# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# October 2024

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### As of 10-21-2024

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 642

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2024 171

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 170

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 10

K-5th 19

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 122

Residential Students 48

Parent Option 9

District Option 161

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf)......................................................................................................................................349

CHIP (Deafblind)............................................................................................................................... 9

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. ........................................................................................................................ 34

Direct Outreach ..............................................................................................................................83

ELDI Programs .....96

## SUPERINTENDENT

* Blind Statewide Task Force – the task force had its first meeting in September. The team reviewed the recommendations from the June Town Hall meeting and also discussed recruitment of additional members for the Task Force
* Deaf Statewide Task Force – the task force had their first meeting in September and reviewed the recommendations from the June Townhall and has prioritized student enrollment and BtL programs as an area of focus for discussion.
* CSDB/CDE/RMDS – we have started monthly collaboration meetings with CSDB, The Colorado Department of Education, and Rocky Mountain Deaf School. We met via zoom in September and discussed upcoming events we can collaborate on and also discussed how we can approach Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) with districts across the state. We will be working collaboratively to provide training to SPED directors across the state of Colorado.
* In collaboration with the VIBES committee, I will be recognizing one department a month through a media video. The first two videos were released in August and September.
* LEAD-K Legislation – CSDB has been meeting with Colorado Legislative Services, community members, and recently the Colorado Department of Education to develop a strategy for the LEAD-K legislation.

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

### Human Resources

* Human Resources has brought in a Temporary Aide to help with administrative forward work. They will be in the office until May 2025 which will then conclude their temporary appointment.
* In our most recent New Employee Orientation for the month of September we welcomed a total of 17 new subs and temps.
* Classified Performance Plans are now in the stages of final evaluations, employees are beginning to complete self-reviews prior to their direct supervisors reviewing their employees. The evaluation for this period began on September 1, 2023. Final Evals are to be signed off, completed, and sent to the State by September 30th. This also indicates the new start of Performance Plans for the 2024-2025 SY. Supervisors and Employees are now setting up goals and plans for Mid-Year Review 2025.
* HR Manager Joseph A. Bloom recently attended a Labor Relations Conference in conjunction with the State of Colorado, the conference was led by DPA/DHR. The head of the Colorado Official Union (COWINS) was there along with Gov. Pollis, as well as HR Directors around the state and labor relations specialists, we learned the new language and rule for the new Partnership Agreement that will be officially signed by the governor this week.
* Since September 1, 2024, there have been 0 employee separations.
* Currently posted positions are:

School for the Deaf

* State Teacher Aide
* Secondary Transition & Electives Teacher
* School Psychologist
* TOD Elementary ASL
* TOD Secondary Math
* TOD English

Bridges to Life

* Teacher of the Deaf Employability (2 vacancies)

## OUTREACH

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

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

On September 12, CSDB hosted a statewide meeting for Special Education Directors around the state. The CIMC was one stop on their tour of CSDB. Educational Products manufactured by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) were on display while CIMC staff presented an overview of services available to blind/visually impaired students in their administrative units.

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

CIMC staff hosted their initial “First Friday” meeting of the school year on September 6 with attendees from the Metro Denver, Northern, Southern regions of Colorado. Some new teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) and school district braillists attended for their first time. CIMC staff presented an overview of our statewide registration and count process and new APH products were highlighted.

**American Sign Language Team**

We will have ASL Story Walk on September 23 at Panorama Park from 10 to 11am for families with little kids. Since this month is Deaf Awareness Month, Maya Sortino from Deerfield Hills Community Center, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services contacted us and asked us to do the story walk. We are thrilled to be on their map.

**Community ASL Classes**

We are offering six ASL classes on campus in Colorado Springs; three on Tuesday and three on Thursday. Community classes are held in the evening. The Outreach team is partnering with the ASL specialists in Gottlieb to support parent classes for students attending CSDB. We have a contract with ASL Instructor to teach 2 different levels of ASL classes in Denver. Our ASL instructor will start teaching level 1 on Monday, Sept 16 and level 2 on Wednesday, Sept 18. We have 32 participants for the Denver classes.

**Immersion for Professionals**

Our next Immersion for Professionals will be October 11, 2024. So far, we have 18 signed up for level 1, 5 for level 2 and 3 for level 3. The registration is still open until it is full.

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

Both classes are doing good and are ongoing until mid-Dec.

**ASL Classes for CSDB Staff**

ASL classes for staff are ongoing well.

## Itinerant Services

The itinerant teams, Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Teachers of the Deaf, are finalizing contracts and working on schedules to serve children preschool through high school in their local school districts all over the state.

## Early Education Team

**Blind/Low Vision Early Intervention**

Itinerant Teachers of the Visually Impaired in Outreach programs have been busy serving thirty-four babies between Pikes Peak, Pueblo, through Woodland Park to Divide, Hartsel and Bailey.

**Little Language Learners**

The Little Language Learners Toddler Program has 7 families registered. Tuesdays are a traditional parent and child class lead by co-teachers. Thursdays, the parents split off for ASL Classes while the children continue learning from Tuesday with a teacher and intern.

**CHIP Coordinators**

CHIP continues to grow with 17 referrals in August; 350 families across Colorado are receiving direct support through CHIP and/or CHIP Coordinators. Coordinators are busy connecting with the new referrals, meeting the families, and helping them access the support they choose for their child and family.

We are also actively working towards notifying stakeholders and changing materials (media, print, video etc.) to reflect the new names of Colorado Home Inclusion Program/CHIP and CHIP Coordinator.

CHIP Coordinators have also been busy with the beginning of the school year meeting with local school districts to meet new staff and to collaborate to support transition for children transitioning into Part B services this school year. Close collaboration with the local EI programs across the state continues and a few trainings have happened this month and more are scheduled int he near future.

We are working to finalize plans for the Fall CHIP Facilitator training that will be happening in the next few months. This will be a collaborative training with Wyoming and their EI program for children who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

**Early Education ASL**

Our Early Education American Sign Language Lead continues to support sign language services on the IFSP and meet with local programs to be able to better support them to provide this service to families. We have two instructors who are waiting to be trained in the curriculum.

**Colorado Shared Reading Project**

The CSRP team continued services continues to see an increase in family referrals, making a longer than normal wait list. Waitlist online classes are getting started, and we have received resumes from 3 new potential instructors to help support families.

**Early Literacy (EL) Events**

Our Early Literacy Event team created the yearly schedule for events in various regions. The first event is Sept 21 at Sunflower Farm in Longmont, and currently 66 families are signed up to attend this private event.

**Ascent Program**

The Ascent Program is currently on hold due to staff changes with Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention. Once a director is hired, contracts can be set up to continue collaborating for the Ascent Program.

## **Early Education Center**

The EEC has had a great start to the school year. The first week of school the DHH classroom has their first Families Event “Snack with My Adult”. The BVI classroom’s “Snack with my Adult” occurred the 2nd week of school. There was 100% family attendance!! Since the start of the school year, we have welcomed a new student in each classroom. We are thrilled for the program to be expanding. This month’s classroom themes were 5-senses including Deaf awareness and personal identity and Farms.

### Finance

* CSDB has been awarded $182,856 from the Colorado Department of Public Safety's School Security Disbursement Grant Program. This funding will be used to install Defenselite Pro security glazing systems on the windows and doors of the Administration, Gottlieb, Argo, Adams, Preschool, Stone, Palmer, and Brown Buildings. This system provides enhanced protection against forced entry, ensuring a safer environment for students and staff.
* The Office of State Planning and Budgeting reviewed our decision items (budget requests) and Controller is working with their analyst to modify the decision items and have them ready to be sent to Joint Budget Committee by November 1st.
* **F25 Base Appropriation / Decision Item Additions / FTE Report** will give one a detailed view of how the school’s total budget is structured, including the different funding sources, FTE’s, and any additional decision items that have been approved last Spring.
* The other financial reports show expenses posted through August 31st (Period 2).

### Facilities/Information Technology

* State gave CSDB $91,300 and hired a consultant to complete the Adams Hall Facility Program Plan
  + Required to request Capital design/construction funding
  + Future home of the Employability Center/BTL Program
  + Stakeholders/Design Committee
    - Tera Spangler
    - Julie Harrison
    - Jamie Lugo
    - JJ Ryan
    - Jen Wright
    - Tai Naeem
    - Amy Baker
    - Mike Nero
* Custodial Services – CSDB hired Environment Control for three months, started Monday Sep 16th and will provide services to Gottlieb, Adams, Stone, EEC & Lions
* Safety – completed and implemented Hot Work Program

**Project Update:**

* State gave us $111,100 in emergency funding to complete Argo Hall attic pipe insulation abatement; Contractor to complete this week
* Gym - complete by Dec
  + Excavation/piping installation on the North side of the Gym has started and will last for six weeks. **The North entrance will be closed,** and the South/Main Entrance will need to be used for ADA access
  + Gym is open for use except for the Upper Gym and adjacent entries/corridors
  + Upper Gym floor and Running Track will be refinished sometime in Oct/Nov
  + Bleachers in the Main Gym will be installed 23-27 Sep
  + Bleachers in the Upper Gym will be installed in Nov
* Playground
  + Coordinating shade structure installation and relocating cyclers
  + Reconstruct fire lane next to tennis courts Jun 2025
  + Tennis/Volleyball/Pickleball Court construction Jun 2025
* Argo Roof
  + Substantial Completion Inspection 18 Sep
  + Working on Punch List
* Campus Security Upgrades
  + Monitor Installation in Front Office, Security Office and Admin Conference room complete
  + Interior Camera Installation:
    - Adams- complete
    - Gottlieb- complete
    - EEC- complete
    - Stone- complete
    - Argo- complete
    - Admin- complete
    - Brown- complete
    - Ritter- complete
    - Palmer- complete
    - Jones- complete
    - Industrial, Steam Plant Chiller Plant & Barn will start 30 Sep
    - Coordinating evening work 3:30-8:30 pm in the Gym and Lions 18-26 Sep
  + Remaining interior & exterior cameras installed through Jan 2025
  + Completed design for additional security upgrades
    - Perimeter fence & pedestrian gates around the Gym & Steam Plant
    - Sidewalk from Stone to Pikes Peak & South Gym Parking Lot
    - Sidewalk from Gym to Hancock
    - New dumpster location
    - Solicit bid soon for Jun-Jul 2025 construction
* Elevator Upgrade & Modernization
  + Received State funding to address elevators in Brown, Admin, Gottlieb, Ritter & Argo and wheelchair lifts in Adams & Stone
  + Evaluating Experience & Qualifications for Design Services
  + Construction planned for Jun-Jul 2025

## ALL SCHOOLS

* Students have been trying their best on district assessments.

### School for the Deaf

* The School for the Blind is going on a field trip to the North Pole on September 26.
* Open House Night was a success on September 5 with 28% of families participating in the event.
* Students in drama class watched COCO the movie and began preparations for the upcoming school play.
* Students in elementary art class learned how to make their first pinch pots from clay and have decorated it well. They also learned how to draw their own faces using measurement tools such as rulers and anything that could line up their features to better draw them with precise proportion. High school art class have worked on De'VIA art reports and artwork imitating their chosen artist. They had a resin artist from Monument come to present and guide them how to make resin art. There were masks, gloves and heat lights involved in this project and the students were delighted to learn about resin art and made pet tags, jewelry and key chains!
* In Physical Education for Kindergarten through 5th grade, we focused on various locomotor movements and coordination activities. For 6th-12th grades, we worked on volleyball skills and strategies of the game.
* Our second and third grade students had been practicing how to do research and use PowerPoint. Students randomly picked a paper and were assigned one of the fifty states! Students then conducted research and answered some questions on a provided template. Students were then guided on how to make a PowerPoint and add their information in. Finally, to make the project more hands-on, students were able to "create" their states using edible cookie dough and various candies to represent their states features (such as landmarks, mountains, rivers, etc.). Students presented their PowerPoints to the class, showed off their states and enjoyed a tasty treat after.
* In high school ASL classes, students learned about the types of hearing loss. In elementary classes, students learned about farm animals, the four seasons, and our family trees. Middle school students learned new vocabulary and about Deaf culture.
* Students in U.S. History classes identified and listed the states that were part of the Confederacy. They chose a state to research, created a map of its state and wrote the state name, the date it rejoined the Union, its new governor, and its new federal representatives. They also researched more about its state at the time the state rejoined the Union. What were its individual challenges? What was its economy based on? Each student wrote a short summary that describes the state of the state at that time and presented it to the class.
* Kindergarten and 1st grade students learned more about our emotions, both how they make us feel/make others feel. We can make ourselves happy, but also make our friends happy! We also learned that we could have multiple friends, and not just one. This makes everyone feel happy! Pictures of this lesson were shared on the CSDB Facebook page.
* Middle school ELA students dove into the world of self-expression through stories and creative outlets like writing, music, and photography. This unit really challenged them to discover creative ways to express their identities and share their stories with the world. In our project 'My Selfie,' students showed off who they are by drawing or snapping a selfie, then surrounding it with symbols that represented their passions, personalities, and dreams. It was all about letting their true selves shine through. - Our 8th graders took on the digital age with a heated debate: 'Is technology a tool for good or does it cause more harm?' They dug into research, gathered evidence to fuel their arguments, and sharpened their critical thinking skills. It turned into a real battle of brains!
* 4th and 5th grade students learned about the different genres of books. They learned about fairy tales, fantasy, realistic fiction, poetry, and informational. They also read an informational text about the different ways stories can be told such as books, movies, TV shows, plays, songs, and even dance.

### School for the Blind

* The School for the Blind is going on a field trip to the North Pole on September 19.
* Open House Night was a success on September 5. Eighteen of sixty-four families participated in our Open House, which is 28%.
* PE Classes are focused on cardio and strength training throughout this month.
* Health classes have been focusing on building character and trustworthiness.
* Science classes cover organisms and their relationships in biology and the properties of the atmosphere in Earth Science.
* Students in art class are working on t-shirt designs for White Cane Day and a multi-layered collage.

### Bridges to Life

* Students in the BtL program have begun their work-study experiences at ACE Hardware, Kangaroo Koffee, The Marion House, Habitat for Humanity, Advance Auto Parts, and The Arc Thrift Store.
* The students also participated in Colorado Construction Day, where they learned about various apprenticeship programs available in Colorado for those interested in a career in construction.
* One student is attending Pikes Peak State College through our BtL program, and we anticipate two more will start in the spring.

## STUDENT SERVICES

* The CSDB audiologist has been working with districts around the state to coordinate FM equipment for the D/HH students. The initial pool of beginning-of-the-year requests has been fulfilled, and the FM loan bank will continue to support districts throughout the year. The FM Loan Bank currently provides equipment for 36 districts.
* Members of the mental health team are shifting schedules to provide support in the dorms during the evening to assist some new students who are experiencing being away from home for the first time.
* The IEP coordinator has been providing training on sections of the IEP to returning and new students as well as organizing IEPs and facilitating meetings.
* Student Service Department members were present at the Open House event to meet with parents and talk about related services.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Athletics

* September was a big month for our Athletic program. On Sept 13th-15th the Volleyball team traveled to New Mexico School for the Deaf to complete in a tournament.
* Sept 20th-22nd our volleyball team is traveling to Minnesota School for the Deaf for a tournament.
* Goalball season is underway.
* Special Olympics Bowling season is underway

### Afterschool Programs

* Flag Football Club Practice
* Flag Football vs RMDS at CSDB Field 4:30p
* Outdoor adventure club (elementary students) Panorama park/Red Rock Canyon/Nancy Lewis Park/ Garden of the Gods
* Skate City hosted our school on Sept 16th from 6-8pm this was open to all students and staff.

### Dorm Activities

* Weight training at the CSDB Gym
* Movie Night in Palmer Hall
* Camp Cook out eating Smores
* Off campus Garden harvesting and meal prep
* Hiking at Palmer Park
* Hygiene workshop
* Deaf Awareness month workshops
* Third Street Apple Farm
* Springs Trampoline Park
* Campus Bike riding
* Arts and Crafts

### Residential Overview

* We still have 5 vacant positions and a recent addition to this, Max Wilding, our Athletic Director, has accepted an offer to run Aspen Camp for the Deaf. We will be posting his position soon. We wish Max the best in his new adventure.

## COMMUNICATIONS

## ***Media:***

## **Colorado Public Radio** – “The 101 on Goalball: The Coolest Sport You've Probably Never Heard Of”

## **Rocky Mountain PBS** – “How Colorado’s deaf high school volleyball players set each other up for success”

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

## First Day of Preschool

## Playground Grand Opening

## Dorm Life

## Construction Career Days

## **Other Videos**

## Superintendent Spangler: New School Year Welcome

## VIBES Department Of The Month - September

## Universal P.R.I.D.E. Expectations

## **Website Data – *August 16 – September 15, 2024***

## Pageviews/Month 20,282

## **Social Media – *August 16 – September 15, 2024***

## Facebook

## Reach 83,300

## Total followers 11,041

## Instagram reach 1,200

## Total followers 662

## Twitter

## Total followers 426

## 

## YouTube

## Views/Hours 13,300 / 656

## New subscribers 94

## Subscribers 6,271