# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# March 2025

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### As of Feb. 18, 2025

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 658

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2024 182

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 168

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 11

K-5th 19

6-8th 27

9-12th 27

Bridges to Life 10

Total 94

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 123

Residential Students 45

Parent Option 3

District Option 165

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Colorado Home Inclusion Program) (Deaf) 349

CHIP Referrals .................................................................................................................................. 11

CHIP (Deafblind) ............................................................................................................................. 11

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. ......................................................................................................................... 32

Direct Outreach 87

ELDI (Early Literacy Development Initiative) Programs 92

ELDI Waiting List ............................................................................................................................17

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

**Human Resources**

* Interviews being held:
* Custodian III
* HR Admin III
* Accounting Tech III
* State Teacher Aide (School for the Deaf)
* Positions Filled
* School for the Deaf / Secondary Transitions & Electives
* Vacancies currently posted and in progress to be posted:
* 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
* School Psychologist / School for the Deaf
* State Teacher Aide / School for the Blind
* State Teacher Aide / Preschool
* Registrar / Student Services
* Principal / School for the Blind
* Custodian III (Repost)
* HCT Deaf (Repost)
* HCT Blind (Repost)
* Accounting Tech III
* Dining Services IV (Repost)
* Admin Assistant II / Food Service (Repost)
* TOD PE Health
* Literacy Teacher Interventionist and Coach / School for the Blind
* 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 PDs to COWINS for review reflecting the new ASL proficiency requirements.

**Accounting**

* **Accounting / Food Service Personnel Update:**

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Erica Holcomb from Accounting Technician III to Accountant II. Erica has demonstrated exceptional skills in accounting, and her in-depth knowledge of our state financial system will be a tremendous asset to our team.

* **Accounting Technician Position:**

In light of Erica's promotion, the Accounting Technician III position was posted, and the application submission deadline has now closed. We are reviewing applications and identifying the top candidates for interviews. We are committed to selecting the best individual to join our team and ensure a smooth transition as Erica steps into her new role.

* **Dining Service IV Position:**

Interviews for two Dining Services IV positions were held in late January. We are pleased to announce that Rodney Geislerhas been hired for one of the positions. Rodney is a former employee who returned last fall as a temporary aide, and we are excited to welcome him back in this new capacity. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a suitable candidate for the second Dining Services IV position. As a result, the position has been reposted, and we are continuing our search to find the right fit for the role.

* **Financial Updates:**

As of January 31st (Period 7), the financial reports reflect expenses posted through this date. In the last report, we noted that there was uncertainty regarding the impact of current executive orders or federal guidance on Medicaid and the School Nutrition Program. Specifically, we referenced that it would be pausing the disbursement of all grant funds at least through February 10, 2025, as per OMB Memorandum M-25-13.

* We are pleased to report that the memo was rescinded, and prior to this, it was clarified that mandatory programs, including Medicaid, would continue without pause. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is continuing to monitor the situation closely. Should any changes arise in the future, they will communicate with the providers accordingly.
* **FY2025 January Donations**

Mary Louise Mosley – donation in memory of Paul Dater $200

Donna M. Rebadow – donation in memory of Paul Dater $100

Joyce M. Mosley – donation in memory of Paul Dater $5,000

Steven Maffeo- donation General School Fund $100

KM Alabdulialil – donation General School Fund $488.25

Total January Donations $5,888.25

**Facilities**

* Developing a plan 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)
* Capital Development Committee supported West Hall Renovation & Addition project 6-0; Joint Budget Committee (JBC) decision next
* Replace Water Main project and Elevator/Wheelchair Lift construction made Office of the State Architect (OSA) Level 1 funding request; Brown Hall Renovation Phase 1 made OSA’s Level 2 funding request
* Security Upgrades
* Phase 1 Security Camera, Network/Fiber installation 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 the end of March
* Completing heating & cooling upgrades throughout
* Upgrading LED lighting throughout
* Install Shot Clocks in Main Gym week of March 24th (Spring Break)
* Installing braille signage throughout
* Resurfaced Upper Gym floor & Running Track
* Installed Upper Gym bleachers and window shades
* Start installing elevator March 25th
* 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

American Sign Language Team

* **Community ASL Classes:**

We began our six Community ASL classes and two ASL level classes for CSDB families on campus in Colorado Springs on January 14th and 16th. Unfortunately, snow days impacted all classes in Colorado Springs, and we plan to make them up in March. The classes in Denver were not affected and are proceeding as scheduled.

We are also working on offering virtual ASL classes to CSDB families statewide, with plans to begin in February or March.

**Immersion for Professionals:**

Our next session is scheduled for April 12th. The constant contact will be sent out at the end of February.

* **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 in session. Since the NSLA and ASLPI assessments have been approved by the Board of Trustees and implemented in the policy, we will have to wait for Human Resources to give us the 'Go ahead' to start scheduling staff to take it. We are still creating a rubric for baseline. The video is completed and ready 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 creating crash courses. Our goal is to start the course after the Spring break, the first week of April.

## 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. 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.
* For early intervention, birth to age 2 years, the vision providers have 32 families on their caseloads and provided 46 visits to the 26 families receiving visits in January. Visits were not provided to six families due to family illness or families not responding to provider communication to schedule visits.
* 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 January 2025. Outreach received one new request for services during January-February.

## Early Education Team

* **Little Language Learners**

The Little Language Learners in Northern Colorado continues 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 Explorers 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 and Early Literacy Development Initiative**

**Colorado Home Inclusion Program (CHIP) Coordinators, along with the Early Literacy Development Team continue to serve families all over the state. CHIP Coordinators are meeting with state partners from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to ensure we are aligned on dates and data that is reported to the Center for Disease Control related to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention goal of “entry into early intervention by six months of age.” The Colorado Shared Reading Project is onboarding four new Deaf instructors to provide services to families, with the goal of reducing the waitlist. Our Early Education ASL Program Lead is working with neighboring states to provide joint training for new ASL Instructors and continues to create processes and procedures for program growth. Just over 65 families enjoyed story time, meeting Deaf adults, and exploring the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Additionally, families who have children birth to age 3 joined our virtual early literacy event on February 12 and were mailed the book “Where’s Spot” by Eric Hill.**

* **Ascent Program**

The Ascent Program is funded through Hands and Voices with federal grant funds from the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. As with many other federal grant programs, this one is being reviewed. Our state and program partners have informed us to continue “business as usual” until we know more.

## **Early Education Center**

The EEC students invited families to participate in their Valentine’s Party on Thursday, February 13. The February classroom themes are The Artic and Valentines.

## ALL SCHOOLS

### School for the Deaf

* A new Secondary Mathematics Teacher joined the School for the Deaf team!
* In High School English Language Arts, classes recently started exploring Caribbean culture by researching their traditions, climate, arts, and food. Doing these activities allowed them to develop connections to "Elsewhere", a poem written by Derek Walcott, who was known as the father of Caribbean Literature. After that, the students started analyzing the rhythm and motifs in the poem. Another class started reading "A Modest Proposal", a satirical essay by Jonathan Swift and discussed social justice issues and satire within the essay.
* One of our High School English Language Arts classes recently started their satirical project to apply their knowledge of satire from reading "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift. They had three options of creating a product to pick: satirical essay, political cartoon, or news article.
* Another High School English Language Arts class finished making a script for the satirical skit and are now working on their performance.
* One Monday, February 4th, Kindergarten through 5th grade celebrated the 100th day of school. Students made 100th day celebration t-shirts and crowns, skip counted varies snacks in groups of ten up to 100, counted 100 pieces of cereal to create a necklace, drew themselves in the future at 100 years of age and played a "race to 100" dice board game.
* Kindergarten classes started learning about time and studied The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Students made their own caterpillars. In addition, they learned the differences between healthy and non-healthy foods and the days of the week.

### School for the Blind

* Four students (one elementary, 2 secondary, and one BtL) attended the Foresight ski trip to Vail on February 2-4, 2025, co-chaperoned by Angie Brown and Allie Unker.
* The First Semester Awards Ceremony was held on February 10, 2025, with all students and approximately 20 families in attendance to celebrate their accomplishments.
* Winter parent-teacher conferences were held the week of February 10-13, 2025, with a total of 25 conferences scheduled, or 38.5% of students (3 in person; 22 via Zoom).
* The Complex Needs Professional Learning Community (PLC) is developing a tactile symbol library, with a recent workshop for all staff to develop personal identifiers.
* One secondary student participated in the state spelling bee on February 20, 2025.
* We welcomed a new elementary student from District 11 on February 20, 2025.
* Alex Pillard and Kyle Berns, secondary science and math teachers, have organized a field trip for Biology students to participate in a shark dissection activity at the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) in Littleton on Friday, February 21, 2025.
* The CSDB Braille Challenge is scheduled for February 24, 2025, with competitors in 5 categories, fun activities for “rookies,” and musical performances by 3 bands.
* Twenty-one secondary students are participating in a weekly music and theatre Fine Arts Center collaboration, co-coordinated by Allie Unker and Emma Reece.
* Six secondary students are participating in a new afterschool Ski Club, led by Aimee Twaddle, to prepare for a trip to Crested Butte February 26-March 2, 2025.
* All vacant positions (Principal; Literacy Teacher, Interventionist, and Coach; Elementary ELA Teacher; and State Teacher Aide) are now posted and accepting applications.
* 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.

### Bridges to Life

* BtL hosted a parent informational night for Juniors and Seniors and four families from our community attended.
* Jared Graham, a private contractor with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and an assistive technology professional, will interview 3 students to take part in an intergenerational project where our Blind tech savvy CSDB students will teach senior citizens who are losing their vision about accessible technology.
* We are thrilled to share that one of our students recently applied for and secured competitive employment in a role closely aligned with his experience in the BtL program. We are deeply grateful to the Marian House for their dedication to training and mentoring this young man, equipping him with the skills needed for success in the workforce. Additionally, Joseph Ryan played a pivotal role in collaborating with DVR to ensure a seamless transition from BtL to DVR services. A special thank you to DVR Counselor, Samantha Gartrell, for her exceptional support and efficiency in this process. This case serves as a prime example of the ideal transition we strive for with all our students during their final semester in BtL.

## STUDENT SERVICES

* The mental health team in the School for the Deaf has collaborated with DOVE, to provide students with workshops and learning opportunities related to personal relationships, boundaries, and respect for others.

## 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 against 5 other Deaf schools.
* February 5th Staff vs. Students game, we also honored Homecoming Royalty that night and had a pizza party to celebrate the season ending.
* Special Olympics Basketball Practice Monday’s and Wednesday’s
* Peewee Basketball happening all this month.
* 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 Valentine’s Day Cards
  + Valentine’s Day Party Dorm only
  + Fargo’s Pizza Night Out
  + Cooking Spaghetti in the dorm
  + National Mill Dog Rescue Collection
  + On campus Fitness Center workout
  + Cinemark Tinseltown Movie night Off campus
  + Hygiene workshop
  + Off Campus Dutch Brothers Run
  + Dollar Tree Shopping
  + Walmart/Grocery shopping lesson
  + Springs Adventure Park rotation with different dorms. (Trampoline Park)

**Residential Overview**

* 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 February 18, 2025 are as follows:
  + 11 BtL students
  + 4 middle school students
  + 3 elementary students
  + 8 Deaf high school boys
  + 7 Deaf high school girls
  + 10 Blind high school mix of girls and boys
  + 2 Blind middle school students.
* Supporting school for the Blind in after school assistive technology trainings three days a week.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Media

* The Gazette [“More than a competition: Deaf students from across the country converge at CSDB Academic Bowl”](https://gazette.com/news/education/more-than-a-competition-deaf-students-from-across-the-country-converge-at-csdb-academic-bowl/article_162afd22-ea73-11ef-9309-776cc6dbf583.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwY2xjawIh2MlleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHeCvkFeqNXGI3NBlKmeNL7esiePFDEV1XRwhONPzsQeamATxNr62ptTQwg_aem_RY-7woHEPn9QIsOH3XaV_Q) Published Feb. 14
* Fox21 [“CSDB hosts regional Academic Bowl”](https://www.fox21news.com/news/local/csdb-hosts-regional-academic-bowl/) Published Feb. 14

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

* Bridges to Life transitional program spotlight (5.2k views)
* Academic Bowl event information (12k views)
* Gottlieb job vacancies (45k views)
* Adams job vacancies (11.2k views)
* Preschool Winter Program (4k views)

Website Data (csdb.org) – Jan. 16 – Feb. 16

* Total views: 20,813 views (40 percent increase compared to previous month with 2,630 views on the careers/jobs pages)

Social Media – Jan. 17 – Feb. 17

* Facebook

Accounts reached: 73.6K (15.4% increase than previous month)

Total views: 307.6k (35.5% increase)

* Instagram

Accounts reached: 80.3k (364 % increase than previous month)

Total views: 190.8k (591.4% increase)