349	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	56,141 ¹
2008	56,262	60,757	59,000	59,696
2009	59,195			

¹ This account operated under a full-year continuing resolution (P.L. 110-5). House and Senate Allowance amounts are shown as N/A (Not Available) because neither body passed a separate appropriations bill.

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(Education of the Deaf Act, Title I, Part B and Section 207)

FY 2009 Authorization (\$000s): To be determined ¹

Budget Authority (\$000s):

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operations	\$58,020	\$58,020	0
Construction	<u>1,675</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>-\$501</u>
Total	59,696	59,195	-501

¹ The GEPA extension expired September 30, 2004; the program was authorized in FY 2008 through appropriations language. Reauthorizing legislation is sought for FY 2009.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Congress created the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in 1965 to promote the employment of persons who are deaf by providing technical and professional education for the Nation's young people who are deaf. The National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act was superseded by the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986 (EDA). This Act continued the authority of the Department of Education to maintain an agreement with a host institution for the operation of a residential facility for postsecondary technical training and education for individuals who are deaf and to provide a Federal subsidy to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf so that it may continue to provide postsecondary educational opportunities for individuals who are deaf.

The Department maintains a contract with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for the operation of NTID. The purpose of the special relationship with the host institution is to provide NTID students access to more facilities, institutional services, and career preparation options than could be otherwise provided by a national technical institute for the deaf standing alone. RIT provides NTID students with options for courses of study from its seven other colleges; health and counseling services; library, physical education, and recreation facilities; and general services such as food, maintenance, grounds, and security. Indirect cost rates are established by RIT governing reimbursement for each of the services it provides and to cover tuition charges for NTID students enrolled in RIT programs. These rates are approved by the Division of Cost Allocation of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

NTID offers a variety of technical programs at the sub-baccalaureate degree level (certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees). Degree programs include majors in business, engineering, science, and visual communications. In addition, NTID students may participate in approximately 200 educational programs available through the Rochester Institute of Technology. RIT offers advanced technological courses of study at the undergraduate and graduate degree levels. NTID initiated a master's degree program of its own in fiscal year 1996 to train secondary education teachers who will be teaching students who are deaf. Students enrolled in the program, who can be deaf or hearing, are charged the same base tuition as students enrolled in other NTID programs.

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However, graduate students enrolled through NTID in either the master of science in secondary education program or one of the RIT graduate programs also pay a graduate student tuition surcharge of 10 percent. In addition, the Institute operates a Bachelor in Applied Science degree program to train interpreters for persons who are deaf and a tutor/notetaker training program. Students who are deaf who enroll in NTID or RIT programs are provided a wide range of support services and special programs to assist them in preparing for their careers, including tutoring, remedial and language enrichment programs, counseling, notetaking, interpreting, mentoring, specialized educational media, cooperative work experience, and specialized job placement.

NTID conducts applied research on occupational and employment-related aspects of deafness, communication assessment, the demographics of NTID's target population, and learning processes in postsecondary education. In addition, NTID conducts training workshops and seminars related to deafness. These workshops and seminars are offered to professionals throughout the Nation who employ, work with, teach, or otherwise serve persons who are deaf.

The Federal Endowment Grant program is designed to assist in meeting future needs of the Institute and reduce long-term Federal funding requirements by stimulating private contributions. The Institute has the discretion to determine the amount of funds it wants the Department to provide from the annual appropriation as matching funds under the Endowment Grant program.

The Department may allot funds to the program from the appropriation up to the amount contributed to the fund from non-Federal sources. No portion of the endowment fund corpus may be withdrawn, except with the Department's approval and only due to a financial emergency or life-threatening situation. NTID may retain up to 50 percent of the income of the fund for expenses necessary to the operation of the Institute. The Institute has full discretion in how it invests the funds it raises for this program. However, the EDA specifies parameters for investment of the Federal matching funds in order to help safeguard that portion of the fund corpus. After a period of 10 years from an initial investment, NTID does not have to follow Federal investment restrictions related to the Federal portion of the corpus and may use the entire amount of the interest associated with that year's match.

Funding levels for the past 5 fiscal years were:

	<u>Operations</u> (\$000s)	<u>Construction</u> (\$000s)
2003	\$52,109	\$1,590
2004	53,118	365
2005	53,672	1,672
2006	55,349	792
2007	56,141	0

FY 2009 BUDGET REQUEST

The Administration is requesting \$59.2 million for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) for fiscal year 2009. The request maintains funding for operations at the fiscal year 2008 appropriation level. The request also includes \$1.2 million for a variety of construction projects for fiscal year 2009. The Administration believes that the request for operations is sufficient to maintain all programs and operations at the Institute. The Administration supports funding for NTID to help promote educational and employment opportunities for persons who are deaf.

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Operations. The Administration's request would fund operations at the fiscal year 2008 level of \$58 million. The Institute received an increase of \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2008 above the fiscal year 2007 level. Between 1998 and 2008, funding for NTID operations rose by \$13.9 million or 31.4 percent. During this period, enrollment increased by only 138 students or 11.5 percent, primarily in the interpreter training program and in the graduate program. The Administration does not believe that additional funds for general operations above the fiscal year 2008 level are necessary.

Construction. The Administration is requesting \$1.2 million for a series of construction projects to replace and update major equipment necessary to maintain the infrastructure of campus buildings. NTID originally requested \$1.64 million for construction projects for fiscal year 2009. However, during the February 2007 site visit to NTID, Department staff raised a number of questions regarding how the responsibility for renovations and construction is allocated between RIT and NTID, the basis for the allocation, and how much money RIT was contributing towards construction projects. In addition, following its review of NTID's budget request for fiscal year 2009, the Department asked NTID to explain whether and to what extent NTID and RIT planned to divide the cost of proposed construction projects and how the split was derived. NTID followed up on the request and entered into negotiations with RIT regarding responsibility for proposed construction projects in areas that serve both NTID and RIT students. The discussions included an analysis of student usage. Based on this analysis, RIT agreed to cover a large proportion of the cost of repairs to facilities shared by NTID and RIT students, including a brick repair project for the Shumway Building, which houses student services and the cafeteria, and refurbishing three elevators serving the Shumway building and the NTID dormitories. As a result of the negotiations, NTID reduced its request for construction by a total of \$465,000.

In the past, the Department has strongly encouraged NTID to conduct private fundraising activities to help offset the cost of capital projects. The Institute has had increasing success in this arena and has raised a considerable amount of funds for new construction. However, it is difficult to raise private funds for infrastructure projects because they are seen as the responsibility of the Federal Government and are not alluring to potential donors. The Administration is requesting \$1.2 million for these projects. A description of the projects for which funds are requested follows:

- **HVAC Main Mechanical System Replacement (\$550,000)**

The Hugh L. Carey (HLC) building houses NTID faculty, staff, and classrooms. The mechanical system has not been operating in an acceptable manner. Humidity and temperature control malfunctions have resulted in excessive humidity in the summer and insufficient heating during the winter. Congress provided \$550,000 for this project as part of construction funding included in the fiscal year 2008 appropriation. An additional \$550,000 is needed to complete the project.

- **HVAC Main Control System (\$500,000)**

NTID reported that the main control system for the mechanical systems in NTID's Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) building is obsolete and can no longer provide consistent, accurate, and failure free temperature and ventilation control. A portion of the system failed and was replaced in 2006 at a cost of \$80,000 using general operations funds. Congress provided \$260,000 in the appropriation for fiscal year 2008 toward replacement of the

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remaining parts of the system. An additional \$500,000 is needed for the project in fiscal year 2009.

- **Fire Alarm System and Utility Meters (\$125,000)**

NTID conducted a review of its fire alarm system and utility meters and determined that they need to be replaced. The system is no longer considered state-of-the-art, and it is difficult to obtain compatible replacement parts for zone-type systems. The new system that NTID has proposed will offer improved performance because it will have addressable sensors for individual rooms, rather than for a larger zone. This would improve response time since the dispatcher would be able to pinpoint which room is involved instead of just the zone. The new system will also allow fire technicians to monitor the sensitivity and performance of each sensor, to obtain replacement parts, and to expand the system over time, if needed.

During the Department's February 2007 site visit to NTID, the Department also expressed concern that NTID does not maintain an operations account for capital repairs and renovations. Instead of budgeting for these projects through its appropriation for operations, NTID has been submitting annual construction requests for non-routine maintenance and construction or renovation projects expected to exceed \$50,000. In order to avoid ongoing special requests for relatively small projects, the Department has asked NTID to consider creating a longer-term "deferred maintenance" account, in which funds would be set aside from operations each year to provide for non-routine maintenance and capital projects. The Department will discuss this proposal further with NTID and RIT as part of its fiscal year 2008 monitoring activities.

Endowment Grant Program. The Administration's request continues the policy of recent fiscal years of not specifying an amount for NTID's Federal Endowment Grant program. The Institute would retain the discretion to determine how much of the Federal funds provided will be used for the Endowment Grant program in 2009. Funds added to NTID's base for operations in prior fiscal years remain available to be used as matching funds for the purpose of the Endowment Grant program. The Administration strongly supports the objectives of the Endowment Grant program and believes that this program helps to promote the financial independence of the Institute through creation of a permanent and increasing source of funds for enrichment activities and special projects. The Institute matched \$828,000 in fiscal year 2007.

Other Revenue. In addition to funding from the Federal appropriation, NTID receives revenue from tuition and fees, private giving, and grants and contracts. NTID's projected budget for fiscal year 2009 includes \$11.5 million from tuition, \$5.3 million from room and board, \$779,000 from student activity fees, and \$795,000 from other sources, such as interpreting and captioning services provided to RIT and programs outside the University, the NTID hearing aid shop, and fees from grant programs renting space at NTID. This represents an increase of approximately \$924,000 in revenue over what NTID expects to receive from these sources for fiscal year 2008. The Institute has the flexibility to apply this increased revenue to its highest funding priorities. NTID also receives significant revenue from grants and contracts with the Federal and New York State governments that are awarded competitively. In fiscal year 2007, the Institute received approximately \$5.1 million in Federal and State grants and contracts, including a \$1 million grant from the Office of Special Education Programs to administer one of the four Regional Centers on Postsecondary Education for Individuals who are Deaf. The Institute also received \$1.2 million in private grants and contracts.

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As of September 30, 2007, the market value of the Federal Endowment Grant program at NTID, including Federal, private, and reinvested funds, was \$36.8 million. In addition, the Institute had \$4.5 million in endowments that were not part of the Federal Endowment Grant program. In fiscal year 2007, the Institute distributed \$807,920 in earnings from the Federal Endowment Grant program and \$174,642 from its other endowments.

NTID has been increasingly successful in raising private funds. In fiscal year 2007, the Institute received \$2.84 million in cash donations to endowment and other restricted funds and \$124,852 in gifts in kind, primarily equipment and software for specific programs at NTID. The funds raised in addition to endowments are restricted by the donors to NTID activities such as the Dyer Arts Center, the new Student Development Center, and a PEN-International project. NTID continues to benefit from the \$26.9 million in gifts and pledges it raised in support of RIT's capital campaign, which was completed in 2006 and raised over \$300 million. The funds raised by NTID for the RIT capital campaign directly benefit students and programs at NTID. The funds raised by RIT support activities of the host institution such as increasing the amount and number of endowed scholarships and building new facilities, which also benefit NTID students.

The fiscal year 2009 request for operations represents approximately 78 percent of NTID's total projected budget. The remaining funds come from tuition, fees, private contributions, endowment income, and Federal grants and contracts. However, the revenue derived from tuition, room, board, and fees is substantially comprised of payments from Federal vocational rehabilitation and Federal student financial aid programs. For example, in fiscal year 2007, NTID students received nearly \$6.3 million from Vocational Rehabilitation and \$1.2 million in Pell Grants. The Institute also provided \$1.2 million in grants-in-aid out of the Federal appropriation, \$34,726 from Federal Work Study grants, \$100,053 from RIT grants-in-aid, and \$1.5 million in scholarships from Federal and other endowment income. The total of these funds, including \$536,811 in State grants, is \$10.9 million or approximately \$9,040 per domestic student for both deaf and hearing students, including the sub-baccalaureate, baccalaureate, graduate, and interpreter training programs. In addition to direct student aid, NTID students received nearly \$3.2 million in subsidized and unsubsidized Federal student loans and Parent PLUS loans.

Many NTID students also receive Federal Social Security and Supplemental Security Income payments. International students pay tuition, room, board, and fees, and these payments are included in the revenue figure cited above. However, these students, with the exception of permanent residents, are not eligible for Federal student financial aid or vocational rehabilitation payments. International students receive support from three private endowments, including the Nippon Foundation. During fiscal year 2007, \$72,072 in interest accrued from these endowments was used for this purpose.

Legal Issues. A Rochester Institute of Technology employee filed a class-action lawsuit against RIT under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) alleging unfair labor practices. The suit impacted approximately 170 RIT employees. Of those, about 140 were NTID employees. The NTID employees are mostly sign language interpreters who are currently working at the Institute or have been employed there within the past 6 years. The issue involved the classification of positions as exempt-from-overtime. A settlement proposal was announced by RIT in March 2007 that included a cash settlement of \$2.5 million. The court is working out the details of the settlement. It is unclear to what extent a portion of the settlement may be paid by NTID. However, the settlement also involves the reclassification of 125 interpreter and coordinator positions in NTID's Access Services office from exempt-from-overtime to non-exempt. NTID did

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not request funds specifically for the settlement or the reclassification, but expects to incur higher expenses related to compensation as a result of these actions.

NTID is also subject to a finding by the Department's Office of Civil Rights that it inappropriately limited the communications options available to its students. Until several years ago, the services that NTID provided to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing students to access classroom information primarily consisted of a system of sign language interpreters and notetakers. A student who communicates using cued speech, an alternate visual communication system that combines mouth movements with hand shapes to assist deaf individuals to read speech, was told that NTID would provide the student with specialized transition access services (usually C-Print services) for up to 1 year or until the student learned sign language and could benefit from sign language interpretation in the classroom. However, as a result of a complaint filed by the student with the Office of Civil Rights, the Department clarified that NTID could not require deaf or hard-of-hearing students to learn sign language if it is not a core academic requirement, which it is not.

As a result of the OCR ruling, NTID must provide speech-to-text services for students who require these services throughout their academic career at the Institute. Since students in the same classroom at RIT may require different services, NTID is currently providing C-Print as well as interpreting in some classes, resulting in increased costs. NTID has dramatically increased the number of C-Print operators it maintains on staff over the past decade due to general interest from deaf and hard of hearing students who do not use sign language. NTID currently has 55 positions devoted to these services. During the coming year, NTID will be analyzing C-Print needs for co-curricular activities (non-classroom activities) to ensure that C-Print is available for students who need that service for those activities.

PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Annual tuition and fees:			
Tuition (U.S. students):			
Undergraduate	\$8,559 ¹	\$9,153 ¹	\$9,795 ¹
Graduate	9,423 ^{1,2}	10,071 ^{1,2}	10,775 ^{1,2}
Fees	642	669	699
Charges for Resident Students:			
Room	\$5,034	\$5,211	\$5,400
Board	<u>3,714</u>	<u>3,843</u>	<u>3,981</u>
Total (U.S. undergraduate students, with tuition & fees)	17,949	18,876	19,875
Tuition (International students):			
Undergraduate	\$17,118 ³	\$18,306 ³	\$19,590 ³
Graduate	18,846 ^{2,3}	20,142 ^{2,3}	21,550 ^{2,3}
Percent of support for operations provided by this appropriation	78%	78%	78%

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	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Estimated average total cost per student	\$44,956 ⁴	\$44,630 ⁴	\$45,779 ⁴
Estimated average educational cost per student	\$34,019 ⁵	\$33,773 ⁵	\$34,642 ⁵
Student data (deaf students only - includes international students):			
Applications	819	939	1,000
Acceptances	450	522	600
Percent of applications accepted	55%	56%	60%
Registrations	341	377	360
Percent of accepted who register	76%	72%	60%
Enrollment (deaf students only – includes international students):			
Total students	1,064	1,154	1,160
Technical	(578)	(660)	(660)
Professional:			
Undergraduate	(439)	(443)	(450)
Graduate	(47)	(51)	(50)
Other enrollments (hearing and deaf students):			
Interpreter Education program (associate degree)	130	130	130
Master's in Secondary Education	56	59	60
International students	48	48	48
International students as a percent of total enrollment	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Minority enrollment	252	309	309
Minorities as a percent of domestic deaf student enrollments	28% ⁶	30% ⁶	28% ⁶
Summer Vestibule Program	217	253	250
Summer Quarter	256	284	280
Performance data:			
Graduates	284	251	250
Associate and certificate degrees	(139) ⁷	(122) ⁷	(120) ⁷
Baccalaureate and graduate degrees	(145)	(129)	(130)
Graduation rate (overall)	55%	59%	59%
Sub-baccalaureate	49%	51%	52%
Baccalaureate	70%	72%	71%

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Co-op (work experience) placements	233	272	250
Student services:			
Hours of interpreting	111,000	114,000	117,000
Hours of note taking	59,000	62,000	65,000
Hours of tutoring	15,400	16,000	17,000
Hours of C-print captioning	15,400	16,500	17,500
Numbers of persons participating in Public Service Activities:			
Interpreters trained (continuing education)	97	110	120
Tutors/note takers trained	261	260	260
Employees/career counselors trained	958	960	960
Explore Your Future (HS Juniors)	253	260	260
Deaf Initiative in Technology	88	90	90
Public service activities (\$000s)	\$2,522	\$2,863	\$2,960
Research:			
Federal funds (\$000s)	\$1,757	\$1,941	\$2,176
Sponsored Research (\$000s)	\$5,997	\$6,143	\$6,293
Research publications	34	35	35
Personnel (in full-time equivalents):			
Faculty	197.9 ⁸	199.4 ⁸	200.0 ⁸
Interpreters	112.3 ⁸	114.2 ⁸	115.0 ⁸
C-Print operators	46.7 ⁸	42.4 ⁸	43.0 ⁸
Professional (other)	127.3 ⁸	110.5 ⁸	111.0 ⁸
Total	548.1	550.1	553.0
Minorities as a % of faculty	9.0%	9.3%	9.0%
Minorities as a % of staff	9.6%	10.4%	10.0%
Disabled as a % of faculty	27.4%	29.5%	29.0%
Disabled as a % of staff	15.9%	10.1%	10.0%
NTID faculty/student ratio	1:6 ^{9,10}	1:6 ^{9,10}	1:6 ^{9,10}
NTID teaching faculty/student ratio	1:10.1 ¹⁰	1:10.0 ¹⁰	1:10.0 ¹⁰
Faculty (Average salaries):			
Professor	\$99,250 ¹¹	\$98,720 ¹¹	\$101,682 ¹¹
Associate professor	76,608 ¹¹	75,104 ¹¹	77,357 ¹¹
Assistant professor	65,798 ¹¹	65,580 ¹¹	67,547 ¹¹
Lecturer	50,926 ¹¹	51,169 ¹¹	52,704 ¹¹
Instructor	46,432 ¹¹	45,120 ¹¹	46,474 ¹¹

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	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Average Full and Part Time Staff Salary:			
Professional staff	\$51,814 ¹¹	\$53,271 ¹¹	\$54,869 ¹¹
Interpreters	34,912 ¹¹	31,353 ¹¹	37,294 ¹¹
C-Print Captionists	29,389 ¹¹	29,307 ¹¹	31,186 ¹¹
Clerical	29,668 ¹¹	30,636 ¹¹	31,555 ¹¹

¹ Tuition rate increases are proposed by NTID annually. However, through an agreement with the Department, the increase may not exceed 10 percent in any given year. NTID is proposing a 7-percent increase for fiscal year 2009.

² Graduate students are charged a 10-percent surcharge above the tuition rate for undergraduate students.

³ A tuition surcharge of 100 percent for international students is required by the authorizing statute.

⁴ Excludes expenses related to sponsored and other research, public services, auxiliary enterprises, and construction.

⁵ Excludes expenses related to sponsored and other research, public services, auxiliary enterprises, construction, and student support services such as audiology, speech, remedial English, and psychological services. It also excludes portions of the cost of admissions, placement, instructional media, and some other administrative categories that address unique aspects of NTID's mission.

⁶ Excludes interpreter training program students, international students, and MSSE students.

⁷ Includes students who obtain a certificate, diploma, or associate degree, including graduates who are transferring into RIT to pursue an undergraduate degree.

⁸ Counts are taken as of October of each fiscal year and represent start-of-year positions funded in the budget, not actual employees.

⁹ Includes administrators and researchers who have faculty rank.

¹⁰ Faculty/student ratios do not include RIT faculty who teach the 46 percent of NTID's students enrolled in RIT courses or RIT faculty teaching NTID students in pre-baccalaureate programs.

¹¹ Salaries for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 assume a 3 percent increase from the previous year.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance Measures

This section presents selected program performance information, including, for example, GPRA goals, objectives, measures, and performance targets and data; and an assessment of the progress made toward achieving program results. Achievement of program results is based on the cumulative effect of the resources provided in previous years and those requested in fiscal year 2009 and future years, and the resources and efforts invested by those served by this program.

Goal: To provide deaf and hearing students in undergraduate programs and professional studies with state-of-the-art technical and professional education programs, undertake a program of applied research; share National Technical Institute for the Deaf expertise, and expand outside sources of revenue.

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Objective: Maximize the number of students successfully completing a program of study.

Measure: The percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students who were in their first year of postsecondary enrollment in the previous year and are enrolled in the current year.

Assessment of Progress: This is a new measure being added for the first time in fiscal year 2008 that will be used to calculate the persistence of first-time, full-time students from the fall semester of their freshmen year to the fall semester of their sophomore year. RIT submits data to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) on its students, including NTID students who are in RIT programs. However, it does not include students in NTID's sub-baccalaureate programs in its submissions and does not break out data separately for NTID students in RIT programs. The data to be submitted for this measure will be calculated using the same IPEDS methodology as used by other postsecondary education programs funded by the Department. The new data will allow for comparative analyses between NTID, Gallaudet University, and other higher education programs. The Department also has requested that NTID try to reconstruct persistence data for NTID sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students for prior years. The Department expects that the new and reconstructed data will be included in the fiscal year 2008 performance report for NTID.

Measure: The persistence rates of sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students, including transfer students.

Year	Target		Actual	
	Sub-Baccalaureate	Baccalaureate	Sub-Baccalaureate	Baccalaureate
2004	74	84	70	86
2005	74	86	70	85
2006	74	86	70	86
2007	70	86	73	85
2008	70	86		
2009	72	87		

Assessment of Progress: This measure also measures student persistence. However, it includes persistence data for transfer students and is calculated as a rolling average of three years of cohorts moving from their first year into their second year. NTID believes that the inclusion of transfers into the Institute provides a more complete picture of student persistence at NTID, and the use of a rolling average moderates the effect of any outlier data.

NTID met its target for sub-baccalaureate student persistence, but did not meet its targets for baccalaureate student persistence in 2007. The sub-baccalaureate rate was the highest attained by NTID since 1998. NTID believes that the change is due to new persistence strategies implemented in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The persistence rate for baccalaureate students is only 1 point below the target and consistent with prior actual levels, which have generally fluctuated between 85 and 86 percent since fiscal year 2000.

Comparisons with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data for 2-year public and private higher education institutions indicate that NTID's persistence rate for sub-baccalaureate students is significantly higher than the rates for these organizations. Two-year

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public colleges have an average persistence rate of 52.5 percent, and 2-year private colleges have a persistence rate of 60.1 percent. Based on this information, the Department reduced the sub-baccalaureate targets for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 from 74 percent to 70 percent, and reduced the target for fiscal year 2009 and each year thereafter from 74 percent to 72 percent.

NTID's baccalaureate student persistence rate also compares favorably to other 4-year public and private colleges. For example, IPEDS data show an average persistence rate of 69.9 percent for 4-year public colleges and a persistence rate of 70.6 percent for 4-year private colleges. The Department proposes to maintain the target for fiscal year 2008 at 86 percent for that year, with the target being increased in fiscal year 2009. It should be noted that the baccalaureate persistence rate is only two points below the rate of 88 percent for freshmen entering the Rochester Institute of Technology, which is the ultimate target for this measure. The Department expects to receive data on fiscal year 2008 persistence figures in October 2008.

Measure: The percentage of first-time, full-time degree seeking sub-baccalaureate students and baccalaureate students who graduate within 150 percent of the program-based length of time.

Assessment of Progress: This is a new measure that is being added in fiscal year 2008 in order to obtain data that is consistent with the methodology used by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and other Department programs to measure graduation. Program-based length of time refers to the stated number of years to complete a degree. Generally, an associate degree program is 2 years, and a baccalaureate degree program is 4 years. However, some of RIT's programs include a requirement for an additional internship year. In this case, the program-based length of time for a sub-baccalaureate degree may be 3 years and baccalaureate degree 5 years. As such, the program-based length of time may be 2, 3, 4, or 5 years, depending on the program. This measure is in addition to the current graduation measure shown below, which provides historical trend data and includes students, such as transfer students, who are not accounted for under the IPEDS methodology. RIT, including NTID, began collecting data according to program-based length of time in school-year 2006-07. The Department anticipates receiving initial data for this measure in fiscal year 2008.

Measure: The percentages of sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students who graduate within 7 years.				
Year	Target		Actual	
	Sub-Baccalaureate	Baccalaureate	Sub-Baccalaureate	Baccalaureate
2004	52	69	51	68
2005	52	69	48	69
2006	53	70	49	70
2007	51	70	49	72
2008	51	71		
2009	52	71		

Assessment of Progress: In fiscal year 2007, the graduation rate for sub-baccalaureate students held steady at 49 percent. A change in NTID's rules to more strictly enforce probation and suspension measures resulted in a dip in the graduation rate for sub-baccalaureate

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students, beginning with 2005, that is expected to end by 2009. An IPEDS analysis of data for 100 community colleges indicated a graduation rate for full-time, first time degree/certificate-seeking students within 150 percent of normal time to program completion of 23 percent and a graduation rate for all graduates, including transfers, of 38 percent. NTID's rates are substantially higher for its sub-baccalaureate students. The Department revised the fiscal year 2007 and 2008 graduation rate targets for students in sub-baccalaureate programs from 53 percent and 54 percent respectively, to 51 percent for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and 52 percent thereafter.

The percentage of baccalaureate students who graduated exceeded the target of 70 percent for fiscal year 2007. Recent comparisons with IPEDS data for 4-year public and private colleges indicate that the NTID graduation rate for students in baccalaureate programs is significantly higher than for other programs; that is, 4-year public colleges have an average graduation rate of 51.9 percent, and 4-year private colleges have a graduate rate of 63.3 percent. The IPEDS data covers graduates who complete their degrees within 6 years, whereas the NTID data covers students who complete their degrees within 7 years. We believe the data are roughly comparable because most RIT students must complete a 1-year coop experience in addition to their academic studies. The Department revised the fiscal year 2007 graduation rate target for baccalaureate students at NTID from 71 percent to 70 percent, and revised the targets for fiscal year 2008 through 2010 from 72 percent to 71 percent.

Measure: The percentages of graduates who are employed, in advanced education or training, or are neither employed or enrolled in advanced education or training during their first year after graduation.

Assessment of Progress: The Department has substantially revised this measure. The previous indicator only measured employment and was calculated as the percentage of graduates who were employed among those who were seeking employment. We believe that the new measure will provide a much more complete picture of post-school outcomes for NTID graduates. For fiscal year 2005, NTID reported that 59 percent of the graduates in that year were employed during their first year after graduation, 33 percent were in advanced education or training, and 8 percent were not in the workforce or engaged in advanced education or training. The Department expects to obtain additional data and establish targets for this measure during fiscal year 2008.

Efficiency Measures

Objective: *Improve the efficiency of operations at NTID as defined by the cost per successful student outcome, where the successful outcome is graduation.*

Measure: Total Federal cost per NTID graduate.		
Year	Target	Actual
2004		\$206,600
2005		209,800
2006		181,400
2007		210,100

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Assessment of Progress: The measure is calculated by averaging the Federal appropriation for a particular year and the previous 5 years, and dividing the figure by the number of graduates for that school year. Federal student aid, vocational rehabilitation payments, other Federal support for students, Federal grants and contracts, and construction funds are not included in this calculation. This measure focuses on the outcome of the appropriation for NTID.

Measure: Total educational cost per NTID graduate.		
Year	Target	Actual
2004		\$239,400
2005		246,100
2006		214,300
2007		250,300

Assessment of Progress: The measure is calculated by averaging the total annual student expenditures for a particular year and the previous 5 years, and dividing the figure by the number of graduates for that school year. Graduates include students receiving certificates, diplomas, associates degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and master's degrees. The cost is composed of the total program budget excluding expenditures associated with research, public services, auxiliary enterprises, and construction. This measure looks at the total cost of educating a student at NTID as an indication of how efficiently the University operates.

Both efficiency measures use existing cost data reported to the Department as part of the Institute's budget submission. In fiscal year 2008, the Department plans to work with NTID to use these measures as a basis for examining the cost per student, the subcomponents of the expenditures, and whether efficiencies can be achieved. The Department also will use IPEDS data to look at cost components of similarly sized Carnegie Level IV institutions as a basis for comparison. In addition, the Department plans to work with NTID to develop appropriate targets for the efficiency measures in fiscal year 2008. Some of the questions to be considered related to setting targets include whether and to what extent some form of inflation should be built into the targets and whether the targets should be stated in terms of a range of expenditures. This might help address concerns regarding fluctuations in enrollment and costs that are out of the control of the Institute.

Other Performance Information

Department Monitoring Efforts. The Department conducted an on-site monitoring visit to the Institute in February 2007. In July 2007, the Department issued, and transmitted to NTID, a monitoring report based on that visit. The review included four focus areas related to the operations of the university-level programs. These were: (1) compliance with the applicable statutory and other requirements, (2) the use of Federal funds, (3) the quality of GPRA and other program data, and (4) the performance of selected programs.

The PART identified persistence as one of the key performance areas needing improvement. As such, the Department selected NTID's Department of Counseling Services for in-depth review during the on-site monitoring visit to focus on the Institute's efforts to improve persistence of undergraduate students. The Department of Counseling Services coordinates

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NTID's efforts to retain students and offers students academic advising, academic counseling, career and personal counseling, career assessment, and consultation services.

The monitoring report found that the Institute's annual report did not include a description of the start and projected end dates for each research report, the projected cost and sources of funding for each project, and any products resulting from research completed in the prior year, as required by the Education of the Deaf Act. In addition, the report raised concerns about the method NTID uses to determine responsibility for the dining commons, RIT support for access services, and budgeting for maintenance expenditures. The Institute has submitted documentation in response to each of the concerns identified in the report. The Department will continue to monitor NTID in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to ensure that it is operating effectively and achieving appropriate results. On-site monitoring visits are in addition to document review, collection of performance data, and other ongoing activities conducted by the Department to monitor NTID operations and ensure that the Institute is complying with the Education of the Deaf Act (EDA) and other applicable requirements.

Social Security Data Study. In 2006, NTID released a study on the current economic status of NTID alumni that examined data for all alumni through 2003. The study was conducted from 2004 through 2005 and was a collaborative effort among NTID, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute. In order to obtain the data, NTID forwarded a data file containing the Social Security numbers, year of exit, gender, and degree attainment for over 12,000 students to SSA. The Social Security

Administration subsequently provided the data in aggregate form to a team from Cornell University for analysis.

The study analyzed the economic status of NTID alumni by first determining the number of wage earners and the amount of their earnings, and then the number of alumni who receive public assistance either through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program.

The study reported the following findings:

- Individuals who graduate from NTID earned substantially more money over a lifetime of work than those who attended NTID, but did not complete a degree.
- Twenty percent more graduates reported earnings from work than alumni who did not graduate.
- For those who reported earnings, graduates earned 56 percent more than their peers who did not graduate.
- The increased income for graduates translates into increased contributions to Federal and State treasuries.
- Graduates participated significantly less in the SSI and SSDI programs than individuals who did not graduate. While both graduates and non-graduates take advantage of the federally supported SSI and SSDI programs, the rates are consistently lower for graduates.

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The Department believes that these results provide convincing data about the value of a college degree. However, the results have limited implications. One would expect a graduate of a postsecondary education program to have better financial results than someone who drops out. It is not possible to draw conclusions regarding the specific benefit of an NTID degree compared to any other programs because similar data are not available for other institutions of higher education.

Follow-up on PART Findings and Recommendations

Federal Support for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf was reviewed using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) in fiscal year 2005. The program received a rating of "Adequate." The assessment determined that the purpose of the program is clear and unambiguous, it addresses a specific and existing need, and it is designed so that resources address the program's purpose and reach the intended beneficiaries. However, the review also found that the graduation and persistence rates for sub-baccalaureate students were not met. In addition, the analysis found that the Department lacked a schedule and mechanism to monitor federally funded programs related to students who are deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and there were no independent evaluations of the program to indicate that it is effective and achieving results.

The PART improvement plan recommendations are presented below, followed by a description of the Department's actions to address them.

- *The Department shall work with Congress to incorporate a requirement for formal audited financial statements of NTID, separate from the host institution, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), into the Education of the Deaf Act. Currently, while RIT arranges for an annual independent audit of the university, these financial statements include audited figures for NTID only as a single line item. In addition, the audit is reported according to the RIT fiscal year, from July through June, instead of the Federal fiscal year, which severely limits its usefulness for Federal monitoring purposes. The Department provided technical assistance to both the House and Senate authorizing committees regarding language that would require RIT to submit detailed audited financial statements for NTID that correspond to the Federal fiscal year. However, the legislation has not yet been enacted.*

During its February 2007 site visit to NTID, Department staff met with NTID and RIT representatives to review the reasons why a financial and compliance audit of NTID is needed, what would be necessary in order to provide the information desired by the Department, and how it might be accomplished. RIT made a proposal to submit sample schedules and notes for NTID for a set of agreed upon procedures for review and comment by the Department. The purpose of the submission would be to see if the schedules would provide sufficient information for the Department to determine that a full independent audit would not be necessary. The Department agreed to review the schedules to determine whether the information would be satisfactory for the Department's monitoring purposes. The set of schedules is based upon a list of agreed upon procedures that correspond to the Federal fiscal year for October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. RIT's external auditor stated that it believed it could perform the

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required tests and audit procedures associated with these schedules. As part of the test, the auditor would report on any problems or irregularities and certify that the schedules and activities could be performed on an annual basis. As of January 14, 2008, the information has not yet been provided to the Department.

- *Collect initial data on the persistence of sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students.* The Department has developed a new measure regarding the persistence of students at NTID based on the data other institutions of higher education, including the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), report to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). NTID does not maintain independent data for IPEDS separate from RIT. However, RIT has agreed to break out baccalaureate data for NTID, and NTID will report sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate data for this measure in fiscal year 2008.
- *Collect initial data for a new graduation rate measure implemented in fiscal year 2007.* The Department developed a new measure regarding graduation rates based on the percentage of sub-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students graduating within 150% of program-based length of time. This is the same methodology as is used by other institutions of higher education to report graduation data to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. NTID will submit initial data according to the new methodology in fiscal year 2008.
- *Conduct an on-site monitoring visit to NTID in fiscal year 2008.* The Department plans to conduct an on-site monitoring visit to NTID in April 2008 to examine its compliance with applicable requirements and use of Federal funds, the quality of Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) and other program data, and the performance of selected programs.