# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# February 2025

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### As of 1/24/2025

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 656

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2024 176

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 169

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 11

K-5th 19

6-8th 27

9-12th 28

Bridges to Life 10

Total 95

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 3

K-5th 18

6th-8th ................................................................................................................................................. 15

9-12th 32

Bridges to Life 6

Total 74

Day Students 124

Residential Students 45

Parent Option 3

District Option 166

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Colorado Home Inclusion Program) (Deaf) 346

CHIP Referrals ....................................................................................................................................6

CHIP (Deafblind) .............................................................................................................................12

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 36

Direct Outreach 87

ELDI (Early Literacy Development Initiative) Programs 97

ELDI Waiting List ............................................................................................................................21

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

**Human Resources**

* Interviews being held this month include:
* Dining Services IV (Two Vacancies)
* Administrative Assistant II (Dining Services)
* Accountant II
* Administrative Assistant III Human Resources
* Custodian III

* Positions offered this month:
* Athletic Director
* HCT
* CIMC Admin Assistant
* Accountant II
* State Teacher Aide
* Vacancies Posted:
* School for the Blind Principal
* TVI K-6th
* TVI School for the Blind
* TOD BtL
* TVI Outreach
* TOD Secondary Math
* TOD Physical Education/Health
* TOD Secondary Science
* TOD Secondary ASL
* TOD Elementary
* Secondary Transition and Electives Teacher /School for the Deaf
* School Psychologist School for the Deaf
* Mid- Year Reviews/Evals coming up for all staff due at the end of February.
* UKG Rollout continues. HR working with Data Admin & Accounting.
* Position Description Updates to begin this month, HR will send off appropriate PD’s to COWINS for review reflecting the new ASL proficiency requirements.
* New Employee Orientation – HR tested a new three day training. Looking to make a large part of this online to minimize instructor and interpreter as well as HR commitment time.

**Accounting**

* **New Payroll Accounting Technician:**

We are pleased to announce the addition of Lucinda Holcomb to our team as the new Payroll Accounting Technician. Lucinda joined us on December 30th and her presence has been a much-needed relief after five months of no payroll support.

* **Food Service Department Update:**

We conducted interviews for the Administrative Assistant position in early January; however, we were unable to find a suitable candidate. We plan to reopen the search in March. Also, interviews were held for two Dining Services IV positions in late January.

* **UKG Pro Workforce Management Update:**

We continue to make significant progress with the implementation of UKG Pro, our new electronic timekeeping and leave management system. Weekly meetings are being held with UKG, the Office of Information Technology, and two other state agencies -- the Department of Education and the Department of Treasury. We are finalizing the business structure and preparing for the mass load into our payroll system. We are on track to go live by the end of August 2025.

* **COMPAS Payroll Modernization:**

The state is moving forward with the transition from the legacy CPPS (Central Payroll and Personnel System), which has been in operation for nearly 40 years, to the modern COMPAS payroll system. This new vendor-cloud-SaaS solution will result in significant savings, eliminating millions of dollars in operating costs and reducing technical debt. Meetings between our Accounting and Human Resources teams and the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) have commenced to begin data validation efforts for CSDB. Currently, there is no definite timeline for the actual transition, but we will provide updates as they become available.

* **FY2025 Donations (As of December 31st):**

Total donations received for FY2025 as of December 31st stand at $5,583.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Donation** | **Purpose/Program receiving donation** |
| Alpha Delta Kappa | $656 | Accessible Playground |
| Colorado Alpha Delta Kappa | $367 | Accessible Playground |
| Alpha Delta Kappa | $80 | Accessible Playground |
| Woodland Park Lions Club | $400 | Bulldog Bark Store |
| Colorado Association of the Deaf | $500 | Student Body Government |
| Beatrice Sayers | $3,000 | Elizabeth Bowen Scholarship |
| Colorado Alpha Delta Kappa | $180 | Accessible Playground |
| Divita Daukia | $50 | 150th Anniversary |
| Alpha Delta Kappa | $200 | Accessible Playground |
| Daniel and Vicki Collins | $150 | 150th Anniversary |
| **TOTAL** | **$5,583** |  |

* As of December 31st (Period 6), the financial reports reflect expenses posted through this date.

**Facilities**

* Conducting interviews for Custodial III vacancy
* The switch from Verizon to T-Mobile has been completed
* New laptops have arrived; IT is in the process of replacing outdated ones
* IT & Facilities completed web-based New Employee Orientation Asbestos Awareness training
* Developing a plan and conceptual design to accommodate additional space and restroom improvements for Adams Hall
* History Colorado is nominating our facilities to be included into the National Historical Registry (nomination due in May and Review Board decision in September)
* Security Upgrades
* Phase 1 Security Cameras complete; developing Phase 2 for additional site improvements
* Perimeter fence and pedestrian gates around the West side of the Gym to support public events in the Upper Gym
* Sidewalk from Stone to the South Gym parking lot and Pikes Peak w/fence & pedestrian gates (O&M/Accessibility Improvement)
* Sidewalk from Gym to Hancock (O&M/Accessibility Improvement)
* Dumpster relocation to support Sidewalk from Gym to Hancock
* Perimeter fence and pedestrian gates around the Industrial Plant
* Replace fence Southwest of Brown Hall
* Replace fire lane gate East of Stone
* Gym Renovation
* Due to elevator, lighting, door hardware delivery delays, schedule extended through March 20th
* Completing heating & cooling upgrades throughout
* Upgrading LED lighting throughout
* Install Shot Clocks in Main Gym week of March 24 (Spring Break)
* Installing braille signage throughout
* Refinish Upper Gym floor & Running Track end of January
* Install Upper Gym bleachers, acoustical panels and window shades early February
* Install elevator March 3
* Elevator Upgrade & Modernization
* Design in-progress
* Elevators: Admin, Argo, Brown, Ritter
* Wheelchair Lifts: Stone and Adams (review/simplify Admin lift operations)
* Due to long elevator delivery times, construction planned for Summer 2026

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

## Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

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

CIMC staff has been busy throughout January hosting one-on-one Zoom meetings with multiple administrative units, their agency designated contact person(s), and TVIs to answer questions and update Phase I paperwork for their infant/student enrollment on the Monday, January 6, 2025, count day. CIMC can only enter new students into the federal database during Phase 1 which ends on March 15th.

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

The CIMC hosted their monthly statewide zoom meeting on the second Friday in January, 1/10/25. CIMC staff answered questions from TVIs, paraprofessionals, school district braillists representing 18+ administrative units. Five of the attendees represent multiple administrative units.

Dr. Gregg Pusateri, low vision specialist at New Horizons Low Vision Center, in Colorado Springs opened his office and presented for nearly two hours on low vision evaluations on January 21st. TVIs from El Paso County school district 49 (Falcon) hosted the event, even though it was a snow day for them and many local districts, including CSDB. TVIs attended from Pueblo 60, Ute Pass BOCES, Air Academy District 20, the school for the blind (Amy Gunning), Bridges to Life transition program (Jennifer Holt), and CSDB Outreach/CIMC (Jim Olson).

American Sign Language Team

**Community ASL Classes:**

We are offering six Community ASL classes and two ASL level classes for CSDB families on campus in Colorado Springs from mid-January to early March; Class participants attend either Tuesday or Thursday evenings. We are also offering two ASL classes at Lowry Community Center in the Denver area, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday. We are hoping to offer another level in the Denver area.

Last Fall, we offered Level 1 for CSDB families with 5 parents participating and now we are offering Level 1 and Level 2 with 23 parents participating. Our goal is to add Level 3 in the future. Based on the survey that we collected from CSDB parents in our statewide, they are interested in taking online ASL class. We will offer online ASL class for families in the Spring.

**Immersion for Professionals:**

We will have an ASL Immersion for Professionals on January 25, 2025. We are offering two Level 1 classes and one Level 2 class, with a total of 41 participants registered. Another session is scheduled for April 12th. Our goal is to offer classes tailored to specific fields, such as teachers, teacher aides, and audiologists, all in the same class, as well as another class for the police department, fire department, and other related fields.

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

Online students are now enrolling through CDLS for the second semester ASL classes. The classes have a maximum of 20 students per class.

**ASL Classes for CSDB Staff**

ASL classes for CSDB staff are now in session. The Outreach ASL instructors provide instruction for staff who have not met the required ASL proficiency level for their position. Staff who have already met the required ASL proficiency level have requested to continue attending ASL classes to maintain their skills.

We are in the process of creating a baseline, including a video and rubrics, to support staff with feedback that will help improve their skills.

According to the GBF-E-1 policy, staff who work with blind students and CIMC staff will be required to take the Basic Emergency Communication Course. We are currently in the process of creating crash courses.

## 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 36 families with BVI infants/toddlers during January. The number of school age services has stayed consistent month to month due to caseloads being at maximum capacity. Outreach has not accepted any new contracts for vision or orientation/mobility services since September 2024. We have received many requests for services that cannot be filled due to a vacant position and the provider’s caseloads being at capacity.

The two Outreach Teachers of the Deaf provided DHH services to 56 students from two school districts and seven charter schools across the state during October 2024. During November 2024, Outreach made agreements with 2 additional charter schools and services for those students which began in January.

## Early Education Team

**Little Language Learners**

The Little Language Learners in Northern Colorado continue to see strong participation and families want more frequent sessions. Six families participate in this monthly pilot.

**Little Learners and Explorers**

The Little Learners and Explores program are in the works for coming back to the Pikes Peak area. Staff are collaborating and planning for students to join in the spring.

**CHIP Coordinators and Early Literacy Development Initiative**

**Colorado Home Inclusion Program (CHIP) Coordinators, along with the Early Literacy Development Team and DHH itinerant team, had the opportunity to meet with Shauna Moden at the Department of Education at the beginning of January. She provided training in communication plans, for the IEP. Additionally, our early education teams will have the opportunity to present at the CDE Statewide Meeting in March to share about programs and potential direct service provider needs across the state.**

**Ascent Program**

The Ascent Program is in full swing, and many requests have come in for adults to attend a variety of events! Additionally, since there is currently a large budget left with only a few months to spend the money, there will be four Deaf Ascent adults attending the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in March 2025.

**Statewide Collaborations**

**The Early Education Coordinator and Director of Outreach had a meeting with Early Intervention Colorado staff to align priorities for the early intervention services across the state (CHIP and ASL). Both teams agree that these services should be moved under the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Next steps are to create a detailed plan and reconvene the workgroup from Spring 2024 to gather feedback. The plan will also be sent statewide for feedback via survey. All that feedback will be used to guide the transition plan for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind to be the organization with oversight of these services for families, birth through three statewide, with continued collaboration with key statewide partners!**

## **Early Education Center**

The EEC students presented a fun filled winter performance for parents, students and staff to enjoy. The January classroom themes focus on all things winter.

## ALL SCHOOLS

### School for the Deaf

* All Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors in English Language Arts classes have been working on their argumentative essays for a long time. They were able to publish their essays on the classroom's student spotlight board. The topics they had chosen for their essays include why fruits are important to eat, how puzzle games are beneficial for our brains, blogs can help to plan travel, sign language's advantages, how Kobe Bryant was the best basketball player in history, and how video games will improve academics.
* In the literature of a theme elective class, students recently finished their graphic novel adaptations based on the graphic novel they read, which include The Hound of the Baskervilles. The students picked one part from the graphic novel that resonated with them and expanded more background information by creating their short graphic novel adaptations. Their adaptations were also on the student spotlight board.
* The elementary art classes made holiday crafts for different holidays around the world and set up trees in the hallway to show off their work. They learned about Las Posadas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice and will soon learn about the Chinese New Year which occurs on January 29th.
* High school art classes recently created art museum one linear perspective projects and have learned an introduction to shading values.
* In Physical Education for K-5th grade, we worked on throwing and catching skills.
* For 6th-12th grades PE classes, we learned about basketball, focusing on ball handling and dribbling skills.
* Students in World History learned about Iron Technology. They display an illustration of a Hittite war chariot. The students also research the features and materials that made it so superior for the time. Students brainstormed a list of questions they have about the Hittite empire, war chariots, and iron technology. Students passed around the questions among students and have them find the answers using classroom resources.

### School for the Blind

* Staff returned from Winter break under the new leadership of Interim Principal Cheryl Austin, formerly the Dean of Students, School for the Blind, since August of 2023.
* We have welcomed an Inclusive Early Childhood Education practicum student from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, supervised by Jerred Sonneborn.
* New student expectations regarding use of personal technology during the school day and excessive tardiness to class were implemented for second semester.
* Twenty-one secondary students are participating in a weekly music and theatre Fine Arts Center collaboration, co-coordinated by Allie Unker and Emma Reece.
* One senior student participated in the Colorado All-State Choir in Denver January 9-11, 2025, under the guidance of music therapist/instructor, Emma Reece.
* Six secondary students are participating in a new afterschool Ski Club, led by Aimee Twaddle, to prepare for an upcoming trip to Crested Butte in February.
* Two vacant positions, Principal and Elementary ELA Teacher, are posted, accepting applications and ready to interview qualified candidates. Two others, Literacy Specialist/Coach and State Teacher Aide, will also be posted soon.
* Upcoming activities in February include two ski trips, one to Vail (Foresight-Feb. 2-4) and one to Crested Butte (Feb. 26-Mar. 2), First Semester Awards Ceremony (Feb. 10), parent-teacher conferences (Feb. 10-13), and Braille Challenge (Feb. 20).
* The Blind Advisory Committee is currently planning a Blind and Low Vision Career Fair for secondary and Bridges to Life students on Friday, May 9, 2025.
* CSDB and the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes continue to discuss opportunities for partnership as their goalball and soccer programs move to Colorado Springs.

### Bridges to Life

* One student started taking Construction classes in the vocational program at D11 (Coronado High School).
* The Bulldog Bark Store, operated by our students in the BtL program, recently received generous donations from local Lions Clubs and Toys for Tots
* JJ Ryan, Julie Harrison, Tera Spangler and Naomi McGown sat down with the CEO from the app Aira to discuss piloting the app at CSDB with staff and possibly BtL students out in the community. We are optimistic that this app will have a positive impact on our campus.
* Staff in BtL Residential and Staff in BtL continue to display wonderful collaboration and communication through our BtL teams page with an average of about 40 posts per month from both teams.
* Two BtL students interested in performing arts careers recently visited a community improv class at Peak Improv, where they practiced their improvisation skills alongside local acting students. They explored the idea of taking community classes to pursue acting as a hobby while focusing on another career path, with the option to transition acting full-time if their careers take off.
* We have one student taking college courses at Pikes Peak State College this semester.
* Students from the BtL program visited the Cottonwood Center for the Arts where they viewed the art exhibit by CSDB alumni and employee, Skylar Sypher.

## STUDENT SERVICES

* This year January 29, 2025, marks the Lunar New Year. We will be having our annual event in the Gottlieb and Lions building Library with information for students to learn about the celebration including Chinese traditions, food samples, and experiential hands-on activities.
* Our Orientation Mobility Specialists participated in the International Orientation and Mobility Symposium to learn about the newest O&M strategies from around the world. They especially enjoyed and learned a lot from a couple presentations about meaningful O&M instruction for students with multiple disabilities and complex needs, as well as learning strategies to deal with withdrawn and aggressive behaviors when providing O&M instruction.
* The Mental Health Team (MHT) in Gottlieb is leading small group activities for middle school students focused on building healthy boundaries, fostering positive relationships, and practicing assertiveness. These sessions provide a safe space for students to develop essential skills to support their personal safety and well-being.
* The Special Education Director is collaborating with directors in various areas of the state to attend regional Director meetings to provide information regarding CSDB’s programs as requested.

## STUDENT LIFE

**Athletics**

* January 29th- February 2nd High school Basketball teams (girls and boys) travel to the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind for the Western States Basketball Classic CSDB will compete with 5 other schools for the Deaf.
* Special Olympics Basketball started January 22nd with the first practice
* Peewee Basketball 2nd-5th grade started Jan 28th with the first practice.
* Middle School Basketball season ended with a friendly rival game against Rocky Mountain School for the Deaf hosted on January 15th and was followed by a pizza party for both schools hosted in our Bulldog Activity Center.

**Afterschool programs**

* Ski Club fitness training. Students from Adams are training in the fitness center in preparation for two upcoming ski trips planned in February and March. Students in this club are focused on exercises to prevent injury when they hit the slopes. This club is run by Aimee Twaddle after school with training twice a week for 1 hour each.

**Dorm activities**

* Arts and crafts
* Building snowman
* Walmart shopping lesson
* Building Positive Peer Relationships Workshop
* Making snowflake decorations for the dorm
* Springs Adventure Park rotation with different dorms. (Trampoline Park)
* Out to eat at Olive Garden

**Residential Overview**

* Filled 3 vacancies in January
  + Our Athletic Director/ Activities Specialist was filled and started Jan 27th, congratulations Jaimie Valencia.
  + Our Health Care Technician serving students who are deaf in Elementary was filled on Jan 13th, congratulations to Rachel Wieman
  + Our Health Care Technician serving students who are deaf in our Bridges to Life Residential program was filled on January 13th, congratulations Lisa Witty
* We have 3 vacancies in the residential program currently and are waiting for HR to get an out of state waiver to be able to advertise the positions nationwide.
  + 1 vacancy working with students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  + 2 vacancies working with students who are blind or visually impaired.
  + We have subs filling the vacant positions currently.
* Our enrollment numbers as of January 24th are as follows:
  + 11 BtL students
  + 4 middle school students
  + 4 elementary students
  + 8 Deaf HS Boys
  + 7 Deaf HS Girls
  + 10 Blind HS mix of girls and boys
  + 2 Blind Middle school students.
* Supporting school for the Blind in after school assistive technology trainings 3 days a week.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Media**

Rocky Mountain PBS [“Hello my name sign is..”](https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/education/name-signs-colorado-asl?fbclid=IwY2xjawH-R99leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHU3DhNFBdtAUEAkwlkvOs0uVPFZDucUnCw6vDr4V4p7D8htxsx6wOYtDZg_aem_EeaAVaoB5vRZUTaU7uNVmQ) Published Dec. 28

The Gazette [“There’s Language in my Art”](https://gazette.com/arts-entertainment/theres-language-in-my-art-local-artist-skylar-sypher-to-open-exhibition/article_de178072-be44-11ef-a42e-737252ff380e.html) Published Jan. 3

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

* Holiday Dorm party
* Academic Bowl volunteer promo

**Website Data – Dec. 16 – Jan. 16**

* Total views: 14,827

**Social Media – Dec. 20 – Jan. 20**

* Facebook

Accounts reached: 64.6K (4.5% decline than previous month. Holiday break)

Total views: 243.2k (33% decline)

* Instagram

Accounts reached: 5.7k (364 % increase than previous month)

Total views: 31.k (101% increase)