When returning to school at the Moog Center for Deaf Education this August, the above pictured face shield with apron will be paired with a Roger remote microphone system and utilized by all teachers and staff. The Moog Center for Deaf Education made a decision to use face shields instead of masks in order to provide students access to lipreading and facial expressions of the adult speakers throughout the students’ school day. Additionally, Moog staff evaluated current research and recommendations regarding homemade masks to determine the materials for construction of the apron, ultimately designing a triple-layered mid-torso length fabric apron to limit particle ingress to the wearer. While the draping of the fabric over the torso also allows for sufficient space at the top of the chest for placement of a remote microphone (RM), the user must ensure the microphone is situated high enough to prevent fabric from rubbing across the microphone ports when the teacher’s head moves. During initial testing with the aproned face shield and RM system, speech perception abilities were found to be statistically similar to listening to a speaker wearing the face shield alone with RM (error rate <2%).

Incredible thanks and gratitude to Cheryl Abeln for working with us tirelessly to create the prototype for this modified face shield and apron.