

DEAF TRIVIA #6

In 1861, the same year Kansas became a state, the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) was founded, making it the oldest state educational institution and an early sign of Kansas's commitment to public education and inclusion. Its roots go back to Deaf teacher Philip A. Emery, who began teaching Deaf children in Baldwin City after being invited by Jonathan R. Kennedy, a settler with three Deaf children who pushed for schooling. Soon after statehood, lawmakers used public funds to support the school and eventually chose Olathe as its permanent home in the mid 1860s. Since then, KSD has been a central place where generations of Deaf Kansans used ASL and built community, showing that Deaf history is a core part of Kansas and American history.

