

CSDB Board of Trustees  
 Superintendent's Report  
 November 2022

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

As of November 1, 2022

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide .....        | 688 |
| Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022..... | 173 |
| Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment .....                             | 168 |

Students in the School for the Deaf:

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Preschool.....           | 9  |
| K-5 <sup>th</sup> .....  | 29 |
| 6-8th .....              | 18 |
| 9-12 <sup>th</sup> ..... | 26 |
| Bridges to Life .....    | 13 |
| Total .....              | 95 |

Students in the School for the Blind:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Preschool .....                        | 7  |
| K-5 <sup>th</sup> .....                | 18 |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ..... | 13 |
| 9-12 <sup>th</sup> .....               | 23 |
| Bridges to Life.....                   | 12 |
| Total .....                            | 73 |

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Day Students.....           | 130 |
| Residential Students.....   | 38  |
| Parent Option .....         | 19  |
| District Option.....        | 149 |
| Teacher/Student Ratio ..... | 1:4 |
| CHIP (Deaf) .....           | 342 |
| CHIP (Deafblind).....       | 18  |
| Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. ....  | 24  |
| Direct Outreach.....        | 136 |
| ELDI Programs.....          | 77  |

REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

## Finance

The fiscal year 2023-24 budget process kicked off November 1 with the release of Governor Polis' budget request. Every year, the budget process starts on November 1 with the Governor's budget request. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) then holds numerous hearings to go through all the Governor/Department budget requests. The JBC makes all the budget decisions, but the Governor does have line-item veto power, which allows the Governor to omit entire line items from the budget. The budget then goes into effect on July 1.

Here are some highlights from the Governor's budget request:

### **General Themes**

- Uncertainty over a possible recession continues to loom over the budget and the Governor's budget request includes a 15 percent general fund reserve. That is over \$2.5 billion taken off the table for appropriation next fiscal year and set aside for a future rainy day.
- General fund revenue is projected to far exceed the TABOR cap so there will also be several billion set aside for TABOR refunds.
- Inflation and cost pressures are going to squeeze what is left in the general fund and is available for spending. Overall, the Governor's budget reflects this and includes little room for new programs and instead focuses on investing in key areas of the budget.
- Overall, the budget proposal holds operating growth to 7 percent, which is slightly below inflation.

### **Upcoming Dates for the Budget Process**

- November 14 – JBC starts meeting.
- November 15 – Governor Polis presents his budget request.
- November-December – JBC budget briefings with staff and hearings with Departments.
- December 21 – Presentation of the December Economic and Revenue Forecast.
- January 9 – Start of the 2023 legislative session.

(Source: Colorado Legislative Strategies)

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- CSDB's Joint Budget briefing (under Department of Education – Amanda Bickel, Chief Legislative Budget, and Policy Analyst - Joint Budget Committee Staff) is currently scheduled for Monday, November 21, from 2:45-5:00 pm.

- The hearing for the Department of Education is currently scheduled for Friday, December 9 from 1:30-5:00 pm.
- CSDB has two decision item requests included in our budget request. The first request is to fund the teacher salary increase for FY2023-24 in the amount of \$264,899. This includes a 3.65% increase to the salary schedule, one-step movement on the pay scale for staff who have not reached the maximum step increase, and a one-time, non-recurring compensation of 4%. The second request is to fund the additional expense for our annual student transportation insurance premium. The request amount for FY22-23 is \$21,700 (prorated for 10 months) and \$26,000 for FY23-24.

### Personnel

- To date, 19 positions have been filled for the 2022-2023 school year. Since July 1, 2022, there have been 11 employee separations. Currently, there are 23 total vacancies: 4 vacancies for non-Classified positions; 19 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).

- Dining Services IV closed on Friday, November 4, 2022 (6 qualified applicants). Interviews pending.
- Currently accepting application for the Transition Teacher, Preschool Teacher, State Teacher Aide (Pre-School) CO-Hear (Grand Junction location), and Library Teacher / Coach.

### Facilities/IT

#### **IT Updates**

- Projector and screen arrive on Friday for Argo conference room. Plan to have it ready for the November 15 board meeting

### **Facilities Updates**

- Stone
  - Electrical outlets in the wood shop floor will be demoed out by Friday
  - Still working on getting rid of excess equipment - CCI has not been helpful
- Gym domestic hot water issues have been fixed
- Football field was fertilized/prepared for winter

### **Project Updates**

- Argo – construction contract awarded to Central States Roofing, construction June 15 – Aug 3, 2023
- West – Design/Build Request for Proposals released, anticipated contract award January 3, 2023, construction June 5 – August 3, 2023
- Gym – construction solicitation released, bid opening Nov 15th, construction May 30 – August 3, 2023
- Industrial – Contractor walk-through November 10, roof repair completed TBD
- Admin - rehab project has started - be aware of the exterior door closures and barricades around the lift and workspace outside, anticipated completion February 3, 2023
- Emergency Response Assessment – Consultant (Matt Woodall) will be on campus November 7-9 to help us develop a “Playbook”, checklists, and training to support Evacuation/Reunification, Active Shooter, and Shelter-in-Place responses

### **Interim Superintendent**

- 10.21.22 Alumni Chili Cook-Off
- 10.28.22 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Meeting
- 11.3.22 Leadership Team/Mid-Level Managers Meeting
- 11.3.22 Hosted Rocky Mountain Deaf Film Festival at CSDB
- 11.7.22- 11.9.22 Certified Emergency Manager Visit
- 11.9.22 Colorado Hands & Voices Meeting

### **Both Schools**

- Fall Parent-Teacher conferences were held this school year the week of October 18. Conferences were held in-person or on-line depending on the preference of parents. Total turnout percentages are indicated below:
  - School for the Blind (K-12) = 37/53 families, 70%
  - Preschool = About 90% including a couple that will be occurring next week.
  - School for the Deaf (K-12) = 54/74 families 73%

### School for the Deaf

- We attempted a parent event "Deaf Awareness" focusing on the use of interpreters. Only a handful of parents attended.
- Our PK-2 students did their annual pumpkin patch field trip. Much fun and learning were had!
- All elementary students participated in a Fall Activity Day on Halloween. A variety of activities were hosted related to fall and pumpkins.
- We welcomed one new student this past month!

### School for the Blind

- Students from the Goalball team competed in a tournament in Texas. Our team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Go Bulldogs!
- Some staff members and family members attended the USABA Breakfast for Champions at the Olympic and Paralympic Museum Friday, October 28, 2022
- Our secondary students with additional disabilities have been learning about the classification of animals in science class. A docent from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo visited CSDB to answer questions and present hands-on materials. These students also concluded their science unit by visiting the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The zoo provided a behind-the-scenes tour that our students will remember forever.
- A couple of our elementary staff members attended the State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment. The topic this year focused on math instruction for our students.
- Staff scheduled 1:1 meetings with Robbin Clark to gain further information, assessments, and guidance on how to continue embedding the Expanded Core Curriculum in everyday instruction.
- Students participated in a basketball clinic hosted by the Denver Nuggets.

### Pre-School Programs

- Preschool and elementary students dressed up for the annual fall parade around the CSDB campus. We continued the outside parade, and it was so much fun for all!
- PreK (Deaf and Blind) just completed a big inspection for quality ratings. The inspection included a visitor from the state department that spent half a day in the classrooms observing the environment and the teaching and learning. Additionally, they requested numerous documents on policies, procedures and curriculum. Schools are rated on family engagement, business practices, qualifications of staff members, and health practices. Currently, we are a level 2 site and looking to increase to a 3-5 level. Results will be available in about a month.

## Employability Center

- Students in the Bridges to Life (BtL) program and the Post-School Preparation (PSP) class continued in their work experiences. Of our 31 student workers, 68% of students are currently placed in job placements. Some examples of worksites include on-campus recycling and UCCS.
- Bridges to Life students finished a Veterans' Day project and delivered homemade blankets to veterans in Hospice.
- Students in the Post-Secondary Preparation class learned about outside agencies and the services provided by DVR.
- Career exploration classes learned about the importance of career clusters and career pathways.
- In Music classes, the band submitted an audition tape for CASB (Colorado Association of School Boards) and were selected to perform at the conference!
- In PE classes, students learned about team handball and ultimate frisbee.

## Student Services

- The student health center nurses are offering flu shots to staff on campus.
- Vision screenings were completed for students at CSDB.
- The Mental Health Team has begun a school wide social emotional screening using a tool called the BASC BESS. Results from the screening tool will help inform leveled tiers of SEL support for students.
- The 10-year longitudinal resiliency study with the Air Force Academy has been completed. We are excited to see the final publication of the research study.
- Our Orientation Mobility specialists are hosting a practicum student from a local district who is currently a TVI. Her completion of her COMS endorsement will help the critical shortage of O&M specialists in the public school district. She is receiving supervision hours at CSDB two days a week.
- Our Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist have partnered with local orthopedic organizations in town to update student wheelchairs, and mobility devices such as braces and AFO's
- CSDB nurses did another round of sports physicals and physicals for the preschool staff. They also led a nutrition and hygiene class for elementary dorm students and a "Staying Healthy Class" for the transition program.
- All service providers continue to push into classrooms as appropriate to provide related services and evaluate students for IEP's. Pull out services are also used for appropriate services with students.
- Members of the Mental Health Team from the School for the Deaf gave presentations on two topics to parents who participate in Little Language Learners to

give parents strategies to support their child's behavior and to support emotional regulation for their child.

## Student Life

- **Athletics** We held the annual staff vs student's volleyball game at the end of the season. The students beat the staff. Middle school basketball season is well underway. CSDB recently hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual basketball tournament over the weekend of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Many staff volunteers supported the event, CSDB Alumni and volunteers from Colorado College. Our Goalball team traveled by air to Texas on October 28-30. It was a wonderful experience for the students. November 14 high school basketball season starts.
- **Afterschool programs** The Special Olympics Bowling team traveled to Denver to have a workshop with the Denver Nuggets at the Ball Arena. Students got to meet the team and hang out with them for most of the day.
- **Dorm activities** We had a huge Halloween party that included a haunted house in Ritter Hall, dinner cooked outside as well as a Halloween dance party in the BAC. Students had a blast.

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

### **Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)**

Statewide Student Registration Database & Federal Quota Census Count:

Statewide count (birth through age 21): 1,109 (as of 10/31/2022)

- Infants (birth-age 2): 68
- School-age children (ages 3-21): 1,041

First Friday and Southern Region TVI-DVR Meetings:

Friday, October 21, the CIMC hosted two statewide First Friday Zoom meetings (9-10 am & 2:30-3:30 pm). Tuesday, October 25, CSDB Outreach hosted the Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting. Southern region agenda items included a review of the CDE state conference on B/VI with its focus on math. CIMC demonstrated new APH math-related products presented at the conference. Chloann Woolley, Ute Pass BOCES, reviewed the SWAAAC loan library, switch activated PowerPoint Books for students with Cortical Visual Impairment, and tactile storybook kits. Sixty regional meeting members received the meeting agenda and minutes. Next month's meeting will be an in-person Make-And-Take session producing tactile student calendars as a follow-up to Cara Johnson's Executive Functioning presentation last spring.

### **CDE/CSDB Low Vision Evaluation Clinics**

Tuesday, October 18, we hosted the CDE/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic in Jones Hall. Four students received evaluations from three administrative units: CSDB, El Paso 38 (Lewis Palmer), and Fremont RE-1 (Canon City).

### **American Sign Language Team**

Community ASL Classes:

We are at the end of the first 8-week session of the year. A total of four classes were offered this session, two each on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with a total of 64 participants. Initial survey feedback is very positive but also indicates that some students would be interested in attending a class that meets twice a week or extends for a longer period of time.

ASL Immersion for Professionals:

ASL Immersion for Professionals, Levels 1 and 2, were held on campus October 15, with a total of 24 participants. Again, survey feedback is overwhelmingly positive, with 100% indicating they were "very satisfied" with the class and requesting more frequent offerings.

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (online ASL courses):

A total of 78 high school students are participating in four online courses this semester, which ends December 16. The enrollment cap for these courses will increase in the second semester now that we have filled our vacant ASL Instructor position.

ASL Classes for CSDB Staff:

Currently, we are prioritizing ASL classes for staff who work directly with DHH students, those who work in Human Resources and other critical support functions, and beginners. Now that we have hired a new ASL Instructor, we will offer classes to all staff who need instruction.

### **Early Education Team**

Little Language Learners:

Little Language Learners continues to have consistent family attendance on Fridays. Parents are engaging in the Family Education portion, and children continue to explore, learn, and grow!

### **CO-Hears: Professional Development Opportunities and Honors**

- Two team members presented on the role of the CO-Hear and CHIP at the Colorado Speech Language Pathology (CSHA) Conference in October, and one team member presented at the Colorado Academy of Audiology (CAA) conference on the same topic. Both presentations were well-received by those in attendance.



- Kelly Doolittle was honored at the Hands and Voices Gala with the Families First Award. H&V recognized Kelly for her ability to journey alongside families with ease, comfort, and kindness. Congratulations, Kelly!

### **Colorado Shared Reading Program**

The CSRP team hosted a new Language and Literacy Instructor (LLI) training with three new contractors to serve more families in CSRP. They also hosted an in-person training with thirteen contractors present for updates and support with the CSRP manual and goals for families.

### **Events**

- We hosted multiple events in October for families who have children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. As always, parents had positive things to say, and surveys indicate they are enjoying the access to both ASL and spoken English role models, funded by the CIRCLE grant awarded to CSDB in July.
- In addition, we held two pilot events for children who are Blind/Visually Impaired, birth to age 3, this month. One event was at Wishing Star Farm alongside families who have children who are Deaf. A total of three families attended and enjoyed sensory exploration and meeting other families. The second event was an on-campus Fall Festival using the newly refreshed Toddler Room. Six families attended and staff supported concept development through literacy, art, and music, and witnessed parents form and deepen connections.

Media:

### **October-November**

- The Syncopated Times ran an article on Leon Dudley, CSDB School for the Blind alumni from the late 1930's who was a popular pianist. "He learned about music at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in Colorado Springs where he also studied piano and violin."
- TV News KOAA 5/30 White Cane Day celebration
- Townsquare NOCO "Ghosts believed to haunt the halls of these Colorado schools" The article led with a photo of the CSDB Administration Building and contained a few sentences about CSDB.
- Broomfield Enterprise – "Celebrating the contributions of workers with disabilities" Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera mentioned CSDB in her article, mentioning our supportive community.
- Blind Coloradoan published White Cane Day activity articles and an article about the vision training all staff received from Robbin Keating-Clark

**Events and Activities:**

- CSDB Alumni Association Chili Cook-Off
- Special Olympics teams at the Denver Nuggets Basketball Clinic
- Jr. Rocky Mountain Deaf Film Festival – collaborations between RMDFF and CSDB
- Colorado College Delta Gamma Anchor Games – fundraiser to benefit CSDB

**Media Production Team:**

Interim Superintendent Spangler's biweekly videos, with the current events messages and the new Bulldog Buzz section, goes to staff, families, and the public via the CSDB website and social media channels.

**Social Media and Website**

See the monthly social media/website report along with the PR report to the Superintendent. (See attached)

Created short informal videos for social media to highlight activities on campus:

- October 24 CSDB Alumni Association Chili Cook-off
- October 31 Halloween Costume Parade
- November 7 Special Olympic Team at the Denver Nuggets Basketball Clinic
- November 14 Community Partner Pikes Peak Library District supports CSDB student employment