

Access SCSDB

Working with parents and professionals to provide access to learning and living

SCSDB: The Early Years

For students ages birth to 5 years, SCSDB offers an array of programs to best fit student needs.

The programs, located in Spartanburg, include: Kelly's Kids, one of five Spartanburg County First Steps Early Head Start programs for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years; the School for the Deaf preschool; the School for the Blind preschool; and the School for the Multihandicapped preschool.

SCSDB's Outreach Services division serves children ages birth to 3 throughout the state with its Early Intervention Program.

The programs are designed to engage children in a fun, learning and nurturing environment. They also strive to ensure that each child is academically challenged, engaged in the classroom, socially and emotionally supported, healthy, safe and secure in a fun, encouraging atmosphere.

Photo: A pair of male School for the Blind preschool twins with glasses sit in a teacher's lap. She is looking at them with a smile, while the little ones smile for the camera.

Caption: Christian and Ashton Reed of Chesnee enjoy a break with their new preschool teacher Sherry Parham, associate teacher in the School for the Blind. Christian and Ashton are new SCSDB students.

New Cochlear Implant Education Program to be Introduced in 2011-2012

Cochlear implant technology is advancing and so is SCSDB! Cochlear implants directly stimulate the auditory nerve and allow the child to experience a sensation of sound.

More children than ever before are getting them, and at an earlier age. SCSDB is responding to the surge of implants by developing a new education program for its campus students.

Set to begin Fall 2011, the new Cochlear Implant (CI) Program will offer the best of both auditory and visual communication methods to students with implants. Through the use of sign language, visual cues and auditory input, students will learn to use their hearing ability to decipher speech and environmental sounds.

Vocabulary and language development are crucial for reading skills development. The CI Program will foster those developments through the use of sign language, auditory-verbal therapy and implant technology management for staff and students.

Initially, the program will include a model classroom for preschool and kindergarten students. It will have a low teacher to student ratio, specialized teachers and additional acoustical aids to create favorable sound fields.

As the program grows, more classrooms will be installed with the specialized equipment and staff. Parents will also be encouraged to participate along with their students.

SCSDB is Just a Click Away

SCSDB is proud to announce the launch of our brand new website! The address is the same, www.scsdb.org, but the view is quite different!

With just a click of the mouse, visitors can get everything from admissions information to a virtual tour of campus and sports scores and highlights. Current events, news and happenings, along with information about all the programs SCSDB has to offer, are now at your fingertips!

SCSDB would like to send special thanks to our partners, Schoolwires, Inc., Sherpa Brand Marketing, and The Walker Foundation for making this beautiful website possible.

Photo: School for the Multihandicapped student sitting at a computer, turning head back and smiling at camera. SCSDB's new website's home page is on his screen.

Caption: School for the Multihandicapped student Curtis Sparkman of Andrews demonstrates his computer skills in one of SCSDB's computer labs. While closely supervised and with parental permission, SCSDB students have limited access to the Internet and e-mail accounts.

SCSDB is Excellent!

SCSDB has received another outstanding state report card! SCSDB scored excellent on the absolute performance and the growth rating for the 2009-2010 school year. See our report card at <http://ed.sc.gov>!

Isn't That a DAISY?

SCSDB students who are blind or visually impaired will benefit from new digital information systems provided by the American Printing House for the Blind. DAISY (Digital Accessible Information Systems) book readers will assist students who have challenges using regular printed media. DAISY digital talking books offer the benefits of regular audio books, but they include additional navigation features.

Photo: School for the Blind student is sitting at a table in the library with headphones on and a DAISY book reader.

Caption: School for the Blind's Roxie Reed of Anderson listens to an audio book through a DAISY book reader.

New Technology Promotes Campus Safety

The SCSDB campus in Spartanburg is promoting a safe environment through the installation of thermal cameras and a new electronic identification system.

The cameras, located throughout campus, are able to detect human movement and immediately alert campus security officers.

The new electronic identification system includes software and handheld computerized card swipe readers for the school's public safety team. The devices allow

for curbside check-ins, where a driver's license is scanned to produce a picture ID badge for guests.

The new technologies were made possible through grants and donations through The Walker Foundation.

Photo: SCSDB officer in uniform stands at a guest's driver's door. He is holding a small machine. Guest has window open speaking to officer.

Caption: Officer Milan Popat, captain of SCSDB's public safety department, checks in a guest using a new electronic identification system.

Letter from the President

Dear Friend,

As we prepare for the 2011-2012 school year, we are embarking on new opportunities to continue meeting our students' needs. SCSDB is introducing new options while enhancing current ones for parents, students and the professionals who serve them to maximize student potential.

New programs and enhancements include a Cochlear Implant Program with a sign language component; increasing options in our Career and Technology Program; and growing our access technology programs to include more of the very latest devices and equipment. We are also developing a number of short-term placement options and increasing the availability of our outreach services.

This is indeed an exciting time for SCSDB and our students. We continue to grow in remarkable ways to ensure our students achieve maximum success!

For more information, please visit our new website at www.scsdb.org or you may contact me at 1-888-447-2732 or via e-mail at mpark@scsdb.org.

Sincerely,

Maggie Park
President
SCSDB

A National Board certified teacher, "Maggie" Park has 20 years experience in special education positions including teacher, program director, principal, division director, adjunct professor and administrator.

Photo: Maggie's professional head shot

The Walker Foundation (with new logo)

A non-profit organization, The Walker Foundation is dedicated to securing the resources needed to support SCSDB and its statewide programs and services. For more information, please visit The Walker Foundation's brand new website at www.walkerfdn.org!

Student Maps His Way Through SCSDB

It was December 1, 1986 when a shy little boy from Georgetown first stepped foot on SCSDB's Spartanburg campus. Young Daniel Gamble was nervous about being away from home for the first time.

“I was unsure about the people here and scared about meeting new friends,” said Daniel.

But it wasn’t long before Daniel’s classmates in the School for the Multihandicapped became his life-long friends.

Daniel has an infectious enthusiasm and has never met a stranger. His enthusiasm and uncanny ability to never forget a face, name, date or place has carried him from being a shy student to a successful, outgoing adult.

Daniel graduated in 2001 and enrolled in SCSDB’s adult program where he learned crucial independent living and job preparation skills. His career exploration included courses in transportation, housekeeping and facility maintenance. Today those skills are taught before graduation.

As a result of his hard work and determination, Daniel was hired by SCSDB.

“I was hired on September 3, 2003 to work with the transportation staff. I started as a bus attendant, and now I work 40 hours a week keeping the buildings clean and sanitized for the students,” said Daniel.

Daniel is not only successful in his job, but at home as well. Soon after being hired at SCSDB, he got his very own apartment and car.

“It was great to move out on my own. All the things I learned at SCSDB helped me to be out on my own,” said Daniel.

In his spare time, Daniel volunteers with SCSDB, assisting with the buses. But, his favorite pastimes are reading and collecting maps. He can tell anyone how to get from Spartanburg to California. And he has!

“I’m enthusiastic about being an information gatherer. If you need directions, come see me!” said Daniel.

Daniel’s smiling face and enthusiastic personality fill the halls of SCSDB. With that smile, comes sage advice to current students.

“Do your best. Don’t complain. Don’t fuss. And most importantly, don’t quit,” said Daniel. “I know they’re nervous about leaving home. But we have former students working here in the dorms and in maintenance, like me!”

Photo: Young man is spraying cleaning liquid on a glass door, from the outside, looking in at the camera and smiling. He is wearing a purple t-shirt and blue jeans.

Caption: Daniel Gamble, with his infectious smile, ensures SCSDB’s facilities are well cared for and clean. Daniel has been a part of SCSDB since 1986.

Raising the Bar at 11th Annual SC Vision Summit

In March, the SC Vision Education Partnership hosted its 11th annual conference geared toward individuals who are blind or visually impaired, their families and the professionals who serve them. The 11th Annual Vision Summit focused on “Raising the Bar: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired.”

The conference’s mission is to ensure high quality education for children who are blind or visually impaired through teacher education and professional development.

The SC Vision Education Partnership includes: the University of SC Upstate; SC Department of Education; SC School for the Deaf and the Blind; SC Commission for the Blind; National Federation of the Blind of SC; Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, SC Chapter; SC State University Orientation & Mobility Program and the Medical University of SC Storm Eye Institute.

Photo: Group of SCSDB students wearing red and white shirts with hearts on them outside SC's State House.

Caption: SCSDB students performed "Fly to Your Heart" during their annual visit to the SC State House. The students received a grand standing ovation for their singing, signing and flag work talents!

O&M Training

Vision Outreach Services helps students adjust to their surroundings through orientation and mobility (O&M) training. O&M skills are essential to a students' independence at home, at school and in the community.

Vision Outreach Services' team of certified O&M specialists visit and train students who are blind or visually impaired, ages birth to 21, in their home or school at no cost to families.

Training includes the use of white canes and access technology tools.

Photo: Young School for the Blind student holding a portable magnifier. The word "year" can be seen on his screen, as he holds it over a page from a book.

Caption: Zharvis Scott of Spartanburg participates in a reading activity using a portable video magnifier at the first-ever Technology Olympics in Columbia.

SCSDB's Gold Stars

Jeremy Zachary of St. Helena Island enhanced Columbia-area students' study of a character who is deaf-blind in the novel "Can You Feel the Thunder?" Zachary, a 19-year-old School for the Multihandicapped student and gifted storyteller made special presentations middle school students.

Bree Crayton of Spartanburg was named a 2010 *Deaf Digest Sports* Volleyball All-American and selected for All-Region for Region 2 1A.

Kia Smith of Dorchester was named the Founders Federal Credit Union Scholar Athlete of the Week for her 3.833 GPA and volleyball accomplishments.

Deven Frazier of Cordova was named 1st team Deaf All-American as a quarterback by *Deaf Digest Sports*.

Cleveland Hallman of Columbia received the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* Player of the Week Award in football.

SCSDB students brought medals home from the Special Olympics Fall Games held recently in Greenville. The SCSDB Hornets Unified soccer team won their two games. Bocce pairs from SCSDB also earned four gold medals and a silver.

Ja'han Green of Beaufort, a student in the School for the Multihandicapped, won Honorable Mention at the Hub Bub High School Art Exhibition.

South Carolina Youth Government High School Model Legislature and Court participants **Hunter Mathis** of Hanahan and **Brittany Bomboy** of Shaw Air Force Base wrote, debated and got their proposed laws passed.

Brittany also received the Junior Leadership Spartanburg, Class of 2010-2011, certificate of graduation from the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce and an invitation into Spartanburg High School's Beta Club.

Photo: Gold Star student head shots.

"SWING! The Musical"

"SWING! The Musical," a full-scale song and dance revue that whisked away audiences to the Swing Era of the 1930s and 40s, was performed by School for the Deaf students grades 5 through 12. They represented Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, expert dancers of the era who wowed audiences with flips and spins! The students signed and performed to music of the golden age, such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and the like.

The School for the Deaf integrated studies of the Swing Era into the students' curriculum throughout the semester including history lessons and art projects. In studying this era, students spent many classes reading about and discussing the prejudices of the time period and how it relates to today.

Photo: School for the Deaf students, paired into couples, wearing bright costumes of the Swing Era. They are all mid-swing dance move with big smiles.

Caption: School for the Deaf students swung audiences back into the 1930s and 40s with their interpretation of "SWING! The Musical." Audiences were dazzled by their swinging talents! From left to right: Jalisa Clayton of North Charleston, Lois Griffin of Orangeburg, Sean Hunt of Walterboro, and Bree Crayton of Spartanburg.

Mason-Dixon Tournament Comes to SCSDB

SCSDB hosted the 59th Annual Boys' Mason-Dixon Basketball Tournament in January. The event brought together 11 schools for the deaf and 200 student athletes to our campus for 17 games of basketball. SCSDB's basketball team finished in fifth place.

In addition, an 11-team cheerleading competition took the stage throughout the tournament. SCSDB's cheer team also finished in fifth place.

Photo: An SCSDB boys basketball player can be seen mid-air with the ball in his hands as he is heading for the hoop. Other players are scattered around him and watching.

Caption: SCSDB's Cleveland Hallman of Columbia makes a stellar jump-shot against North Carolina School for the Deaf. Cleveland was named a *Deaf Digest* All-American.

MAP Testing

SCSDB assists teachers, parents and administrators in identifying and responding to individual student needs through its new Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing program.

MAP is a computerized test that adapts to a student's responses throughout the course of the test. For example, if a question is answered correctly, the test then presents a more challenging question.

The test is given three times a year in reading, language usage, math and science to measure progress and assist teachers with academic planning. The test is available in braille and large print for blind and visually impaired students, while interpreters are on hand for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

You're Invited!

- 4/26 **"Wonderland," An Original Musical**
A VSA SC & SCSDB Partnership
7 p.m. – Pulliam Auditorium, Walker Hall
- 4/27 **"Wonderland," An Original Musical**
A VSA SC & SCSDB Partnership
9:30 a.m. – Pulliam Auditorium, Walker Hall
- 4/26 **Special Olympics Area 12 Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Competition, Voss Gym**
- 4/28 **Junior Senior Prom**
- 5/3 **Art on the Lawn: SCSDB Student Art Sale**
- 5/6 **Awards Day**
- 5/20 **Elementary/Kindergarten Graduation**
- 5/25 **Graduation, Pulliam Auditorium, Walker Hall**
- 6/19 – 25 **SCSDB Summer Camps**

For more information about events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at access@scsdb.org or toll free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7505#.

SCSDB Students Participate in Converse College Science Project

Eight SCSDB students investigated cancer causing effects of last summer's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico through a science project with Converse College. SCSDB students were assisted by students in the Nu Xi Honor Society Chapter, a Beta Beta Beta National Biology Honor Society, at Converse.

In March, they went to the National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students sponsored by National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY.

Photo: Three students are in a chemistry lab. They are wearing goggles and working on formulas. The oldest of the students is a Converse College student who is using a long syringe to measure a liquid.

Caption: School for the Deaf high school students Deven Frazier of Cordova and Matthew Wright of Gray Court work on a formula while Converse College student Veronica Obregon measures formula components.

Adventures in Braille

SCSDB and USC Upstate hosted the first Adventures in Braille weekend camp!

Sponsored by USC Upstate and SCSDB, students who are blind or visually impaired ages 12-18 participated in a weekend camp filled with fun, adventure and exciting learning opportunities! The three-day camp included games, activities, and independent living skills classes.

Photo: Camper in an apron stands with Adventures in Braille staffer Ann Klocko. They have just finished pouring yellow cake batter into a rectangle cake pan. The camper is smiling proudly.

Caption: Adventures in Braille staff member Ann Klocko teaches camper Shelby Craig, a student in Charleston County, how to bake in one of Adventures in Braille's independent living skills classes. Shelby used braille recipes to make the perfect cake!

Photo: SCSDB art teacher and student sitting at a table. Both are wearing aprons as they make a paper mache planet out of newspaper. They both are smiling.

Caption: School for the Multihandicapped teacher Chrissy Kinney and School for the Multihandicapped student Kaitlin Wilson of Taylors work on a solar system art project together using paper mache.

Photo: USC's Cocky is at the left standing with a USC student who is reading aloud a book. In front of them is a big group of 5th graders sitting on the floor in the library.

Caption: Cocky's Reading Express™ pulled into SCSDB station for reading, learning and fun! All SCSDB preschool – 5th graders gathered to watch Cocky act out stories while USC students read them.

Welcome New Students!

School for the Blind

Ahmad Abukhdair of Summerville
Staycee Etheredge of Saluda
Alexis Knight of Simpsonville
Ashton Reed of Chesnee
Christian Reed of Chesnee
Cameron Stitt of Simpsonville

School for the Deaf

Brandon Brock of Spartanburg
Jyda Good of Rock Hill
Faith Glover of Orangeburg
Pedro Gutierrez of Greenville
Davion Jackson of Simpsonville
Megan Metzler of Simpsonville
Dion Murphy of Spartanburg
Shanice Pressley-Sanders of Chester
Dillon Shuping of Chesnee

School for the Multihandicapped

Lindsey Allen of Columbia

Laurence Black of Florence
Tate Branham of Summerton
Shayden Ligon of Greenville

**The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome throughout the school year.*

Photos: Are head shots of new students.

Back Page Standards

*** Note: Be sure to include date and quantity in very small print on the back.**

Options and Opportunities . . .

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help children realize dreams. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through SCSDB include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers at no cost to parents/guardians;
- Pre K-12 education programs on the main SCSDB campus in Spartanburg (residential and day);
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide;
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts;
- Summer camps for children ages 6-14; and,
- A wide variety of accessibility services.

Children's needs vary with stages in life, and we welcome the opportunity to share the many options and opportunities available with you. For more information, contact us toll-free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7505# or via e-mail at access@scsdb.org.

South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

Access SCSDB is accessible in the following formats:

Standard – Braille – Large Print – Spanish – Screen Reader Capable.

To request a copy in any format, contact us toll-free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7505# or via e-mail at access@scsdb.org. You may also visit www.scsdb.org!

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SCSDB Accreditations

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council
on Accreditation and School Improvement
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
South Carolina Department of Education

A Palmetto Gold School

A Red Carpet School

South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

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