# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# February 2024

## Student Enrollment

## As of January 24, 2024

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 586

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022 172

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 162

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 9

K-5th 22

6-8th 24

9-12th 26

Bridges to Life 9

Total 90

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 3

K-5th 19

6th-8th 16

9-12th 26

Bridges to Life 8

Total 72

Day Students 119

Residential Students 43

Parent Option 12

District Option 150

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 337

CHIP (Deafblind) 7

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 25

Direct Outreach 55

ELDI Programs 101

## Superintendent

* Feb 1 – Attended Parent Teacher Conferences
* February 9 – Attended Lunar Year Event
* February 7 – Parent Staff Organization (PSO) meeting
* February 12 – Blind/Low Vision Students 1st Semester Awards
* February 13 – 150th Celebration Core Team Meeting
* February 14 – Preschool Valentine’s Day Parent Event
* February 15 – Attended the Region Meeting to hear our students from the School for the Blind sing the National Anthem.
* February 22 – Attended the Braille Challenge
* February 26 – Museum Accessibility Meeting
* February 27 – 150th Celebration Core Team Meeting
* February 28 – Deaf Elementary Students 1st Semester Awards
* February 28 – Accountability Meeting
* February 29 – Leadership Team Retreat Off-Campus
* Completed mid-year performance reviews.
* 1:1 Meetings with Board members to Board vision and goals

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

### Finance

* KPMG was engaged by the Office of State Controller to assist the Colorado Department of Education in providing oversight, compliance and monitoring of Colorado Department of Education’s Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations tracked with grant code 4012. The Coronavirus Relief Fund grant period was from March 1, 2020 - December 30, 2021. KPMG has been conducting a desk review for Coronavirus Relief Funds in preparation for an upcoming federal desk review. The U.S. Treasury Office of the Inspector General is conducting desktop review procedures to evaluate grantees’ documentation supporting the use of COVID-19 economic relief programs, including Coronavirus Relief Funds. This includes an assessment of the risk of unallowable use of funds. Transactions from Colorado Department of Education, Charter School Institute, and Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind were selected for review. So far, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind has been able to provide the supporting documentation for each selected transaction to verify the expenditures.
* During February and March, the Joint Budget Committee makes funding decisions for the upcoming fiscal year. Joint Budget Committee analysts present each department’s budget request and make recommendations for the Committee’s consideration in a figure setting document. These recommendations include the amounts and sources of funding for each budget line item, assumptions about the associated number of state employees, and footnotes to be included in the Long Bill to explain the purpose of certain appropriations. This process is called “figure setting.” The Committee votes on each staff recommendation, and the Joint Budget Committee analyst recalculates appropriations based on the Committee’s actions. Our Joint Budget Committee analyst requested from the Controller for the annual figure setting tables and the enrollment data to be updated and compiled a set of questions regarding the R18 - Teacher Salaries, R19 – Deans of Deaf and Blind Schools, and R20 – Preschool. The data and responses have been provided and her figure setting document is set to be printed on February 26.
* The following is the Per Pupil Revenue data provided by the Facility School team.

| Projected Fiscal year 2024-25 Facility Schools Funding for Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind | |
| --- | --- |
| Projected statewide base per pupil funding (based on current law) | $8,496.38 |
| Facility school funding for year-round educational programs (1.73 x base Per Pupil Revenue) | $14,698.73 |
| Total days the increased rate applies | 235 |
| Daily rate (state average Per Pupil Funding divided by total days) | $62.55 |
| Estimated student-days billed by Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (average daily attendance (160 projected) x 184 instructional days) | 29,440 |
| **Projected Transfer to Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (Daily rate x student-days)** | **$1,841,472** |

### Facilities/Information Technology

* March Board meeting: present 10-year facilities master plan & playground project
* The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind will complete the EPA-required Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) 3-Year Re-Inspection by the end of March.
* Hired Safety Management Group to develop the following safety programs and to provide staff training on these programs.
* Lock Out / Tag Out, Hot Work, Confined Space & Electrical Safety
* Working on State-directed Water Management Plan
  + Fill out the template and submit by 02/29/2024
  + Begin implementing water management plan by 05/01/2024

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

* CSDB has eight projects worth $10 million in capital funding to improve our campus.
* 1st Quarter Vacancy Savings: 11 projects approved - $142,000
  1. Argo Laundry Room
  2. Front Desk Window
  3. Stone ADA Improvements
  4. Doorbells in Palmer
  5. Extend Sidewalk Gym to Pikes Peak
  6. Repair Marque Sign
  7. Fix Underground Power Line
  8. Building Interior Braille Signage
  9. Fix Jones Gate Fire Alarm
  10. Concrete Work & Improve Adams Bus Lane
  11. Add Gym Interior Badge Access
* Developing $290,000 energy initiatives FY25-26
* Install utility meters
* LED Lighting Upgrades & Water Conservation
* Admin windows/$80,000 grant match for $250,000 History Colorado Grant
* Gym Construction
  + Developing three phases to complete by Oct 2024
    - **Phase 3A:** Accessible Drinking Fountains, Running Track Railing Extension, Acoustical Panels & Motorized Shades in Upper Gym (awarded)
    - **Phase 3B:** Accessible Elevator, new Bleachers in Upper and Main Gym, new Door Hardware Throughout, Lighting Replacement Throughout (evaluating cost estimate)
    - **Phase 3C:** Complete HVAC Upgrade Upper Gym & Bulldog Activity Center, Exterior Doors & Windows, Signage/Wayfinding (evaluating Construction Documents)
* Argo Roof Replacement
* Finish roof replacement 6/20/2024 – 8/03/2024
* West Hall Roof Replacement
* Need to load test balcony handrails
* 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%).
    - Applied for BEST Grant by February 5
      * CDE review, final revisions due March 29
* Capital Development Committee prioritized #13 to Joint Budget Committee 2/20/2024
* New Playground
  + Design Team working towards Construction Documents
  + Construction 5/13 - 8/9/2024
  + Mini village relocation between Stone & Ritter
* Campus Security Upgrades
  + Moving forward with Campus Security Assessment & Network/Fiber Assessment
    - Awarded Security Assessment to Navigate 360 - Marc Bolt is the Point of Contact
    - Release solicitation for network/fiber improvements & camera design/installation 2/23/2024
* Stone Hall accessibility improvements
* Adding badge readers and ADA door opener
* Reconstructing ADA sidewalk ramp

**Personnel Actions:**

* Hire Structural Trade II and Custodial I positions.

## All Schools

**All School Programs**

* Parent conferences were held February 2.
* All programs are working on solidifying our MTSS processes.

**School for the Deaf**

* Elementary hosted a first semester awards celebration February 28.
* PE classes learned about the game of basketball.
* In Civics class, students created a special newspaper page in honor of the county system of government. Their page explained what county government and its officers do and why they are important to citizens.
* In Geography class, students illustrated the topography of a local area and used a map and firsthand observations to create an illustration of local topography.
* In US History class, 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.
* Students in our Deaf+ class are showing good progress both academically and behaviorally.
* In art classes, lower elementary students created artwork centering around arctic animals. They learned to braid yarn and use it as a stitching method, tying all their artwork together to resemble a quilt. In upper elementary classes, students learned about the cool colors and hot colors. They were then challenged to take a staple art of a wolf howling at the moon and transform it to add more of their artistic styles and incorporate foil somewhere in the artwork since silver is a cool color as well. During my middle school art classes, they put together a t-shirt template describing their likes and favorites as an ice breaker activity with me. We are now moving onto learning about De'VIA artists, and they will select an artist that most inspires them and imitate their art style and write a one-page report about them.
* Yearbook is underway and students are now cropping photos and deciding layouts on pages.
* For Drama, students had an introduction on what drama is and is not. They have been playing improv games to improve their drama techniques and have drama journal prompts that they respond to daily.

**School for the Blind**

* Our Oratorical Contest was held Thursday, February 1. Only three students chose to participate, however, all students wrote and presented speeches in the secondary literacy classes.
* The 100th Day of School was celebrated on Tuesday, February 6. Students made bead necklaces with 100 beads, dressed like they were 100 years old, did 100 jumping jacks throughout the day, and anticipated raffle prizes.
* We celebrated 1st Semester accomplishments at our awards ceremony Monday, February 12.
* Our General Music Class Performance took place on Valentine’s Day and the theme was songs about love. The parents’ attendance was amazing, and the students delivered beautiful, sweet performances.
* Three of our students sang the National Anthem at the State of the Region event at the ENT Center.
* The Braille Challenge was a success. All students participated in Braille Challenge Day as competitors, rookies, or helpers. We ended the day by celebrating our efforts and rocking out with three bands: The Bulldog Band, PRIDE Band, and Key of ECC (new staff band).

**Employability Center**

* BtL students are back into the full swing of working at their respective job sites.
* Blind BtL students visited the Colorado Springs Independence Center to learn about their programs and services.
* BtL students will have their lockdown drill training March 1.
* BtL students are doing awesome with their PRIDE nominations, we have had over 40 the last 2 months!

**Preschool programs**

* Preschool programs had a Valentine’s Parent event. Parents had an opportunity to socialize with each other and then a couple of fun activities with their students.
* Deaf PK is growing. We have two more new students and have three more possibly joining in the month of February.

### Student Services

* The nurses in the Student Health Center are in the process of gathering data and applying for a student wellness grant through the CDE and will be submitting that by March 20.
* December 1 count and Civil Rights report are completed and submitted to CDE.
* The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training team will be attending a 3-day training for a new program, Safety - Care to be ready to roll out a new program for the CSDB staff in the fall.
* Related service providers continue to collaborate with school programs and provide services as needed.
* Members of the Speech Language Pathologist team have been attending training and testing out some eye gaze AAC devices and 3D printing to make AAC more accessible for students with multiple disabilities and access differences.
* We have recently welcomed a few more students who are identified as Deafblind. Teams are collaborating to better align related services for these students to include Braille, Assistive Technology, Audiological Technology, American Sign Language, Teacher of the Deaf and Teacher of the Blind services.

## Student Life

**Athletics**

* High School Basketball season has ended. The boys won their game against Cripple Creek in a close game.
* Peewee Basketball season is underway.
* Special Olympics Basketball
* Academic Bowl Traveled to New Mexico School for the Deaf to compete in the West Regional Academic Bowl
* The wrestling partnership with Palmer High School has ended. Our two students had a fantastic season, and it was a great partnership.
* Staff vs. Students Basketball game took place February 14.
* Goalball season started February 20, 2024, as we are getting ready for Homecoming in March.

**Afterschool programs**

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

**Dorm activities**

* Brown 2 south family unit dorm-Elementary/Middle school students hosted an open house for teachers and school staff to come have a treat and see what our dorm kids are doing as well as a tour of the dorm.

• Valentines’ arts and crafts

* Valentines’ Day treats for parents and school staff were made in the dorms.
* Canvas painting
* Altitude Ninja
* ARC/ Dollar Store Shopping
* Springs Trampoline
* Off campus Movie theater night for open captioning
* Luner New Year activities
* SBG Chipotle Fundraiser on 2-13-24 (we earned $444.06, thanks for your support.)

**Residential Overview**

* Our numbers are currently 43 students’ total.
* We have six vacancies in the residential program right now.
* The substitutes are covering our vacancies currently.

## Outreach

### Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

On February 2, the Colorado Instruction Materials Center hosted a statewide “First Friday” Zoom meeting to continue to train school district staff on the new eligibility criteria implemented for this year’s January 2024 Federal Quota census.

The Outreach department partnered with the Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton to host the 2024 Denver Metro Braille Challenge on Friday, February 23, the day after the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Braille Challenge event. Twelve students from the Southern and Metro regions participated in-person and one student participated from their home district. Fourteen parents, school district braillists, paraprofessionals and teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) attended the event. The Braille Challenge event has five competitive levels:

* Apprentice (grades 1-2),
* Freshmen (grades 3-4),
* Sophomore (grades 5-6),
* Junior Varsity (grades 7-9), and
* Varsity (grades 10-12).

Contest categories for the two youngest groups include Spelling, Reading Comprehension, and Proofreading. The Sophomore through Varsity categories competed in Speed & Accuracy, Reading Comprehension, Proofreading, and Charts & Graphs.

### American Sign Language Team

The ASL (American Sign Language) instructor position is still vacant.

### ASL Family Immersion

Planning will start soon.

### ASL Immersion for Professionals

**Unfortunately, we had to cancel the immersion, which was supposed to happen on February 10, due to the weather.**

**Colorado Digital Learning Solutions - 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 ASL class level 1b for the second semester. We are halfway through the semester, and all are doing great.

### Community ASL classes

* We are currently in our fifth week and are doing great.
* Marion Downs Center – we are currently in fifth week and are doing great. We are looking for a different place where we may be able to offer two levels of ASL classes in the Denver area.
* We collaborated with audiologists to review vocabulary and phrases for an hour last month. They did a fantastic job.

## Early Education Team

**CO-Hear/ ‘CHIP Coordinator’ will be used until we have a new name :)**

* **The month of February has flown by! CHIP Coordinators have been busy all over the state! We have been engaging with stakeholders for a variety of reasons, learning, collaborating, and informing.**
* **Early in the month we met with the Early Literacy Development Initiative teams – Colorado Shared Reading Program, Early Literacy Event, and Early Education American Sign Language leads to discuss how we all support families, and continued collaborations. We discussed this being an ongoing meeting quarterly to ensure smooth support between programs as we have families in common attending events and receiving support from all our groups! It is a strong group of professionals and was a great meeting!**
* **Later in the month we had Dr Anu Sharma from CU Boulder join us to learn more about P1 testing and how it can be available to families if they need additional information related to how their child’s auditory cortex is receiving sound. This is available to all families and at no charge to families.**
* **There have been individual trainings with local Early Intervention Programs throughout the state as well, this is continuous training and support we provide to ensure new service coordinators and Local Early Intervention Program directors know about the programming and support provided to families through the Colorado Home Intervention Program.**
* **Also, February brought with it a decision to retitle the CO-Hear positions. Suggestions are coming in from all over the state. We look forward to finding a name that reflects the work that we do!**

**Early Literacy Development Initiative**

**In the Colorado Shared Reading Program, we currently have eleven families on the wait list, so families are having access to services within a couple of months. We are currently searching for a couple of qualified instructors to join our contract team. We will be providing in-person training to current Language and Literacy Instructors at the end of February. Our Early Education American Sign Language Lead continues to have conversations with local programs, related to American Sign Language as a service on the Individualized Family Service Plan. While we have contractors trained with curriculum, we have at least three others waiting for training, 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 February 10 Early Literacy, despite the snow across Denver and the Front Range, 33 families attended the event at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Then the virtual event for families with birth – 3-year-old babies who are Deaf was on Monday, February 12. Ten families participated via zoom and received a copy of the book after the event. We continue to plan and widely share our monthly community events and virtual events!**

**We are also starting to prep for our rural weekend event, which will be in Glenwood Springs in May. There will be an American Sign Language Immersion experience at Aspen Camp for the Deaf to round out the weekend. More information to come!**

**Little Language Learners**

Little Language Learners is continuing the year with winter themed stories and activities. There have been several new families joining and one little learner who graduated up to the preschool program. The teachers have seen incredible growth in the ASL skills of the toddlers and their parents since the beginning of the year. The group went on a family field trip to the Play Street Children’s Museum on Friday, February 2 to give the families an opportunity to practice their new language skills in an unfamiliar environment and give them time to network with one another. Planning for a couple Spring workshops is in the works!

**Outreach Core Vision Team**

Outreach Core Vision Group has gathered feedback from the department, and after much discussion, below is our program mission statement:

*The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach Programs provide advocacy, resources, training, and opportunities to empower children, families, students, and school districts across the state of Colorado. We are passionate about partnering with families and students, birth to age 21, on their unique individual journey. Our programs are rooted in collaboration, the establishment of best practices, and educating professionals, stakeholders, and community partners across the state to create a brighter future for all.*

**Next, this group will be meeting with their own teams and creating vision and needs as we think about department growth.**

**State Collaborations**

**We recently provided the Otoacoustic Emissions training (via our contract with Early Intervention Colorado) at North Metro Community Services and received positive feedback! We continue to work with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to identify gaps in data and follow up to support a decrease in lost to follow up rates and additional support to midwives. February 15 was the first statewide stakeholder workgroup. The role of this group is to review the survey and focus group feedback, find themes, and make recommendations to Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and Early Intervention Colorado to enhance our early intervention system.**

**In addition, the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind released a video, statement, and survey to the public for the name change of the “CO-Hear” group. All this work will align and lead to a clear vision, roles, and work of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind employees and statewide collaborations to provide services to families.**

## Media

***Media:***

**CDE Deaf E-news –**

ASL Storytime at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science  
Congratulations to Tera Spangler

**Gazette** –

“Superintendent Candidates Share Plans for Future of CSDB”  
“Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind appoints first deaf superintendent.”

**Max Preps –**

CSDB Boys Basketball schedule  
Hanover vs CSDB

CSDB vs Cripple Creek-Victor

**Howe’s Now** –

“Congratulations to Tera Spangler!”

**CEASD** –

“Congratulations to Tera Spangler!”

**Kiowa County Press** –

CSDB vs Manzanola

**CDE Friday News –**

Partnership of the CSDB ASL Storytime at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

**Vail Daily** –

How Foresight Ski Guides is transforming the lives of the visually impaired through outdoor recreation.

### 150th history celebration

### History videos- 1961-1980 (February)

* Then and Now photos (Cheerleading, Boys Brushing Teeth in Dorms)
* Alumni Advice- Linda Souza and Ralph Arellano

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

* Spirit Week for School for the Deaf HC activities
* Lunar New Year
* Pee Wee Basketball
* Braille Challenge

**Other**

* Board of Trustees videos regarding the Superintendent Search: February
* Interim Superintendent monthly video (February)

### Livestream

* Basketball Game (February 5, 2024)
* Board of Trustees Hybrid Zoom Meeting (February 7, 2024)

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

Facebook reach 103,300 Instagram reach 809

New fans 306 Growth .4%

Total followers 8,300 Total followers 580

Linked In Unique views 53 Twitter Impressions N/A

New followers 14 New followers 14

Total followers 627 Total followers 321

YouTube

Views/hours 14,000/693.30

New subscribers 77

Subscribers 5,760