

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf selling campus, plans move

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Photo courtesy St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf is putting its campus, at 1809 Clarkson Road in Chesterfield, up for sale and looking for a new location in leased space.

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St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf is selling its Chesterfield campus, looking for new leased space in the St. Louis area and has chosen Balke Brown Associates to help with both.

The institute, which also has a campus in Indianapolis, is selling its 108,000-square-foot facility at 1809 Clarkson Road, south of Baxter, in Chesterfield. A final decision on a broker was made Sunday, and an asking price has not yet been set, according to an institute spokeswoman, but the campus is appraised at \$21.9 million, according to St. Louis County records.

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1837, provides auditory-oral education and other services to children and young adults, including large numbers of children with cochlear implants. It offers classroom education and therapy services for preschool through eighth grade children, and in-home and campus-based services from birth to age 3.

The organization said the move will allow the institute to modernize its campus with the IT infrastructure it now needs. St. Joseph began an Internet-based language and speech therapy program, called iHear, in 2009 that's used by families in multiple states. The institute said it's looking to build technology infrastructure to support that growing program as well as current and future on-site needs.

[Chris Martinez](#), the institute's director of development and project manager for the relocation, said the organization does not plan to build, but is looking for a site that is both a convenient size and location, with the right technology buildout and corresponding resources. A projected cost for the move is still being developed.

“We know getting into a (leased) space that's right for us will be a considerable savings, and let us put donors' money toward programs and not a building,” Martinez said. Once the cost of the relocation and more information on the new facility are developed, the institute will “strongly consider” a capital campaign, he said.

The organization has an annual operating budget of \$5 million, Martinez said. The institute has 50 employees in St. Louis and 20 at its Indianapolis campus.

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf has been at its current location since 1996. The institute once offered a residential program for up to 40 children that it phased out in 2009, so the building comes equipped with dorm rooms and a commercial kitchen.

It also has an art room, theater, lobby and offices currently used for its audiology program.