# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# March 2023

## Student Enrollment

As of March 1, 2023

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 679

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022 186

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 170

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 11

K-5th 29

6-8th 19

9-12th 27

Bridges to Life 12

Total 98

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 7

K-5th 19

6th-8th 15

9-12th 21

Bridges to Life 10

Total 72

Day Students 131

Residential Students 39

Parent Option 11

District Option 159

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 346

CHIP (Deafblind) 16

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 26

Direct Outreach 121

ELDI Programs 90

## Interim Superintendent

* 2.24 Attended first semester awards in the schools.
* 2.28 Great Minds of the West Superintendent’s Meeting
* 3.9 & 3.14 Staff Town Hall Meetings
* 3.14 Hands and Voices Meeting with Director
* 3.16 Leadership Team & Mid-Level Managers Meeting
* 3.20 Air Force Academy Cadet Visit

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

## Finance

* The financial reports show expenses posted through January 31, 2023. The line items are in line with the number of months left in the school year.
* CSDB is anticipating a shortfall in per pupil revenue around $275,000 and we will hold vacancy savings to cover this shortfall.
* CSDB is not eligible to participate in the Healthy School Meals for All program that was set up because of Proposition FF passage. This program will provide universal free meals to all public-school students. This program is only for any Colorado public school district or charter school food authority that participates in the National School Lunch program or School Breakfast program. However, CSDB will continue to participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch program.
* Kudos to the Food Service Department for passing the administrative review by the Department of Education School Nutrition Unit. This administrative review takes place every five years. The administrative review is officially closed as of February 23, and CSDB follows federal and state regulations.

## Personnel

* To date, 21 positions have been filled for the 2022-2023 school year. Since July 1, 2022, there have been 8 employee separations. Currently, there are 31 total vacancies: 8 vacancies for non-Classified positions; 23 vacancies for Classified positions. Note: there are 17 vacancies in Student Life Programs; there are no immediate plans to fill 13 positions due to the number of students currently residing in the dorms (39 students).
* Administrative Assistant I (CIMC) closed on Friday, December 30, 2022. Interviews completed and reference checks being completed prior to offer. First offer was declined (already accepted another job), new job offer pending. Second offer declined, will repost.
* Administrative Assistant III (CIMC) – Out of State Waiver was requested from DPA and approved. Job announcement reposted and will close on February 14, 2023. Extended to March 13, 2023, due to no qualified applicants.
* Dining Services I (2 full-time vacancies), interviews on Friday, March 3, 2023.
* Custodian II, hiring recommendation sent, waiting for Interim Superintendent approval.
* Currently accepting application for a Preschool Teacher, and Library Teacher / Coach (offer made, applicant has until Wednesday, March 8, 2023, to accept), Social Studies TVI.
* Posting within the next month will be Health Care Technician; State Teacher Aide / Preschool

## Facilities/IT

### Facilities Update

### Stone:

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

### Argo:

* Researching gas options to replace steam kettle – energy savings.

### Campus:

* Transitioning from SchoolDude to FMX – go live April 3
* Should receive $17.5K School Security Grant in April/May to help fund Emergency Action Plan development.
* Offer made to Custodial II
* Currently working with the State to test drinking water by May 31 in areas that serve children pre-school through 5th grade ([House Bill 22-1358](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB22-1358): Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers)
* Plan Board meeting in April to review CM & CCCR 5-yr plans.

### IT Updates:

* Identifying alternative options to replace touch panel in Gottlieb.
* Preparing for SchoolDude to FMX transition
* Moving forward with AV System replacement in Gottlieb (Lifecycle Replacement Budget)
* Received our lifecycle replacement laptops/iPads and will begin rolling out new devices and processing old devices for CCI disposal.
* Testing new Wi-Fi equipment to improve campus connectivity and performance.

### Project Update (<https://csdb.colorado.gov/facilities-construction/active/funded-projects>):

* Closed-out Emergency Steam Plant Power Restoration Project
* Admin Rehab
	+ Approximately 80% complete
	+ Installing storm windows and rerouting conduit
* Industrial Roof Repair
	+ Construction/repair Jun-Jul
* Argo Roof Replacement
	+ Attic asbestos cleanup completed.
	+ Central States Roofing will start attic work in April.
	+ Roof replacement 6/15/2023 – 8/03/2023
* West Hall Design/Build Roof Replacement
	+ Negotiating cost/design w/GH Phipps
	+ Hope to award contract next week.
* Gym Construction
	+ Kick-off meeting held Feb 27
	+ Anticipate Construction Schedule in two weeks.
	+ Construction 5/30/2023 – 10/31/2023
* CSDB has received Level 1 (highest) prioritization from Office of State Architect (OSA), Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) and Capital Development Committee (CDC) for the following projects:
	+ ADA Playground $1.9M – next to Lions Hall, 2x the size of the current playground and ADA-compliant/fully accessible
	+ Security Upgrades (Phase 1 of 2) $572K – perform a security threat assessment & prepare infrastructure/network for Phase 2 security cameras.
	+ Gym Renovation (Phase 3 of 3) $1.5M – Elevator/ADA accessibility, new flooring, bleachers, mechanical heating/cooling and more
	+ These projects still must be reviewed & prioritized by the Joint Budget Committee before being placed on the Long Bill for the Governor’s approval/signature.
* CEM Assessment of Emergency Action Plan
	+ Received 1st Site Visit Report and Draft Playbook
	+ Consultant reaching out to several Deaf & Blind Schools for existing plans.
	+ 2nd Site Visit planned for 3-5 May.

## Both Schools

* Read Across America week was February 27-March 3, 2023
* Spring Parent-Teacher conferences were held the week of February 13-17.

Here is the number of parents that participated for each department:

* + School for the Blind K-12th = 20/54 (37%)
	+ School for the Deaf K-12th = 41/74 (55%)
	+ Preschool
* First semester awards were celebrated in all programs.

## School for the Deaf

* The Deaf PreK program had a valentine’s day event where parents attended a workshop on strategies for reading with their children and then participated in fun activities with their children in the classroom.
* We welcomed three more PreK students.
* Deaf Academic Bowl team went to Oregon and competed in-person. They did not place but have grown immensely as a team this school year.
* Lower elementary classes participated in fun events for the 100th day of school.

## School for the Blind

* The Braille Challenge took place on Tuesday February 28, 2023. It was a success. The Bulldog Band provided entertainment during the closing ceremony. Due to the generous donations of our sponsors, students and staff received a braille challenge t-shirt this year.
* All students participated in the 100th day of school activities including 100 item trail mix, paper chains, 100-day stories, and cup creations. Some students and staff even dressed up like they were 100 years old!
* Students skied at Vail Mountain and Crested Butte.
* Elementary students celebrated Valentine’s Day by making cards for one another.
* We welcomed two more middle school aged students and one more PreK student.
* One of our students attended a breakfast with the Optimist Club and presented her speech. She will be moving on to the next level of the Oratorical Contest Competition.
* Many of our students are showing their assistive technology skills by using refreshable braille displays more regularly in class to complete assignments and take notes.

## Employability Center

* Students in our Bridges to Life (BtL) program and the Post-School Preparation (PSP) class continued in their work experiences. Of our 27 student workers, 96% of students are currently placed in job placements.
* Bridges to Life students in the Blind/ Visually impaired class had their first cooking class with community partner Care and Share, and they will keep having monthly classes.
* BtL ECC class completed some inventories on preferred skills and qualities of good employees to determine if there are skills or qualities on which they need to work.
* Students in career exploration classes finished Phase I of their Construction Career Cluster: Drawing Blueprint & Building Cardboard House in teams, presenting personal reflections in class in a PowerPoint.
* Students in PSP class developed new work study hard skill objectives with employer & job coach.
* Students in music and art classes continued their lessons and projects with a guest instructor from the Fine Arts Center as part of our CSDB-FAC partnership this semester. They are preparing for an art show, theatre, and musical performance. The event will be May 5th at the FAC, so they are starting to really dive deep and get work completed!
* ILS class found recipes that they would like to make and identified ingredients and supplies they will need to make their recipe.
* In PE classes, students learned about badminton.

## Student Services

* Student health has presented several health-related topics to the BTL program on self-care as it relates to cardiac health and to the dorm on self-care and hygiene.
* On Friday March 3, 2023, Our Mental Health Team members in the School for the Deaf, met with a representative of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child Resiliency Center from Gallaudet University. This meeting helped us network with those who are doing current and relevant research in the field of mental health and Deafness. Their current work focuses on adapting and translating child behavioral and trauma measures, developing a new screening measure of language deprivation, adapting evidence-based interventions, and providing training and ongoing consultation for those in the field. All of which is applicable to our current professional practice here at CSDB. We are excited about this new professional connection!
* Our Speech Language Pathologists have been providing trainings and support in the classrooms to support the use of AAC (Alternative Augmentative Communication) devices for our students that need them.

## Student Life

### Athletics

* The basketball season has come to an end, and it ended with the traditional staff vs. students basketball game that was held on February 27, 2023. Staff and students always enjoy this game and as always it was fierce competition.
* Special Olympic Basketball is wrapping up this month.
* Due to staffing shortages and a lack of student interest, we are considering not having a track season for Special Olympics or High School. We are still considering track for Middle School.
* Students have expressed interest in having a soccer club, which would take the place of the track season.
* Peewee basketball season has ended. The kids had an end of the season party.

### Afterschool programs

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

### Dorm activities

Some of the activities occurring in the dorms this month.

* St Patrick Party on March 16, 6-8 pm at BAC. Open to only dorm students.
* Attitude Ninja
* Springs Trampoline
* Kim’s Yoga
* Intramural/Open Gym
* Mall @ Chapel Hills
* Make bird feeders
* Dorm Cooking/Knife Cutting skills.

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

## Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

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

The deadline for Administrative Units to submit student registration data for the CDE statewide count was extended to Monday, February 27, 2023. CIMC staff has completed the data entry on all paperwork received for the statewide count. We have until March 15 to complete data entry for our second count, the federal quota census count, managed by the American Printing House for the Blind.

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

* February’s “First Friday” CIMC Zoom meeting focused on the federal quota census timeline and the funding allocation process. CIMC staff then demonstrated, and accepted orders for, 3D-printed braillewriter finger guides.
* February 9, 2023, Jim represented CIMC at the Metro Denver TVI meeting; promoting upcoming APH webinars; great discussion on the new proposed ECEA language, Cortical Visual Impairments, and the new “CVI Companion Guide” book.
* February 28,2023, the Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting was held in-person on the CSDB campus, in the Lions library building. The assistive technology specialist from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, along with TVIs from local school districts attended the low vision device presentation by Brian Smith and Mathew Smith of Magnisight of the Rockies. Several hand-held, portable, and desktop video magnifiers were demonstrated, along with the newest wearable technologies.

### ****CSDB Outreach: 2023 Metro Denver Braille Challenge Contest****

In collaboration with the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB), the CSDB Outreach department co-hosted the 2023 Metro Denver Braille Challenge event held, in-person, at the CCB in Littleton, on Friday, February 10, 2023. Fourteen students from five administrative units participated in this year’s Challenge contest, in person. Other students participated from a distance, with TVIs proctoring tests in district.

Thank you to the following TVIs who accompanied their students: Jill Bookwalter, Lorraine Chevarria, Elsa D’Angelo, Caitlin Geoffrion, Christopher Kinney, Nancy Knight, Colleen Lydon, Lori Mattick, Debbie Mendoza, Natalie Palmer, Melinda Russell, and Micah Scott.

AUs included: Adams 12 Five Star Schools (Thornton), Arapahoe County 5 (Cherry Creek), Arapahoe County 6 (Littleton), Denver Public Schools, and El Paso County District 49 (Falcon).

### **CSDB Outreach: The CDB/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**

CSDB Outreach: The CDE/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic for the Denver Metro area was held February 22-24, 2023, at Anchor Center for Blind Children. Sixteen students received low vision evaluations. Fifteen parents and 12 TVIs from seven administrative units (AUs) attended the 90-minute evaluations. The clinic team would like to thank the Anchor Center for Blind Children for hosting the event.

The AUs included: Administrative Units (Adams County District 14, Adams-Arapahoe County District 28J, Arapahoe County District 5, Arapahoe County District 6, Crown Pointe Academy, Denver County District 1, and Douglas County).

TVIs who brought their students included: Kaitlin Lombardi, Wendy Unwin-Watson, Barb Galgano, Jeannie Lei, Rachel Sullivan, Nancy Cozart, Melinda Russell, Morgan Harrington, Karin Hensel, Brenna Moser, Dana Downey, and Maggie Tutt.

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

* We are in the last week of the 8-week session and so far, it has been great. We will offer our next 8-week session beginning the week of April 3 - six ASL classes per week; three Tuesday evenings and three Thursday evenings. The Outreach team is still partnering with the ASL specialists in Gottlieb to support parent classes for students attending CSDB. The ASL specialists’ team in Gottlieb will meet to determine whether to continue the Spring session.
* **We taught ASL to staff at Springs Rescues Mission. The survey shows all Very Satisfied. We will start a 4-series ASL class for teens at Sand Creek Library starting on March 1. There will be two more 4-series for Teens in April at different libraries: Fountain and Ruth Holley.**

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

Our next ASL Immersion for Professionals is April 22, 2023.

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

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

### ****ASL Classes for CSDB Staff****

Staff ASL classes are currently in session.

## Early Education Team

### ****Little Language Learners****

Little Language Learners continue to have weekly sessions and enjoyed a field trip to Play Street Museum this month! Families and children were grateful and enjoyed the hands-on play experience!

### ****CO-Hears****

One CO-Hear is a member of the Early Intervention Workforce Task Force Group meeting weekly through March to provide insight and guidance on standardizing pay, and retention of staff for early intervention providers and program staff. They continue to service nearly 400 families across the state.

### ****Colorado Shared Reading Project****

CSRP team continues to support families across the state, mentor instructors, and provide ASL classes for families on the waiting list, and in collaboration with The Resource Exchange in Colorado Springs, for families who have children birth to age three.

### ****Early Literacy (EL) Events****

Four events took place in February, with outstanding and positive feedback from families. The events included movement, music, story reading, and a copy of the book for some events. Staff is busy prepping for the big event in March at the children’s museum and finalizing details for the Durango Event.

### ****Ascent Program****

Ascent is a COEHDI, Colorado Early Hearing, Detection, and Intervention, funded Deaf adult role model program offered through CSDB. There were five new requests from 1-on-1 visits this month, which is being attributed to the video explaining the program!

## Media:

* Max Prep and BVM Sports.com – report on multiple CSDB basketball games
* Parent Staff Organization - March meeting discussed availability of mini-grants to staff, fundraising and upcoming family activities.
* CSDB Alumni Association – CSDB is pleased to see the return of the March 17th St. Patrick’s Day dinner for our Alumni!
* Interim Superintendent messages are emailed to staff and families as well as posted on the CSDB website for stakeholders, biweekly. Each message contains a Bulldog Buzz segment with students interviewing Interim Superintendent Spangler.
* The Catalyst: CC newspaper “The FAC in Transition” – CSDB is recognized as one of the Fine Art Center at Colorado College partners. Thanks to Allie Unker, CSDB art teacher, for the interview.

### Social Media and Website:

Created Super in 60 seconds videos for social media to showcase activities on campus:

Feb 15 – Thank you Facilities Team
Feb 20 – Optimist Club Oratorical Contest
Feb 27 – Braille Challenge
March 6 – Community Partners at Work: Care and Share
March 13 – School for the Blind Ski Trip: Crested Butte

February monthly analytics
Facebook reach 12,673 Instagram reach 326
New fans 51 Growth 3.9%
Total likes 4,844 Total fans 424

Linked Unique views 24 Twitter Impressions 397
New followers 6 New followers 1
Total followers 591 Total followers 295

YouTube
15,038 views/783 hours
New subscribers 81
Subscribers 4,993

Website Analytics: Average time on pages 2:66 minutes; Most popular pages Home Page, Outreach/ASL Community Classes, School Calendar, Careers/Join Our Team, Careers, Careers/Classified Jobs; Comparison pageviews 11,232 (Feb 2022) vs 17,128 (Feb 2023)