# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# December 2024

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### As of 11-18-24

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 644

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2024 173

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 169

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 10

K-5th 19

6-8th 24

9-12th 27

Bridges to Life 14

Total 94

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 3

K-5th 18

6th-8th 16

9-12th 31

Bridges to Life 7

Total 75

Day Students 121

Residential Students 48

Parent Option 8

District Option 161

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 340

CHIP (Deafblind) 11

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 37

Direct Outreach 87

ELDI Programs 97

## SUPERINTENDENT

* November 2nd – CSDB hosted a Middle School Basketball tournament and teams from CSDB, Miami-Yoder, Hanover, and Edison participated.
* November 15th – 16th – CSDB hosted the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the New Mexico School for the Blind/Visually Impaired. CSDB placed 2nd in the tournament.
* November 18th – CSDB leadership team hosted a town hall in person that was also livestreamed through Youtube.

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

**Human Resources**

* Payroll Vacancy is close to being filled. Hiring manager working on salary offer.
* HR Admin III position to be posted next.
* Facilities positions to be posted.
* Dining Service positions to be posted.
* HCT Deaf and HCT Blind interviews are occurring this month.
* State Teacher Aide for the Blind school interviews to happen this month.
* Nurse I applicant has accepted position.
* TOD Elementary ASL has been filled.
* TOD Secondary Math has been filled.
* Controller Reallocation in process.
* HR Spec II Reallocation in process.
* Out of State Waiver requested again for HCT positions.

**Facilities**

* Developing a plan and conceptual design to accommodate additional space and restroom improvements for Adams Hall
  + Received $91,300 from the Office of State Architect for conceptual design
  + Aggressive schedule to design and complete construction for Aug 2025
  + Will require Vacancy Savings and additional funding support from the Office of State Architect
* History Colorado is nominating our facilities to be included into the National Historical Registry (decision made Summer 2025)
  + National Registry opens alternative grant/funding opportunities
  + No additional burden placed on CSDB regarding Design & Construction
* Project Updates
  + Security Upgrades
    - Contractor will finish installing all interior and exterior cameras by the end of November
    - Developing solicitation for additional site improvements
  + Playground
    - Install additional shade structures and other modifications/repairs 25-27 November
  + Gym Renovation
    - Completing heating & cooling upgrades throughout
    - Constructing elevator shaft
    - Upgrading LED lighting throughout
    - Coordinating purchase & installation of Shot Clocks in Main Gym
    - Coordinating installation of braille signage throughout
    - Refinish Upper Gym & Running Track floors 1st week of December
    - Coordinating new bleacher install in Upper Gym
  + Argo Hall
    - Replacing floor tile in both restrooms 25-27 Nov
  + Campus concrete/sidewalk repairs 25-27 Nov
  + Elevator Upgrade & Modernization
    - Design in-progress
    - Elevators: Admin, Argo, Brown, Ritter, Gottlieb
    - Wheelchair Lifts: Stone and Adams
    - Work planned for Summer 2025

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

## Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

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

CIMC distributed new statewide student registration reports to each administrative unit (AU) at the beginning of November with instructions for AUs to complete their first-round edits in preparation for the Monday, January 6, 2025, statewide count as well as the federal quota census count.

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

On November 1, 2024, the CIMC hosted a “First Friday” CIMC Zoom meeting for stakeholders statewide. APH demonstrated new APH products and answered questions specific to federal quota eligibility. On November 12th CIMC staff attended the Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting hosted by the vision team of El Paso County School District 20 (Air Academy), where there was extensive discussion of the SWAAAC lending library literacy kit materials that have been adapted to allow for switch access when viewed on a tablet.

## American Sign Language Team

**Community ASL Classes**

We offered six ASL classes on campus in Colorado Springs from September 3rd and 5th through October 22nd and 24th; three on Tuesday and three on Thursday. Community classes were held in the evening. We also offered two ASL classes in the Denver area from September 16th and 18th; one on Monday and one on Wednesday. The survey result from all 58 participants in Colorado Springs shows 56 “Very satisfied” and two “Satisfied”. The survey result from 12 participants (the other four did not show up in class due to snow issue) in the Denver area shows 12 “Very satisfied”.

The Outreach team partnered with the preschool teacher who also has experience in teaching ASL to support parent class for students attending CSDB.

**Immersion for Professionals**

We offered three ASL levels on campus in Colorado Springs on Saturday, October 12th. We had 35 participants. The survey shows 34 out of 35 “Very Satisfied” and one “Satisfied”. Some commented that they want more classes. We only offer three times a year.

**We are hoping to offer a class in the Denver area in 2025.**

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

All classes are doing good and are ongoing until December 18th.

**ASL Classes for CSDB Staff**

ASL classes for staff will end by December 18, 2024, and will resume on the second week (January 13-17) of January 2025.

## Itinerant Services

The two dually certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists in Outreach provided services to 31 students in five school districts/BOCES plus early intervention services to 37 families with BVI infants/toddlers during October 2024. During the same period last year, October 2023, services were provided to 22 school age children and 23 families with BVI children under the age of three years old. To rephrase this, the two Outreach providers’ combined caseloads increased from 45 families/students during October 2023 to 68 families/students during October 2024.

The two Outreach Teachers of the Deaf services are provided to 56 students from two school districts and seven charter schools across the state during October 2024. During October 2023, one Teacher of the Deaf provided services to 30 students from three charter schools and one BOCES. The second Outreach TOD was on loan to teach classes in Gottlieb building during the 2023-2024 school year.

## Early Education Team

**Little Language Learners**

The Little Language Learners hosted an Open House in Northern Colorado in November with seven families in attendance. There are currently 12 families interested and signed up for the first class on December 6. We are offering this pilot monthly at Timberline Church in Fort Collins and staff from CSDB will be teaching and supporting the class!

**CHIP Coordinators**

The Colorado Home Inclusion Program provided a collaborative workshop with Wyoming Early Intervention Initiative in early November. There were 50 participants from Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and New Mexico that joined to learn about Literacy through Music and Rhymes with Hands Land in the morning and Listen Foundation in the afternoon.

Our CHIP Coordinators are getting ready to train a handful of new CHIP Facilitators in December. Many of the facilitators have a background in deafness and early intervention, which will benefit the local programs they work for. We are excited to increase capacity through the local programs so families can get connected to highly qualified providers sooner. One family said, “I just LOVE how she (facilitator) interacts with us and how she shows me different ways I can get my child's attention and how to wait for her to follow through with what we are showing her or doing at that moment in time!"

Our team continues to provide education and training to local programs about our program and the opportunities within. One CHIP Coordinator is representing the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind at the Department of Education Educational Audiology meetings to increase collaborative efforts with transition from Part C to Part B services.

Finally, District 51 in Grand Junction hosted a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Fall Social with about 20 people from the community in attendance. The CHIP Coordinator in that area attended the event and continues to build and strengthen relationships in that rural community.

**Early Literacy Development Initiative**

We had to cancel our event on Nov 9th in Fort Collins due to the snowy weather. We had 23 families signed up for that. Our virtual event was on Nov 13th and had four families participating out of ten families who signed up. The families who attended will get "How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?" in the mail. Our team is getting ready for one of the biggest events of the year- the Winter Festival, which is a collaborative Holiday Event held in Denver.

We have a Sign Instructor now set up to provide ASL Services in the Northern Colorado area, working with local programs in Fort Collins and Greeley. Our lead will mentor her until we can get her into formal SkiHi training. We are working with Wyoming to provide a collaborative Deaf Mentor training in Spring or early Summer. We also collaborated with our partners at University of Colorado Boulder to collect data related to families that have ASL on the Individualized Family Service Plan, and their baseline scores for the Colorado Shared Reading Project. What we found was that families who received individual ASL instruction through their local EI agency knew significantly more signs on the Parent Sign Checklist than did families who did not receive prior individual sign instruction.

Percentage of families who knew at least 100 signs on their baseline PSC.

* Group 1 – “Previous Instruction” = 95%
* Group 2 – “No previous instruction” = 66%

And that Families who received individual ASL instruction through their local EI agency had significantly higher ASL skill scores when reading a book to their child than did families who did not receive prior individual sign instruction.

Percentage of families who score 2 or higher on the ASL skill rubric.

* Group 1 – “Previous Instruction” = 82%
* Group 2 – “No previous instruction” = 49%

While this data is not a surprise for those of us in the field, it will be beneficial to report to local programs and families and can be used to justify future growth of the program at CSDB.

The Colorado Shared Reading Project is currently serving 97 families (23 of those being birth through age 2) and have 24 families on the waiting list. Eight families are scheduled for an initial visit in November and will begin services after that initial visit. Additionally, we will be setting up “meet and greets” with two candidates for Language and Literacy Instructors and are communicating with another four potential contractors. Bringing on these additional contractors will decrease the waitlist for families. The second consultation meeting for contractors was held November 2 and was a continuation from the October training focusing on grammar and language use of American Sign Language.

**Ascent Program**

We have finalized paperwork for our Ascent adults and are excited to provide deaf and hard of hearing adult role models at the Winter Festival in December. The new Rack Brochure is being finalized for distribution, and budget predictions are underway. The team is looking to provide refresher training after the new year and then begin recruiting new adults to join our contractor pool.

Additionally, we are beginning a pilot for data collection purposes in partnering with the CHIP Coordinators. The goal is for our Ascent Coordinator to join a meeting with the CHIP Coordinator after initial referral but before IFSP Services start, explain the program, and set up a follow up with a deaf adult. We will collect data on the number of new referrals, of those, how many families meet with our co-coordinator, and then how many follow up with an Ascent meeting.

## **Early Education Center**

The EEC November themes are Food and Thanksgiving. To help learn about different foods, themed snacks occurred daily such as edible cornucopia with fruit salad, scarecrow pudding, and popcorn in “husks.” Our October family event occurred on October 31st had 78% parental attendance in the DHH classroom and 58% overall.

**Community and Statewide Collaborations**

**On October 19, we hosted the regional training for the Colorado Department of Education. There were twelve attendees from this region that included Teachers of the Deaf, Interpreters, and state partners.**

**On November 1, we opened our doors to Mesa Ridge High School. Fifty students from their Advanced Medical Technology class came to campus to learn more about deafness. They had the opportunity to learn from a variety of staff, focusing on programs and career exploration. They also heard personal journeys and asked questions from five Deaf adults on our panel and then saw a glimpse of campus and history with a tour and sometime in the museum.**

We continue to have representation at the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Steering Committee, which focuses collaborative efforts to improve the system for children who are identified deaf. We are also engaged in a nationwide Birth – Three Leads Networking group, which meets monthly to share resources, topic discussion and connections.

## ALL SCHOOLS

### School for the Deaf

* Students in our drama class put on a highly success production of Coco.
* In Physical Education for K-5th grade, we focused on developing jump rope skills.
* For 6-12th grade Physical Education, we worked on ultimate frisbee skills, including targeted throwing techniques and understanding game strategies.
* Students in Civics created their own platform for president based on the issues that interest them. They created a poster each to introduce their issues to attract voters.
* Students in grades 4th/5th learned about election day! They watched a video explaining what election day is, when it happens, who can vote, how people vote, and why it is important. They then learned who the two primary presidential candidates are this year. Next, they did a mock voting activity. They got to make voter registration cards, vote on their favorite foods in a private voting box, and then they received "I voted" stickers and learned the results of their voting.
* The Graphic Novels class recently started a unit on Sherlock Holmes's case, the Hound of the Baskervilles. They have been researching the background of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian period.
* Our 4-5 grade ASL class learned about Classifiers and how they are used in ASL ABC storytelling. They worked on creating ABC Halloween ASL stories including Classifiers.
* Deaf+ students participated in an activity where they painted pumpkins for Colorado parks and wildlife and an archery event they hosted.
* Middle School ELA students immersed themselves in an exciting creative writing unit that focused on character traits, author's purpose, and tone. With Halloween approaching, they designed their very own “little monsters,” each with unique character traits and personalities. From these characters, students created spooky short stories, exploring how character traits shape the narrative and how tone and author’s purpose influence the storytelling.
* Our 8th Grade ELA students explored the question, “What is the horror genre?” and how authors create fear in their writing. They analyzed Frankenstein and Edgar Allan Poe’s chilling poems to uncover the techniques that make horror so effective. Through these discussions, students learned that horror doesn’t always need monsters—it can also rely on building suspense and atmosphere. To put their knowledge into practice, they created their own short stories or poems, focusing on using suspense to engage their readers.
* Kindergarteners have begun learning addition and subtraction skills using fall items like leaves and pumpkins!

### School for the Blind

* The secondary health class has been learning about how to cope with loss and the five stages of grief.
* Secondary PE classes are currently focused on working out in the weight room, familiarizing themselves with weight training and cardio routines.
* Biology classes are learning about taiga, while earth science classes are reviewing precipitation and clouds.
* Secondary students in art class are beginning to work on arabesque metal tiles. Elementary students are learning about form and creating a proportionate body out of tin foil. Students will learn more about the history of mummies and will connect the process through this hands-on experience.
* Our functional social studies class is learning about Native American history in Colorado.
* Our writer’s workshop, secondary students in ELA, are developing better note taking skills by practicing scanning and skimming.
* Secondary ELA students are reading” The Canterbury Tales” while continuing their study of “Romeo and Juliet”
* Elementary students are working on daily practice of foundational reading skills, listening comprehension skills, identifying different genres, and academic vocabulary.
* We hosted our 2nd Annual Spelling Bee on Tuesday, November 12th.
* Aimee Twaddle, Jerred Sonneborn, and two of our school for the blind families represented CSDB at the Breakfast with Champions at the Olympic Paralympic Museum on Friday, November 15th.
* Seniors continue working hard on their senior Capstone projects.
* Career Exploration classes are learning about human services. Some classes are participating in work experiences on our campus.
* Post Secondary Preparation students are participating in off campus work experiences at the Arc Thrift Store, Zach’s Place, and a neighboring childcare center.
* High School math students are learning how to subtract rational numbers, change fractions into decimals to complete subtracting integers.
* One student recently auditioned and successfully was selected in the Colorado Allstate Choir. This is the first student at CSDB (as far as we know) to be selected to attend the festival for two years in a row.

### Bridges to Life

* The Blind/Visually Impaired (VI) program recently visited Plaza Pikes Peak Apartment Complex. During the tour, students explored various apartment layouts, compared rental costs, and became familiar with different amenities and lease-related vocabulary.
* Joseph Ryan and Julie Harrison toured the D11 Vocational Programs at Wasson High School to continue discussions about a potential partnership with CSDB and their vocational training programs.
* All BtL students are currently engaging in work experiences both on and off campus. Our newest work site, Nana's Bakery, offers hands-on experience for a student aspiring to become a baker.
* On November 14, the Bridges to Life program participated in a resource fair within the Widefield School District to raise awareness of the transition services CSDB provides.
* On December 1, the BtL program will welcome Myranda Zigler as the new transition teacher for the D/HH programs.
* Forest Ranger Tera Lynn Gray recently visited our D/HH programs and will also be visiting the Blind/VI programs to discuss opportunities within Federal jobs.
* The Woodland Park Lions Club generously donated $400 to support our Bulldog Bark store, which is operated by BtL students as part of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.

## STUDENT SERVICES

* Three members of the CSDB Mental Health Team recently presented at a state level conference for School Psychologists at the Colorado Society for School Psychologists annual convention in Vail, CO. Cara Johnson, School Psychologist, Allison Sambrook, School Social Worker, and Jessica Rogers, School Counselor, presented on the topic of “Crisis Response for BVI and DHH Students” to a room of School Psychologists from public schools around the state. The team discussed the differences in mental health support BVI and DHH students may need as well as the impact of their experiences on their mental health. The team discussed how important it is for DHH and BVI students to have a sense of community in their school programs and how a community of peers and adult role models can be a protective factor in mental health and wellness of these students with sensory differences. Information about how CSDB has adapted crisis protocols to fit the needs of our students was shared for other districts to consider with their own population of students.
* This fall has been a very busy season for IEP’s and Reevaluations for current students and all the new students that enrolled. Since September 1, we have completed 41 Annual IEP’s and 34 Reevaluations.
* The CSDB database administrator and a member of the IT team will be attending a training soon called, “Accessibility in Technology Procurement and Use” which will provide them with tools and process for making decisions about purchasing & using third party products, so that we are compliant with HB 21-11
* CSDB Student Services/Related Service providers have continued to provide services in all areas to support access to instruction.

## STUDENT LIFE

* We have completed Round 1 of our Athletic Director interviews and will be doing Round 2 interviews after Thanksgiving break.
* We have started scheduling our HCT 1 interviews for our vacant positions serving both students who are deaf and students who are blind.
* November 2nd, We hosted our annual Middle School Basketball Tournament all day at CSDB where we had Edison, Miami Yoder, and Hanover middle school boys and middle school girls.
* November 15th and 16th CSDB Hosted Montana, New Mexico and USABA National Goalball Team came and gave a demonstration of what National and Paralympic teams can do as well as provided a Q&A with our students. The parents also played a game with our students.
* Anthony attended CEASD Leadership Academy at Camp Isola Bella

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Media**

* CBS News Colorado – Colorado Teen creates short film in Denver Film Festival [Published Nov. 6](https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/denver-film-festival-colorado-spotlight-short-documentaries/)

**Videos for Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube)**

* Halloween Fall Parade
* Superintendent Monthly Message
* CSDB Blind School Spelling Bee
* CSDB School for the Blind Homecoming Week

**Website Data – Oct. 15 – Nov. 16**

* Page views/Month 21,516 (8 percent increase from previous month)

**Social Media – Oct. 25 – Nov. 21**

We saw an increase in Facebook engagement, with notable increases in reach and interactions. On Instagram, there was a significant surge in new followers. Facebook content interactions increased by **55%** and organic reach increased by **57%**.

Facebook new follows increased by **38%** and published content count increased by **18%**. Instagram new follows increased by **200%**.

Facebook

* Reach 42k
* Total Followers 11,327

Instagram

* Reach 2.4k
* Total Followers 710