# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# April 2023

## Student Enrollment

As of March 1, 2023

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 694

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022 187

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 169

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 12

K-5th 29

6-8th 18

9-12th 26

Bridges to Life 12

Total 97

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 7

K-5th 19

6th-8th 15

9-12th 21

Bridges to Life 10

Total 72

Day Students 130

Residential Students 39

Parent Option 10

District Option 159

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 353

CHIP (Deafblind) 19

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 26

Direct Outreach 127

ELDI Programs 91

## Interim Superintendent

* Capstone Presentations Judge in April for our Senior capstone presentations.
* Attended the PPASA Meeting on
* Interim Superintendent, along with the Student LIfe Supervisor, DIrector of Outreach, and Director of Special Education will attend the CEASD Conference in Riverside, CA.
* Health and Wellness meeting highlights include planning the annual 5K on May 19th, and the End of the Year Picnic on June 8th.
* The 150th Anniversary committee has set the date for the 15th anniversary kick off celebration for June 8th before the picnic.
* Collaboration meeting with CDE regarding recommendations related to student achievement from the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) in December.
* Working closely with the Controller and HR Manager to review classified staff pay for pay compression, and the at-will pay scale.
* Leadership team is working to identify the priorities for a JBC budget request.
* On-campus educational programs developed a committee to look at the structure of administrative and teacher support and recommendations for systems changes.
* Strategic Plan quarterly meetings occurred with the Statewide Services Subgroup.
* Safety Security Officer III position was filled.
* CSEAP training provided to leadership and mid-level managers during the quarterly meeting.

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

## Finance

* The financial reports show expenses through February 28.
* CSDB is still anticipating a shortfall of about $269,000 in per pupil revenue. We have held vacancy savings to cover the shortfall.
* Our supplemental budget request of $21,700 for the student auto transport insurance premium has been booked into our current Operating appropriation budget line item, increasing that budget line item from $733,291 to $754,991.
* An over-expenditure of about $3,000 is projected under the Vehicle Lease appropriation line item. CSDB does not have any control over this appropriation. The Fleet allocations are done in advance (a year and a half) by Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) that it is only a projection of the vehicles that are expected to be deployed.  DPA submits an annual supplemental request to true up the projected appropriation in the current year, but JBC usually denies agencies' non-prioritized requests when there is a supplemental that is less than 10%.  The good news is that in terms of avoiding an FY 23 over-expenditure on this appropriation is that the over-expenditure can be moved to Operating. We have set $3,000 aside in Operating to cover this. This over-expenditure is expected to happen again in FY24, but it should be captured in FY25.
* As of April 7, Senate Bill 23-214 (Long Bill) is still under consideration. An error was discovered in the DPA statewide comp budget submission that the CSDB shift differential line item of $141,569 was completely taken out. Since then, our JBC analyst has made the technical adjustment recommendation to correct the shift differential omission.

## Personnel

* To date, 20 positions have been filled for the 2022-2023 school year. Since July 1, 2022, there have been 14 employee separations. Currently, there are 31 total vacancies: 8 vacancies for non-Classified positions; 23 vacancies for Classified positions.

Note: there are 17 vacancies in Student Life Programs; there are no immediate plans to fill 13 positions due to the number of students currently residing in the dorms (37 students).

* Currently accepting applications for a Principal / School for the Deaf; Administrative Assistant II / Front Desk; Health Care Technician I; TVI: Social Studies; TOD (ASL-Preschool/Early Education Programs; TOD / Spoken English-Preschool/Early Education Programs; TVI (Preschool); Special Education Teacher / TOD (K-12) and State Teacher Aide / PreK.
* Administrative Assistant I (CIMC) closed Friday, December 30, 2022 – Interviews completed, reference checks being completed prior to offer. First offer declined (already accepted another job), new job offer pending. Second offer declined, will repost. Reposted March 15, 2023, closed March 29, 2023. Comparative Analysis conducted April 3, 2023. Interviews pending.
* Accounting Technician III / Payroll Interviews scheduled for April 11, 2023 (six applicants)
* Postings soon will be Custodian II; Safety Security Officer I; Dining Services I; Accounting Technician III; Administrative Assistant II / CIMC; Grounds & Nursery I

## Facilities/IT

### Facilities Update

**Stone:**

* Getting quotes for the floor, lights, painting improvements – future museum/History Committee Workspace
* Investigating Testing tactile methods to improve Blind/VI navigation throughout building (sense changes in direction to avoid obstacles like water fountains, shelves, stairway openings)
* Planning removal of roughly 414 gallons of used oil in 2 oil-sand separator tanks
* Changing table installed

**Argo:**

* Researching gas options to replace steam kettle – energy savings
* Kitchen hood fan failed; temp fan installed until a replacement can be sourced and funded

**Campus:**

* Receive $17.5K School Security Grant to help fund Emergency Action Plan development & training
* Stone Radon testing complete and no issues; test Adams this month
* Braille signage for Admin & Lions
* Currently working with the State to test drinking water by May 31 in areas that serve children pre-school through 5th grade ([House Bill 22-1358](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB22-1358): Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers)
  + Buildings have been surveyed and information submitted - awaiting test kits
* Board meeting April 18th to review CM & CCCR 5-yr plans

**IT Updates:**

* Identifying alternative options to replace touch panel in Gottlieb
* Transitioned to FMX April 3
* Installed new projector in Gottlieb 200
* Rolling out new devices and processing old devices for disposal
* Rafael left CSDB; looking to fill the vacant position
* Exploring different copier vendors and Blind/VI friendly copiers with Voice Command and Braille overlays

**Project Update (**[**https://csdb.colorado.gov/facilities-construction/active/funded-projects**](https://csdb.colorado.gov/facilities-construction/active/funded-projects)**):**

* Admin Rehab
  + Complete
  + Contractor addressing wind storm damaged window
* Industrial Roof Repair
  + Construction/repair Jun-Jul
* Argo Roof Replacement
  + Performed in-house batt insulation removal – saved ~$15K
  + Roof replacement 6/12/2023 – 8/03/2023
* West Hall Design/Build Roof Replacement
  + Negotiating cost/design w/GH Phipps
  + Coordinating contract signing next week
  + Roof replacement 7/5/2023 - 8/29/2023
* Gym Construction
  + Begin water line construction May 1
  + Received initial Construction Schedule; stakeholder meeting April 11
  + BAC and Archery Lane asbestos abatement will take place the weekend of 4/15 & 4/22
  + Building construction 5/30/2023 – 10/31/2023
* Expecting approval on the Long Bill:
  + ADA Playground $1.9M – next to Lions Hall, 2x the size of the current playground and ADA-compliant/fully accessible
  + Security Upgrades (Phase 1 of 2) $572K – perform a security threat assessment & prepare infrastructure/network for Phase 2 security cameras
  + Gym Renovation (Phase 3 of 3) $1.5M – Elevator/ADA accessibility, new flooring, bleachers, mechanical heating/cooling and more
* CEM Assessment of Emergency Action Plan
  + 2nd Site Visit planned for May 3 - 5
    - Train-the-Trainer May 3 and 4
    - Staff training on May 4
    - Evacuation/reunification Table Top and Field Exercise on Friday, May 5

## Both Schools

* USAFA visited in March and cadets got to learn about both school programs, including participating in ASL activities and a goal ball match.
* The Spring District assessment window opened, and students did mid-year testing.
* Students from both elementary programs participated in the annual Beeping Egg Hunt Wednesday, April 5.
* Students from both secondary programs attended a performance at the Fine Arts Center, “In the Heights” March 14.
* Staff participated in yearly training for state testing. Students will be involved in state testing for the first three weeks of April, to varying degrees.

## School for the Deaf

* Staff are diligently working to plan for an ASL day which will occur May 11.
* In Mr. Eric Bruckman’s World People Studies students participated in a round of Guess Who? specific to many famous Deaf Artists. Students had a great time and reported there appeared to be an “art aura” to all of the Deaf artists.
* Hally Ricklefs, one of the School for the Deaf Speech/Language Pathologists, is working with identified students on the concept of before and after. To aide with students’ understanding she introduced the idea of flipping forward and backward related to time. She also added pictures of students and other events to enhance comprehension. This will then be used to further student knowledge about sequencing of events!
* Ally Marcino has been focusing on several essential questions in her high school English Language Arts classes. This round of questions focuses on rejection and how we deal with these issues. Further the questions of “For whom is the American Dream relevant?”, “When should personal integrity come before civic duty?” and “What would we do if there were no limits?”. To answer these questions, students will be broken into three book clubs where they will analyze a different dystopian novel: The Hunger Games, Uglies, and The Middler. Books will be passed out today before state testing so that students can get started on reading when they have completed tests and/or during alternate activities.

## School for the Blind

* Five of our students flew to Napa, California over spring break and participated in the Enchanted Hills Camp. Students sailed, hiked, and visited a Guide Dog School.
* Our elementary team brought their Expanded Core Curriculum class to visit our transportation building. Staff from our facilities department showed the students the gator, lawn mower, and forklift. Experiences like this is so important for true concept development for our students. It’s important for them to have opportunities to explore these machines while off and quiet, so when they are on and loud they have better understanding of their function and they aren’t as scary.
* After school blind archery club began on March 13
* Elementary students celebrated pie day, 3/14, by trying to memorize as many digits as possible. Students also sampled different pie flavors in Mr. Sonneborn’s math class and during ECC time.
* Our secondary special education class learned about fossils and had the opportunity to explore some samples during their science class with Andrew Millican and Christina Cortes.
* Teaching staff have been taking turns training the paras on various topics during combined PLC time.
* The preschool for the blind had a parent event where parents attended, ate lunch with their students and learned about the Expanded Core Curriculum and how it fits into the preschool program.

## Employability Center

* Students in our Bridges to Life (BtL) program and the Post-School Preparation (PSP) class continued in their work experiences. Of our 27 student workers, 96% of students are currently placed in job placements. Some examples of work sites include the Arc and the Pioneer Museum.
* Our BtL student working at the Pioneer Museum is making the permanent exposition more accessible by using a braille map and brailling the materials around the museum.
* BtL visited the Independence Center's open house for their Gaming and Computer Lab and took a tour of the center. Students got to play computer games, use the virtual reality headset, and learn about the services offered at the IC.
* Bridges to Life students worked on transferring their budgeting skills and learned how to save money around the community.
* Students in PSP class went to Pikes Peak Workforce Center & will continue that presentation in class with guest speaker Michael Walton.
* There was a Preparedness Training Presentation by the Disaster Preparedness Training coordinator (American Red Cross) for PSP & BtL.
* A CSDB nurse did a BtL Health Advocacy presentation on Heart Health.
* Capstone students presented their final projects to the panel of judges April 6. Topics this year included cosmetology, songwriter, video game developing, and teaching students how to spell. We are very proud of their hard work!
* Students in career exploration class have finished their “construction” of Bird Houses for the Construction Career Cluster. They are hoping to display them in Gottlieb soon. They are currently starting the Manufacturing Career Cluster.
* The Bulldog band just had a wonderful time playing at the Braille Challenge. Students from music classes attended a school field trip to see the production of "In the Heights" thanks to the Fine Arts Center Collaboration Grant.
* For art classes, both schools have been participating in a collaborative art experience with the Fine Arts Center. We are currently preparing for an art show, theatre, and musical performance. The event will be May 5th at the FAC, so we are starting to really dive deep and get work completed! During normal class time, students are finishing their last clay projects, and are moving forward with their Fibers unit.
* In PE classes, students learned about pickleball, how to jump rope, and how to use a hula hoop.
* ILs class worked on finding recipes that they would like to make and identified ingredients and supplies they will need to make their recipe.

## Student Services

* Two of our O&M instructors gave an all staff hands-on travel experience with a cane while blindfolded on our campus for professional development day. Another O&M instructor also helped with the Compensatory skills station that day.
* We have continued our partnership with Dr. Barad’s office (Local Ophthalmologist) to ensure that all the appropriate students have up-to-date eye exams.  Our nurses and some of the blind school staff have worked to get eye reports from within the last three years for over 90% of our qualifying students. We have monthly standing appointments with Dr. Barad’s office, and they provide free exams to all our students. We are sending a group of students from the Deaf school, soon, who failed vision screenings and needed follow-up.  Special thanks to our transportation department for their collaboration to get students to and from appointments.

## Student Life

### Athletics

* Students did not want to have track this season, so we replaced track with soccer club. Students are enjoying soccer club.
* Max is talking with the Black Forrest League and the Colorado High School Athletics Association CHSAA about our school resigning from Varsity level sports. We would actually have more opportunities for games if we were able to schedule games with the same schools we currently play but against their junior varsity teams. For us to do this, we would need to get out of the varsity league and any games we play would not be considered for a playoff berth. Over the years we have seen a steady decline in our athletic ability and continuing to be a part of varsity means our students lose with huge score gaps which does nothing for their confidence. Max and I both agree and feel the students would benefit from bringing the level of competition down to a skill that better matches where our students are. We would also save money on the fees we pay to be members of the BFL and CHSAA varsity leagues as JV junior varsity will be cheaper. It also frees up some of the restrictions we have placed on us competing against non-league members such as out of state schools for the deaf and schools for the blind as well as opens up more schools within the state of Colorado that we could compete in a more equally matched game.

### Afterschool programs

* GEBC Church Monday nights.
* Soccer club for students who are deaf.
* Archery club for students who are blind.

### Dorm activities

Some of the activities occurring in the dorms this month.

* Attitude Ninja
* Springs Trampoline
* Kim’s Yoga
* Intramural/Open Gym
* Mall @ Chapel Hills
* Minute to win it type games in the dorm.
* Dorm Cooking.

## Outreach Programs including the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

## Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

### ****Statewide Student Registration Database & Federal Quota Census Count****

* The statewide count of learners with visual impairment, including blindness, was completed March 15.
* Phase I of the federal quota census closed March 15. Phase 2 opens in early April.

### ****First Friday and Southern Region TVI/DVR Meetings****

* March’s “First Friday” statewide zoom meeting was held on March 3. Attendees from Delta County, Adams 1 Mapleton, Weld 6 Greeley, Ute Pass BOCES, CSDB Outreach, CSDB, Adams 12 Thornton, Arapahoe 6 Littleton, and A Shared Vision all participated in collegial sharing. Topics included: strategies for teaching a student how to tie their shoes, technology software, iPad apps, the Wilson reading program in braille, the I-M-ABLE curriculum (from APH),
* As a region, we decided not to schedule a Southern Region TVI/DVR meeting for March 2023 due to schools being out of session for their respective spring breaks. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25.

### ****Community ASL Classes****

The spring session of Community ASL Classes began the week of April 3. Six ASL classes per week will be taught; three on Tuesday evenings and three on Thursday evenings. The Outreach team is still partnering with the ASL specialists in Gottlieb to support parent classes for students attending CSDB.

**Outreach ASL instructors taught a 4-series ASL class for teens at Sand Creek Library during March. Two more libraries, Fountain and Ruth Holley will host a 4-series for Teens in April.**

### ****Immersion for Professionals****

Our next ASL Immersion for Professionals is oApril 22.

**Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS) - Online ASL Courses for Middle and High School Students**

We currently have a total of 47 CDLS students this Spring semester.

**ASL Classes for CSDB Staff**

Staff ASL classes are currently in session.

## Early Education Team

**Little Language Learners**

Little Language Learners finished their Winter session in March, and look forward to Spring session, starting April 7!

**CO-Hears**

Our newest CO-Hear, Sarah Mullervy, joined the team March 1, and is serving the Grand Junction area with Mesa and Garfield Counties. The team continues to have widespread representation on task forces and committees. One CO-Hear and the Early Education Coordinator presented at the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) meeting, and collectively had 5 presentations! Additionally, the [CO-Hear video](https://youtu.be/lpC1GbxS1dU) was shared and made public.

**Colorado Shared Reading Project**

CSRP team continues to support families across the state, mentor instructors, and provide ASL classes for families on the waiting list, and in collaboration with The Resource Exchange in Colorado Springs, for families who have children birth to age 3. In March, they finalized work with EI Colorado for personnel standards, skills, and competencies for Sign Instructors with the state. They also hosted an online consultation meeting with contractors that was focused on hands on with books and translation from ASL to English.

**Early Literacy (EL) Events**

The team hosted their annual Children’s Museum of Denver event and had over 120 families attended the event. There were 8 staff, as well as adults from the Ascent program (the COEHDI, Colorado Early Hearing, Detection, and Intervention, funded Deaf adult role model program offered through CSDB). The feedback was positive for the whole event, which included exploration of the museum, story time, and interactions with DHH adults. Families left the museum with a 1-year free family membership!

## Media:

Blind Coloradoan –

Braille Challenge for Southern Colorado

Braille Challenge for the Denver Metro region

Skiing at Crested Butte

Howe’s Now

Braille Challenge for Southern Colorado

Skiing at Crested Butte

CSDB thanks the Plains and Peak Club of the Legacy West Pioneers for hosting the Beeping Egg Hunt for preschool and elementary students who are blind/visually impaired, including one Outreach child and her family. Also, the club provided an egg hunt for preschool and elementary students in the School for the Deaf. Along with the egg hunts, the club provided 65 baskets, facepainting and balloon tying fun.

Interim Superintendent messages are emailed to staff and families as well as posted on the CSDB website for stakeholders, biweekly. Each message contains a Bulldog Buzz segment with students interviewing Interim Superintendent Spangler.

***Social Media and Website:***

*Created Super in 60 second*s videos for social media to showcase activities on campus:

March 20 – US Air Force Academy visit  
April 5 – Beeping Egg Hunt  
April 10 – Community Partners at Work: Employability   
April 17 – Colorado Springs Youth Symphony at CSDB

*March monthly analytics*  
Facebook reach 16,067 Instagram reach 425  
New fans 62 Growth 1.3%  
Total likes 4,882 Total fans 440

Linked Unique views 24 Twitter Impressions 329  
New follower 6 New followers 1  
Total followers 591 Total followers 296

YouTube 12,300 views/578 hours  
New subscribers 75 Subscribers 5,071

*Website Analytics*: Average time on pages 2:56 minutes; Most popular pages Home Page, Outreach/ASL Community Classes, School Calendar, Careers/Join Our Team, Careers, Careers/Classified Jobs; Comparison pageviews 18,563 (March 2023) vs 17,128 (Feb 2023)