# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# February 2024

## Student Enrollment

## As of January 24, 2024

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 592

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022 169

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 160

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 6

K-5th 23

6-8th 23

9-12th 26

Bridges to Life 9

Total 87

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 3

K-5th 20

6th-8th 16

9-12th 26

Bridges to Life 8

Total 73

Day Students 119

Residential Students 41

Parent Option 12

District Option 148

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 340

CHIP (Deafblind) 9

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 27

Direct Outreach 56

ELDI Programs 103

## Interim Superintendent

* November 3, 2023 – Cultural Excellence: Ideas and Discussions Level 1 Training with Dr. Regina Lewis
* November 8, 2023 - 150th Celebration Committee Meeting
* November 27, 2023 – Equity Meeting
* November 29, 2023 – JBC Briefing
* December 1, 2023 – Pikes Peak Area Superintendents Association (PPASA)
* December 4, 2023 – Facilities Master Plan Meeting
* December 12, 2023 – Attended and presented at JBC Hearing
* December 13, 2023 – Attended CDC Hearing
* December 18, 2023 – United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Meeting
* January 5, 2024 – Restorative Justice Practices Training with Dr. Casey Dupart
* January 11, 2024 - Facilities Master Plan Committee Meeting and ADA Playground Meeting
* January 25, 2024 – ADA Playground Committee Meeting
* January 26, 2024 – Cultural Excellence: Ideas and Discussion Level 2 Training with Dr. Regina Lewis

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

### Finance

Five leadership team members attended the Joint Budget Committee hearing at the State Capitol December 12, 2024, to answer their questions on the three school budget requests for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The fact that our school did not qualify for the Free Healthy Meals for All program was brought up by the Joint Budget Committee Chair and that this is to be put in this year’s supplement to fix the oversight. Hopefully, this will bring the program to our school by this fall.

* The leadership team members went back the next day on December 13, 2023 for the Capital Development Committee hearing for the West Hall Renovation budget request.
* The supplemental budget request for the Argo Hall steam kettle replacement and new facilities equipment was approved by the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and then passed on to the Joint Budget Committee. The Controller was informed by the Joint Budget Committee analyst that it might end up as a budget request for the fiscal year of 24-25 instead of being added to this year’s budget.
* As part of the requirements for all federal funds, a formal closeout process is required when the performance period ends. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II closeout process has been successfully completed. $176,278 was spent on the counselor and braille / literacy interventionist positions ($144,798), COVID testing onsite ($2,200), and tutoring services / summer school ($29,280). The remainder of $1,946 was reverted.
* The financial reports show expenses posted through December 31, 2023. The school is anticipating a shortfall in per pupil revenue around $130,000 and some of the vacancy savings will be held to cover this shortfall.
* The first quarter (July – September) vacancy savings of $219,185 have been allocated to various contracts including the superintendent search, equity trainings, campus maintenance projects, teacher / principal stipends for taking on additional classes and responsibilities.
* Accounting Technician III position has been filled on December 5th and the new team has been getting settled in their new positions well. The Food Service Department has also filled one of the two Dining Services I positions as well as the Administrative Assistant position.

### Human Resources

* To date, 18 positions have been filled for the 2023-2024 school year. Since July 1, 2023, there have been 25 employee separations.
* Currently posted are: Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), NON-CLASSIFIED: American Sign Language (ASL) Instructor, NON-CLASSIFIED: Substitute Teacher, 2 NON-CLASSIFIED: Teacher of the Deaf, NON-CLASSIFIED: Teacher of the Deaf: Elementary, NON-CLASSIFIED: Teacher of the Deaf: Literacy Specialist / Coach, NON-CLASSIFIED: Teacher of the Visually Impaired, NON-CLASSIFIED: Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Preschool), NON-CLASSIFIED: Transition Teacher / Deaf Programs (EC), PARAPROFESSIONAL - TEMPORARY AIDE (working with Students who are Blind/VI), TEMPORARY AIDE.
* Offer pending for Teacher of the Deaf – Secondary English
* Classified Performance Plans for School Year 22-23 are completed and reported to the state. Making changes in PERFORM for School Year 23-24 to make the process easier for staff to navigate. The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Classified Performance Plan was approved by Department of Personnel Administration and posted on the State Website. Mid-Year performance plans are due this month.

### Facilities/Information Technology

**Facilities/IT Update**

* Present 10-year master plan, playground project and energy project during February Board meeting
* Asbestos 3-Year Reinspection
* Hiring Foothills Environmental
* Must complete 3-Year reinspection by end of March.
* Audit/provide recommendations for CSDB Asbestos Management Plan
* Safety Consulting Services
  + Hiring Safety Management Group
    - Assess safety programs (Lock Out/Tag Out, Hot Work, Confined Space, Electrical Safety)
    - Develop safety programs.
    - Provide employee training on safety programs.
* 10-year Facilities Master Plan – complete February 2024/OSA-funded $204,215
  + Finalize Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing review to determine Facility Condition Index

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

* OSA Annual CDC Report; both CM projects made level 1 priority, West Hall #1 Capital Construction priority.
* 1st Quarter Vacancy Savings; 11 projects $142,000
* CSDB has eight projects worth $10 million in capital funding to improve our campus.
* Gym Construction
  + Developing three phases to complete by October 2024
    - **Phase 3A:** ADA Drinking Fountains, Running Track Railing Extension, Acoustical Panels & Motorized Shades in Upper Gym (awarded)
    - **Phase 3B:** Accessible Elevator, ADA Bleachers in Upper and Main Gym, ADA Compliant Door Hardware Throughout, LED Lighting Replacement Throughout (awaiting cost estimate)
      * Met with Gym stakeholders to discuss lighting upgrades & Upper Gym utilization.
    - **Phase 3C:** Complete HVAC Upgrade Throughout, Exterior Doors & Windows, Signage/Wayfinding (evaluating Design Development Documents)
* Argo Roof Replacement
  + Finish roof replacement 6/20/2024 – 8/03/2024
* West Hall Roof Replacement
  + Complete handrail painting January 30, 2024
  + Fixing broken underground balcony drain issue in-house
* West Hall Renovation/Addition
  + Total project cost $36,883,241
    - State funding request FY24-25 $20,285,783 (55%) and BEST Grant request for $16,597,458 (45%).
    - Applying for BEST Grant by Feb 5th
* ADA Playground
  + Met with stakeholders on incorporating Augmentative Communication Devices
  + Met with stakeholders to discuss handrail/openings throughout.
  + Construction 5/13 - 8/9/2024
  + Mini village relocation TBD
* Campus Security Upgrades Phase 1 of 2
  + Move forward with Campus Security Assessment & Network/Fiber Assessment
    - Awarded Security Assessment to Navigate 360
    - Building solicitation for network/fiber improvements & camera design/installation
  + Resolicit in May when Long Bill is signed & we receive funding for Phase 2
* Stone ADA accessibility improvements
* Concrete/asphalt construction this week

**Personnel Actions:**

* Hire Structural Trade II and Custodial I positions.

## All Schools

* Winter Parent Teachers Conferences are this week, January 29-February 2, 2024.

### School for the Deaf

* In US History, students created a graphic organizer that illustrates the Olmec influence on the Maya and Aztec. They chose a flow chart to show how one culture influenced another and a Venn diagram to show what each culture had in common and what was unique to it.
* K-1 students were hard at work learning about who Martin Luther King Jr was and what he stood for! They completed worksheets and crafts related to him and displayed their work proudly on the bulletin board outside of our class! They are warming up to their new teacher, Heather Bueme, and she is quickly building a great rapport with them. Students are about to learn and research animal habitats and will learn how to conduct research and give a presentation. Their families and them will be putting together a diorama that reflects their chosen animal research!
* Students in our Deaf+ classes welcomed a new fulltime teacher, Janey Heard. Janey taught this group for one class during first semester and now have her most of the day.
* In Social Studies, students studied archaeology. Students set low-stick tape and marked out a 3-foot x 3 foot grid on the floor. We placed four or five objects, such as a shoe, a hat, a book, etc., in the grid area. On their papers, each student drew a 3 inch x 3 inch grid and then pinpoint and mark the location of each of the objects.
* In Civics class, each student researched the population sizes of each state congressional district in his or her state. Then each student created a map of his or her state that shows the congressional districts and their population sizes.
* Students in grades 2nd- 5th went to the Money Museum here in Colorado Springs to learn about the origin of money and how money has been used throughout history.

### School for the Blind

* Secondary students with additional disabilities are learning about opinion writing in literacy. They shared their opinions about different musical instruments and will be exploring tactile graphics displaying their opinions.
* During the self-determination unit of our expanded core curriculum class, students learned about the IEP and their role in their own IEP meeting. They also explored the anatomy of the eye and are currently working on making a 3D representation of an eye using a variety of art materials. Two individuals from the Colorado Springs office of Accessibility, American Disability Act Title II spoke to class. Students learned about the importance of self-advocacy when something is not accessible in their community and the process for alerting the city to the issues.
* The Post Secondary Preparation class visited and volunteered their time to Concrete Couch. They learned how to use various tools, identify wood by smell, and made tactile tiles out of clay for their tactile Kiosk.
* Assistive Technology: CSDB was a testing site for the new Monarch refreshable braille display. Seven students were involved in testing this device as well as numerous staff.
* Young scientists are conducting experiments to test their hypotheses about multiple things. One group is studying if a plant can grow by disco light, another is testing the effects of classical music on the growth of a plant. Some other students are tracking the growth of either pumpkin seed or sunflower seeds to see germination firsthand. Finally, students are completing poems, songs, or raps about renewable resources and how humans need them for survival.
* Parent Braille Classes will run January 18 – February 29.
* Our annual Oratorical Contest will be held on Thursday, February 1.
* CSDB Braille Challenge will be on February 22, 2024. Our backup date will be February 28, 2024.
* The 100th Day of School will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

### Employability Center

* We have started on our new second semester schedule, which includes ASL classes for the Deaf students.
* Students are heading back to work as usual.
* We had three of our students exit the program, we had a brief celebration for them in spirit, as only one was here on campus. We wish them luck!!!
* Blind BtL students will visit the Independence Center here in Colorado Springs soon to tour their facility and to learn about their services.
* Parent-Teacher conferences held on 2/1/24 and 2/2/24. Our staff is working with families to keep them in the loop.

### Preschool programs

* + Preschool has been working on Winter Themes in the classrooms.
  + We had a parent event in December and one in January to provide information to families on working with their children at home and give them an opportunity to interact with their kiddos in the classroom.
  + At this time, we are still working to find a teacher and a paraprofessional for our Blind school preK. Right now, we are using subs in the classroom. We have reached out to programs and to individuals, and have some applicants for next year, but would like to find a consistent person for the remainder of this year.

## Student Services

* The related service providers have been supporting the academic programs and jumping in to chaperone several field trips and overnight ski trips.
* The Speech Language Pathologist in the School for the Blind applied for and received a Parent Staff Organization mini grant of $175.00.  She planned a trip to Trader Joes with all the elementary students in the School for the Blind.  At Trader Joes, they toured the store, learned how to orient themselves in the grocery store, explored the refrigerators, and each student was able to purchase a box of crackers or snack to take home.
* The SLP in the School for the Deaf created a campus wide event titled “Lunar New Year”.  This event is full of language rich experiences  and knowledge about Asian culture for our students and staff.  All students and staff are invited to drop by the event to read, touch, taste, and learn about this fun Asian event.
* The midyear report from the Student Health Center is complete.  The midyear report keeps data of health-related information and the use of our student health center.   Information from the report includes, 6 classes taught by nurses to students in the school/dorm, 97% compliant on immunizations, vision/BP screening to all students who are Deaf, management of 75 care plans, 27 meal modifications, and a total of 5498 student contacts since August. Nurses have coordinated doctor appointments for students, provided 30 sports physicals, managed all the AED’s and trauma bags on campus, and offer CPR and First Aid classes just to name some of the activities that keep them busy.

## Student Life

### Athletics

* High School Basketball season with a few home games now that the gym is reopened.
* Middle School Basketball had a successful season and the season ended on January 24, 2024.
* Peewee Basketball season has begun.
* Special Olympics Basketball
* Academic Bowl Practice.
* Wrestling partnership with Palmer High School
* Annual Basketball game against Rocky Mountain School for the Deaf

### Afterschool Programs

* Deaf GEBC Church. “Great Escape Bible Club”
* Outdoor adventure club
* Open Gym night
* Cheerleading club

### Dorm Activities

* Dollar Tree shopping skills practice
* Cooking in the dorm
* Altitude ninja
* Springs Trampoline
* Movie night at Tinseltown Theaters
* Make snowman donuts
* YMCA Swimming
* Walmart shopping
* Spa night in the dorms
* Residential Overview

We have six vacancies in the residential program right now. One staff member informed us on January 4 that he would not be returning January 5, 2024, due to a family emergency.

Substitutes are covering our vacancies at this time.

## Outreach

**Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)**

In January, the CIMC hosted two Friday Zoom meetings to train school district staff on the new eligibility criteria being implemented for this year’s January 2024 Federal Quota census. Approximately 30 school districts were represented at the meetings on January 5 and 12.

### Southern Region TVI-DVR Meetings

As discussed by attendees of the January 9 Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting hosted by El Paso County District 49 (Falcon school district), the Colorado Instructional Materials Center set up a new Microsoft Teams site titled, “Southern Region TVI-DVR Meeting” on January 9 that includes 56 service providers working with students with visual impairment/blindness in Southern Colorado school districts. This includes service providers outside our CIMC Microsoft Teams network. As such, participants were reminded not to share personally identifiable student information (PII) to the shared site. CIMC staff is posting all archived training handouts from this year’s previous meetings to the new shared team site.

Statewide count of learners with visual impairment and the Federal Quota Census:

This year, January 1, 2024, marks the count day for both counts managed by the Colorado Instructional Materials Center. Beginning with this year’s 2024 census count, American Printing House will institute a modified definition of blindness for the purpose of carrying out the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. American Printing House has extended the census deadlines by two months. In turn, the Colorado Instructional Materials Center extended the count deadlines for our statewide count and our federal quota census count to the end of March 2024. The Colorado Instructional Materials Center has been training district staff on the recent changes and will continue to provide additional guidance for service providers.

### American Sign Language Team

Although the American Sign Language instructor position is still vacant, we just posted, and one did apply but is not qualified.

### ASL Family Immersion

We will start to plan soon.

**ASL Immersion for Professionals**

Our next Immersion for Professionals will be on February 10. Registration information was sent out on December 18 via Constant Contact. Level 1 is full, 16 participants. As for Level 2, 10 participants signed up.

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

The collaboration between Colorado Digital Learning Solutions and Outreach Programs continues for the 2023-2024 School Year. We have 20 students signed up for American Sign Language class level 1b for the second semester.

### Community ASL classes

* Our next 8-week session started on Tuesday, January 16, and Thursday, January 18. We will offer 3 Beginning I classes, 2 for community and 1 for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind parents, 2 Beginning II, one for community and one for CSDB parents, and one Intermediate level class for both Community and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind parents. All classes are full.
* Marion Downs Center asked us to teach ASL class in the east side of Denver area. It will be an 8-week session starting on Wednesday, January 24 from 5:30-7:00 pm. It was full within 10 minutes of the registration paperwork being released.
* Marion Downs Center also asked us to help audiologists to review vocabulary and phrases in Aurora. We will go there and work with them on January 24.

## Early Education Team

**CPR/First Aid for Outreach**

In Jan, we had the second of 3 CPR/First Aid training courses for Outreach staff that are interested and trained 9 staff. Because of our work with students and families off campus, and our presence in the community, as well as the benefit of this kind of training, we opened it up to our staff as an option. We were also able to support additional staff from other programs who needed the training as part of their job but missed the beginning of the year trainings.

**CO-Hear**

* The CO-Hear group and CHIP continue to support families who have children under the age of 3 who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing in their homes and communities statewide. Updated numbers from December include a total of 13 new referrals for the month.
* We are excited to be onboarding a few new CHIP facilitators in the coming months, these providers will be able to support families both in person as well as through telehealth. They are currently working through the EI Colorado system and mandatory training courses and will begin specific CHIP training as soon as the new providers are ready!
* CO-Hears are working together with Kim Parra, the Early Education ASL Lead, to connect with local Early Education Programs around the state to better support the IFSP service of ASL for families. There has been great feedback and support of her role from local EI directors, and it is exciting to make these connections and collaborations to better support families in EI!
* Multiple CO-Hears are working on presentations that will be given at the National EHDI conference in March. It looks to be an excellent conference!

**Early Literacy Development Initiative (ELDI)**

The ELDI team is continuing to get families into services as soon as possible. In the Colorado Shared Reading Program, we currently have 8 families on the wait list, so families are having access to services within a couple months. We are currently searching for a couple of qualified instructors to join our contract team. Our Early Education American Sign Language Lead has had 4 conversations with local programs, related to American Sign Language as a service on the IFSP. While we have contractors trained with curriculum, we have at least three others needing to be trained, and so we are continuing conversations about how we can offer another training, or work across state lines for a partnership in training.

### Early Literacy Events

Our next events are coming up in February, and we are planning our rural event. Updates and details to come soon!

### Little Language Learners

Little Language Learners has eight families, and more families seeking information about the program. We are getting ready to have an “exploratory day” at the Play Street Museum, and a spring parent workshop! Seeing these little faces is the highlight of our week on campus!

### Outreach Core Vision Team

Our Core Vision Team has a draft mission statement that will be presented to our full team on Professional Development Day, January 26. The team will take the feedback and make necessary changes to our statement. We are involved in the revision of the position description for the Director of Outreach and are having discussions about the critical structure of Outreach to support the future program growth!

### State Collaborations

We continue to present at local programs and statewide interagency coordinating council meetings about the work with CDPHE and newborn screening with midwives.

Our presentation focuses on education and hands-on training for use of an OAE in assessments for a childfind evaluation. Additionally, in February, we will begin the collaborate effort with EI Colorado and COEHDI for statewide stakeholder engagement related to early intervention services. We will be collecting objective feedback about what’s working, what are the gaps, and seeking recommendations to improve the system for families.

## Media

**Dec/Jan Media**

* Gazette “Photographer top moments” included photos taken at the CSDB graduation ceremony.
* “CSDB Announces 3 Superintendent Finalists”
* Max Preps “Rankings for boys’ basketball”
* KKTV News “Craft Fair at CSDB”
* Council of Schools and Services for the Blind (COSB) Howe’s Now publication
* “Tool Scaffolding” article written by School for the Blind staff for publication
* “Accessible Literacy” article written by School for the Blind staff for publication

**Events**

* Craft Festival
* Holiday Lighting Ceremony
* CSDB Alumni Association Holiday Dinner

**Other**

Print Projects: The 2022-23 Annual Report has been compiled, designed and printed. Copies will be mailed to education and legislative officials. A pdf along with an accessible text-only document will be uploaded to the CSDB website.

**150th history celebration**

* History videos- 1901-1020 (November); 1921-1940 (December); 1941-1960 (January)
* Then and Now photos
* 1901-1920 (November) 1910 streetcars on Kiowa Street and 2023 CSDB vans
* 1901-1920 (November) 1914 horse-drawn plow/driver and 2023 riding lawn mower/rider
* 1921-1940 (December) 1927 art class for boys who were Deaf and 2023 art class for all
* 1921-1940 (December) 1937 Lake MacDonald at CSDB and 2023 grassy area at SW corner
* 1941-1960 (January) 1950 School Building burns down and 2023 Gottlieb Building
* 1941-1960 (January) Infirmary Tactile Art
* Alumni Advice
* November Kellie Moothart, CSDB School for the Deaf alumnus
* December Becky Shields, CSDB School for the Blind alumnus
* January Jeanette and Mark Burciago, CSDB School for Deaf alumni

**Super in 60 Seconds videos – distributed on social media and via email**

* Dia De Los Muertos at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College – Student Life field trip
* Zoopeteers (Cheyenne Mountain Zoo puppeteers with young students)
* Holiday Lighting Ceremony
* Preschool Winter Performance
* Tactile Planetarium – School for the Blind
* Bands Winter Performance
* Giving Gifts and Toys for Tots – Mental Health Team activity
* Spirit Week
* PeeWee Basketball

**Other videos**

* Careers Campaign (talent Mike Halloran, School for the Deaf Dean; videos in ASL with voice over)
* School for the Deaf Elementary
* English TOD position
* Math TOD position
* ASL TOD position
* Literacy Specialist TOD position
* Children’s Village Videos
* Kennedy Firehouse – named for Jonathan Kennedy

Talent- Tim Elstad, alumnus School for the Deaf and Jack Lambert, alumnus School for the Blind

* Bambi’s Farm – named for Bambi Venetucci

Talent – Donnette Patterson, alumnus School for the Deaf and Alacia Bates, alumnus School for the Blind

* Lottie’s Market – named for Lottie Sullivan

Talent – Emily Sanchez, alumnus School for the Deaf and Jacksun Wesson, student School for the Blind

* The Butler Café – named for Herman Butler

Talent – Don Alsbaugh, alumnus School for the Deaf and Alyssa Webb, alumnus School for the Blind

* Bessie’s Clinic – named for Bessie Veditz

Talent – Max Wilding, alumnus School for the Deaf and Quincie Mattock, alumnus School for the Blind

* Board of Trustees messages regarding the Superintendent Search: October, December, and January
* Interim Superintendent monthly videos
* Preschool Tour (a part of the “This is CSDB” video campaign)
* Tour of Extracurricular Activities (a part of the “This is CSDB” video campaign)

**Livestream**

* Winter Band Program – School for the Blind
* January 11 high school boys’ basketball home game

**Social Media – December 17-January 16, 2024**

Facebook reach 152,700 Instagram reach 492

New fans 198 Growth 7%

Total followers 8,062 Total followers 565

Linked In Unique views 27 Twitter Impressions N/A

New followers 4 New followers 8

Total followers 618 Total followers 307

YouTube

7,800 views/428.5 hours

New subscribers 42

Subscribers 5,642