# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# January 2025

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### As of 12/10/2024

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 648

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2024 174

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 170

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 9

K-5th 20

6-8th 25

9-12th 27

Bridges to Life 14

Total 95

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 49

Parent Option 7

District Option 163

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 344

CHIP (Deafblind) 7

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 40

Direct Outreach 87

ELDI Programs 100

## SUPERINTENDENT

* Colorado Center for the Blind visited CSDB on December 6.
* Presented at the Joint Budget Committee Hearing on December 16.
* Presented at the Capital Development Committee Hearing on December 16.
* LEAD-K Draft Legislation Bill has been developed with the CSDB lobbyists and is set to be introduced in February.

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

**Human Resources**

* Payroll position offered to applicant and to be filled with an anticipated start date of January.
* Athletic Director position to be finalized.
* HCT Deaf and Blind Interviews have finished with a few offers being made contingent on references.
* Recruitment opportunities / Job Fair research is being conducted for the high talent acquisition rollout next year.
* Mid-year reviews through Perform will begin for personnel.
* New positions currently posted, including:
* Dining Services IV
* Admin II – Food Service
* Admin III – CIMC (Internal)
* TVI Elementary
* Positions to be posted:
* Custodian III
* Principal (Blind School)

**Accounting**

The financial reports show expenses through November 30, 2024.    All financials are in line with our budgetary expectations.   The close out process for ESSER III funds has been successfully completed ahead of the submission deadline of December 1, 2024.  No ESSER III funds were reverted.

**Facilities**

* Presenting West Hall Renovation & Addition Project to CDC & JBC Monday, December 16th
* 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
* Scheduling meetings/interviews with Alumni & History Committee
* Soliciting annual custodial service agreement
* Switching cellular provider from Verizon to T-Mobile
* Project Updates
* Security Upgrades
  + All interior and exterior cameras are installed and online.
  + 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 20
  + Completing heating & cooling upgrades throughout
  + Coordinating elevator delivery
  + 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 December.
  + Coordinating new bleacher install in Upper Gym
* 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, and the federal quota census count.

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

On December 6, 2024, the CIMC hosted a “First Friday” CIMC Zoom meeting for stakeholders statewide. We promoted the Paths to Literacy Website, APH shadow font, and answered questions from the field.

The next Southern Region TVI-DVR Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025, and will be held at the office of Dr. Gregg Pusateri, a low vision specialist in Colorado Springs.

## American Sign Language Team

**Community ASL Classes**

We are offering six Community ASL classes on campus in Colorado Springs from January 12/14 to March 4/6: three on Tuesday and three on Thursday. Community classes were held in the evening, plus we are offering 2 ASL-level classes for CSDB families on the same days as the Community ASL classes. Also, we have people on the waiting list. We are also offering two ASL classes at Lowry Community Center in the Denver area from January 15 and 16 to March 5 and 6, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday.

**Immersion for Professionals**

We will offer three ASL levels on campus in Colorado Springs on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

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

The semester ends December 18.

**ASL Classes for CSDB Staff**

We offer the FUN ASL Activities on December 4-5, and 10 – 12 from 11:30-12:30. On December 4, 6 staff attended and played “Can you name 5?”. They were to create a list of five things, for example, they were to make five purple color things. One person came up with the word EGGPLANT and signed EGG and PLANT. They learned they were not to sign those two separate words; the accurate sign for that word is to spell it. They realized that not all words have a sign. On the 5th, six staff attended and played Guess Who. They learned how to describe their facial appearance and practice spelling using their name. On the 10th, six staff attended and played Taboo. They learned many new signs. On the 11th, 10 staff attended and played Charades. The purpose of this activity is to meet someone who does not know the sign and does not know how to spell the word, and they learn how to use gestures. This helps expand ideas on how to express through gestures. We still have one more activity for December 12, and they will play “Telephone Line.” This activity aims to ensure that the signs are accurate and straightforward to carry the message across accurately. It will be fun.

## 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 40 families with BVI infants/toddlers during November 2024. The number of school-age services has stayed consistent monthly because caseloads are at maximum capacity. Outreach has not accepted new vision or orientation/mobility services contracts since September 2024. The number of infants and toddlers receiving services has increased by 8% from October to November.

The two Outreach Teachers of the Deaf provided DHH services to 56 students from two school districts and seven charter schools across the state in October 2024. In November 2024, Outreach made agreements with two additional charter schools, and services for those students will begin in December/January.

## Early Education Team

**Little Language Learners**

The Little Language Learners hosted their open house in November and the first class on December 6 in Northern Colorado. Family enthusiasm is high, and these first two sessions were successful! Six families have signed up.

**Little Learners and Explorers**

The Little Learners and Explores program is 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**

The Colorado Home Inclusion Program trained six new facilitators in December. These facilitators will be mentored as they work with the local early intervention program in their area to provide direct services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Two staff presented to the Early Intervention Care Navigators about CHIP, what we do, who we serve, and engaged in conversation about how our teams can support each other. There are twelve care navigators, and their responsibility is to connect with families after a referral to schedule an evaluation. While many of the children in the Colorado Home Inclusion Program auto-qualify for services, some have unilateral hearing differences that do not auto-qualify and may go through this process for an evaluation. Some children may have speech or language delays with hearing concerns that are referred this way instead of through the local programs. We aim to ensure families have access to the specialists and resources they need.

Finally, we just submitted the final evaluation for an intern with the Colorado Home Inclusion Program. This intern will be graduating from Gallaudet’s new Masters of Early Intervention Studies program (formerly the Infants, Toddlers and Families Certificate Program). This internship was a challenging and beautiful collaboration with Outreach Programs and The Resource Exchange to provide her with the hours and experience she needs. We are looking forward to continuing to mentor her as she seeks work as an early interventionist with the Colorado Home Inclusion Program.

**Early Literacy Development Initiative**

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind had one of our biggest events of the year on December 7. In collaboration with Rocky Mountain Deaf School, Colorado Hands and Voices, Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, the Listen Foundation, the Marion Downs Center, Colorado Association for the Deaf, and Colorado AG Bell, we hosted over fifty families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing for the Winter Festival. Families enjoyed crafts, storytime, music from Feel the Beat, and time with Santa, where they shared their wishes for the holidays and received a book.

The Colorado Shared Reading Project currently serves 100 families (23 of those being birth through age 2) and has 25 families on the waiting list. Four families are scheduled for an initial visit in December and will begin services after that initial visit. Additionally, we have “meet and greets” with four candidates for Language and Literacy Instructors and are expecting resume and paperwork for another two.

**Ascent Program**

We are excited for the Ascent program to be up and running with all the paperwork in place. We had two Ascent Adults and the Holiday Festival to connect with families, support the event and share their story.

We are meeting with the new Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Director, Dr. Katie Cue, to align the programs work with the action steps for the next four years of the grant.

## **Early Education Center**

The EEC December themes focus on the holidays. Since all holidays occur during winter break, each week through December we focused on a different holiday. Students made Hanukah jelly donuts last week and this week will make Kwanzaa fruit salad and woven mats.

## ALL SCHOOLS

### School for the Deaf

* This month, we welcomed two new students to our school. They both fit right in and are already friends with all the students!
* We welcomed two new staff to the School for the Deaf this month! A secondary Math teacher and an Elementary ASL Teacher joined our team.
* Secondary science students have been working on a paper airplane project and competing to see which team’s airplane will fly the farthest. Concepts related to engineering and physics are imbedded in the project and guide students towards which kind of materials work better than others, and which designs yield better results.
* In Physical Education for K-5th grade, we practiced throwing and catching. For 6th-12th grades, we are learning 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 researched the features and materials that made it so superior for the time. Students brainstorm a list of questions they have about the Hittite empire, war chariots, and iron technology. Students would pass around the questions among students and have them find the answers using classroom resources.
* Kindergarten and First-grade students learned about hibernation: all the different animals that hibernate, where they hibernate, and what they eat. Students then applied this by identifying animals and matching animals to their hibernation places.
* Students in U.S. History write newspaper headlines review the information on the advances in the use of oil and electricity. Each student selected two events that played a role in the use of oil and electricity and wrote a newspaper headline for each event. Then, each student selected one of its headlines and discussed the article with their classmates.
* Students in secondary math classes enjoyed a multiplication flashcard competition and had a lot of fun while practicing their multiplication facts. Other classes enjoyed a multiplication bingo game where they solved problems to get bingo, making learning multiplication fun and interactive.

### School for the Blind

* Secondary art students will design, create, and finish a hollow form ceramic sculpture. This project develops skills in tactile design, structural integrity in clay, and creative problem-solving. Students will explore options for functionality dependent on skill level (e.g., rattle, jar, figure, or piggy bank) and add personalized details. Elementary students will examine how everyday bowls are functional pieces of art. They will create small, medium, and large nesting pinch pots out of clay. They will use the sgraffito technique for incising designs into the pinch pots.
* Secondary students in literacy class are reading “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” They are analyzing how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. The are also determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (for example: how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone) Finally, they are analyzing how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (for example: parallel plots), and manipulate time.
* Our functional social studies studying the Revolutionary War and going over vocabulary words such as patriot, Loyalist, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.
* Secondary students in Civics classes are learning about the Bill of Rights and how it affects their freedoms, as well as the duties and responsibilities United States citizens have toward their government.
* Students are working hard on their senior Capstone projects.
* Career Exploration Students are participating in a review about different modes of Transportation that are used, and who may drive them (Pilots flying planes, Engineers driving Trains etc.) Students will participate in a review of what mechanics; dispatchers do while using information about those jobs and video examples. Students are participating in class discussions about what “Distribution Support Specialists (Warehouse workers”” and “Truck Drivers” do for a job using video examples. Students are also participating in volunteer activities on the CSDB Campus in the Ago Cafeteria in small groups. One group will volunteer on Wednesdays and one group will volunteer on Thursdays. Students will volunteer to help to wipe tables in the cafeteria. Students will also have the opportunity to volunteer to help to clean classrooms such as wiping tables and desks, shred paper etc.
* Post Secondary Preparation students are participating in off campus work experiences at the Arc Thrift Store, “Zach’s Place” Students also help with on campus jobs. Students will participate in completing a post-test about soft and hard skills to demonstrate their knowledge. Students will also participate in answering reflection questions about what they learned in class and reflect on their time at work using a Google Form and rating themselves on class participation and effort using a rubric and complete a self-evaluation of how they performed in the community. Students are completing weekly timesheets and calculating their wages for their number of hours worked to be able to compare with their pay stubs.
* Elementary math students are all on various levels, some are solving multiplication and division problems, others are identifying shapes, while some are adding and subtracting fluently using up to two-digit numbers.
* High School math students are graphing and writing equations in slope-intercept form, applying additive inverse, and understanding of addition of fractions.
* Our Secondary Health classes have been focusing on mental and emotional health, self-esteem, identifying emotions and the difference between expressing emotions in positive and negative ways.

### Bridges to Life

* BtL Students worked to put up the Christmas tree lights with help from JJ Ryan for Santa's Village (The children's village) in time for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony last week.
* Our department celebrated a new staff member, Myranda Zigler, who began teaching Deaf and hard-of-hearing students.
* Students from both the BVI and DHH groups have been continuing to work in their respective job placements.
* Students eagerly await the end-of-year field trip as a group to the Main Event Bowling Center.
* Several BVI students assisted staff yesterday with shopping at the Toys for Tots sale and brought gifts back on campus.
* BVI students had a virtual guest speaker come to class to speak about Federal Job experiences. The guest speaker is a Blind/VI role model who is a National Forest Ranger.

## STUDENT SERVICES

* The Mental Health Team organized another year of the Giving Tree and their ongoing partnership with Toys for Tots and a local HOA, Summit Pointe, which provided many items for students in need. Twenty-eight students and families received support this year, with several other families benefiting from items from Toys for Tots.

## STUDENT LIFE

* **Athletics**
* The goalball team traveled to New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired for a tournament on December 7. They took 3rd place.
* CSDB Holiday Crafts Fair was on December 7.
* High school girls' and boys' basketball and our Deaf Academic Bowl traveled to New Mexico School for the Deaf for their annual Roadrunner Classic Tournament on December 13 through 15.
* Scheduled basketball games 7 out of 15 days this month.
* Middle school girls’ basketball won their first game this season.

* **Dorm Activities**
* Weight training at the CSDB Gym.
* Ice Skating at an outdoor park downtown.
* Baking Christmas Cookies in the Deaf High school boy's dorm.
* Annual Angel Tree Dinner December 10.
* Residential Holiday Dinner and Bingo night on Dec 18.
* Broadmoor Christmas Lights tour.

**Student Life Programs Overview**

* We have six vacancies but are offering the AD position and three Health Care Technician positions at the time of this report. Student numbers in the dorms have risen to 49 students this 2024-2025 school year which represents a 6.5% growth since August 2024 and a 19.5% growth since December 2023 in Residential students.
* We were able to fill 100% of our high school basketball coaching positions and 75% of our middle school basketball coaching positions. Student Life Staff are supporting vacancies with current staff.
* The Student Life Management team shared the Athletic Director duties for November and December until we were able to fill that position. We held weekend events each weekend of the school calendar month before Winter Break.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

* Thanksgiving Lunch with local Deaf seniors
* V.I.B.E.S. Department of the month
* CSDB Holiday Lighting

**Website Data – Nov. 24 – Dec. 16**

* Page views/Month 16,181 (25% increase from the previous month)

**Social Media – Nov. 13 – Dec. 10**

* CSDB’s Facebook account saw an increase in engagements with growth of new followers and content interactions. CSDB Instagram saw moderate growth in engagement.

Highlights:

Facebook experienced a **900%** increase in new follows, a **316%** increase in organic reach, and a **222%** increase in content interactions. Facebook impressions increased by **237%**, and Facebook published content count increased by **33%**. Instagram content interactions increased by **57%**.

* Facebook

Accounts reached: 60.9k

* Instagram

Accounts reached: 1.4k