# CSDB Board of Trustees

# Superintendent’s Report

# September 2023

## Student Enrollment

## As of 8.22.23

Total Number of Students Currently Served Statewide 537

Total Number of Students Served on Campus since August 2022 155

Current Campus 3-21 Enrollment 155

Students in the School for the Deaf:

Preschool 5

K-5th 20

6-8th 23

9-12th 28

Bridges to Life 9

Total 85

Students in the School for the Blind:

Preschool 2

K-5th 19

6th-8th 16

9-12th 24

Bridges to Life 9

Total 70

Day Students 119

Residential Students 36

Parent Option 18

District Option 137

Teacher/Student Ratio 1:4

CHIP (Deaf) 338

CHIP (Deafblind) 15

Blind: Birth – 3 yrs. 29

Direct Outreach Teachers are collaborating with their school

ELDI Programs 84

## Interim Superintendent

* New Staff Orientation occurred August 1 – 4
* All Staff returned to campus August 9 for a week of Professional Development and some highlights of the week included: All Staff Welcome Back Breakfast, All Staff Welcome Back Presentation, All Staff BBQ, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training, and All Staff Ice Cream Social.
* Registration this year included two separate registration days. Friday August 4, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for day students. The regular registration time was extended into the evening and parents appreciated the extended time. Dorm registration took place on Sunday, August 13 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., followed by a pizza dinner served by the administrative team. This was new this year and it was great to see our dorm student families socializing with our staff.
* An update to the Independent Program Review was submitted to the Joint Budget Committee on August 28, 2023.

## REPORTS FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

### Finance

* The year-end accounting entries are complete for FY2023. The year-end financial exhibits and the 4th quarter of 2023 report have been submitted to the State Controller Office this week. Now the State Controller Office is working on their closing entries for FY2023.
* Five budget requests were submitted to OSPB (Office of State Planning and Budget – Governor’s Office) mid-July. The budget request submission procedures have changed where the write-up for decision items should include research and evidence-based standards and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion considerations. They now ask us to provide quantitative data in budget justifications such as program outcomes; workload analyses, caseload analyses; productivity trends, etc. We made sure that our budget requests aligned with the Governor’s “Wildly Important Goals” as much as possible.

* + Annual Teacher Salary Increase
  + Two Dean positions for Deaf School and Blind School
  + School Counselor for Blind School
  + Preschool Personnel – Preschool Coordinator, Preschool Teacher, Preschool Paraprofessional
  + ASL Interpreter
* Correspondence with OSPB began right after the budget requests were submitted. We had our first budget and legislative hearing with OSPB for Department of Education on August 22 for FY2024-25. The first part of the hearing was focused on CDE’s budget requests and then CSDB followed up toward the end. Their focus was on our capital construction project for West Hall and pre-school personnel budget request and ARPA related FTE’s.
* The Accounting Department hired a new part-time staff member – Elda Esparza. She is coordinating our Free Reduced Lunch program and working with Outreach / CIMC on their budgets. Greg DeGraaff, our Accountant II, is retiring on August 31. Debbie Haberkorn, who joined the Accounting Department last November, after worked at CIMC for almost 16 years, has been promoted to Accountant II, effective August 25.

### Personnel

* To date, 13 positions have been filled for the 2023-2024 school year. Since July 1, 2023, there have been 15 employee separations. Currently, there are 36 total vacancies: 16 vacancies for non-Classified positions; 20 vacancies for Classified positions. Note: there are 13 vacancies in Student Life Programs; there are no immediate plans to fill five positions due to the number of students currently residing in the dorms.
* Currently posted are Health Care Technician II (2 Vacancies); 4 Health Care Technician I’s (3 Deaf/HH & 1 blind/VI-these are open nationwide with a residency waiver approved; ASL Instructor; MTSS Coordinator; Principal/School for the Deaf (previous offer declined); Special Education Teacher / TOD (K-12); TOD: Spoken English-Preschool/Early Education Program; TOD: Elementary; TOD: Literacy Specialist/Coach; TVI (Preschool).
* There continues to be a national teacher shortage. HR has attended several job fairs, one resulting in a teacher for the School for the Blind.
* Classified Performance Plans end August 31, 2023, and must be reported to the state by Oct 10, 2023.

### Facilities/IT

Facilities

* Completing numerous work requests to support the new school year.
* We received $204,215 from OSA to complete our Facilities Master Plan
  + 15-Week Project (Sep-Dec)
  + Evaluate building condition, capacity, educational adequacy, space utilization
  + Develop long-rang plan
  + Kick-off w/LT September 7 1:30-2:00 pm
    - Will need to identify Review Committee, Key Stakeholders, Interviewees
* Working w/OSPB to support funding request for West Hall Renovation & Addition Project

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

* Industrial Roof Repair
* Completed 8/23/2023
* Argo Roof Replacement
* Completing punch list items
* Complete sloped roof work 6/20/2024 – 8/02/2024
* West Hall Roof Replacement
* Roof replacement 7/5/2023 - 8/29/2023
* Gym Construction
* Building construction 5/30/2023 – 10/31/2023
* Main Gym & OT/PT areas open
* Phase 3: hope to get blinds, acoustical panels in upper gym and drinking fountains done by 10/31/2023 - elevator & other construction next Summer
* ADA Playground
* Held Pre-Submittal Conference & Tour 8/17/2023
* Award contract and start design in October
* Identifying internal design committee
* Construction 6/14/2024 – 8/09/2024
* Campus Security Upgrades Phase 1 of 2
* Release solicitation 8/22/2023
* Award contract and start design in November
* Complete Phase 1 May 2024
* Stone History Museum
* Supporting History Committee’s Move Plan
* Concrete/asphalt repairs in the parking lot start 8/23/2023

IT

* Completing numerous work requests to support new school year
* IT has issued schools their devices
* Preparing for testing by powering up Chromebooks and making sure they are in working order

## All Schools

* School started on August 14. Students and staff were excited to return.
* We will have a parent event/Open House September 14.
* The testing window opens for district assessments on August 28 and ends on September 13.

**School for the Deaf**

* We welcomed three new students to the School for the Deaf and welcomed back two students who returned after attending school elsewhere.
* We have 76 students currently enrolled in the K-12 grade Deaf program this year.
* We welcomed one brand new staff this year, one staff member from another department to a new full-time position, three staff temporarily teaching full-time, and three staff temporarily teaching one class in the Deaf program.

**School for the Blind**

* We welcomed five new students to the School for the Blind, so far this semester.
* We have 59 students enrolled in the K-12th grade blind program this year.
* Teachers supported students in reviewing their schedules, PRIDE expectations, and beginning of the year procedures.
* Students participated in our first Fun Friday schedule Friday, August 18. This included case manager check ins, IEP goal / Drop Everything and Read time, Independent Living Skill Instruction, Recreation and Leisure Activities, and Social Emotional Learning groups.

**Preschool programs**

* Preschool began on August 21 and currently has nine students.
* There is a long-term sub in the BVI program as we look for a permanent position.
* In the Deaf side, we welcome new teachers, Ali Hamar and Jill Irwin and a new permanent para, Monique Hakes Riley.

**Bridges to Life**

* We welcomed five new students and welcomed five CSDB seniors from last year to our BtL program this year.
* We have 20 students currently enrolled in the BtL program.
* Students are exploring career interests to determine possible work experience placements.

## Student Services

* Last week Robin Tueting and Lisa Van Dam (Orientation Mobility Specialists) met with three ADA staff who work with the city to discuss how to make their new floating bus stops on Tejon St. more accessible to the blind. They also learned about the Tejon St. revamp they are doing and accessibility regarding that. The city will be adding truncated domes to all of the intersections downtown that don’t already have them and are looking into some of our ideas for other areas.
* Several of our Student Services department staff have been supporting students as they are starting their first week of mainstream classes in public school.
* The Student Health department has been busy!  They completed nine preschool staff physicals with our medical director so staff can begin working with preschoolers immediately. All staff in the Student Life department and Preschool have been trained in medication delegation. Other departments will follow up on training.  Our nurses have formed a partnership with a local Walgreens to have residential student’s medication delivered to the school if parents wish to utilize this service.  This will reduce absences related to the wait time for prescription refills.  Nurses have been ensuring all paperwork is received and making multiple phone calls to parents as well as providing individual training related to tube feedings and student medical needs.
* New students are still arriving and getting settled in the school environments.  We currently have two diagnostic short-term placements to determine the appropriateness of placement at CSDB.
* Student Service staff have been filling in where needed for staff vacancies, specifically preschool.
* Our Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist have spent time in the evenings, in the dorms, making minor accessibility adjustments to individual student environments based on need and adaptive equipment requests.

## Student Life

**Athletics**

* Volleyball season is underway. All games this season are away due to the gym renovation and construction projects happening on campus.
* Special Olympics Bowling starts September 6.

**Afterschool programs**

* First afterschool program activity starts September 5 – Girls on the Run, Flag Football and Deaf GEBC Church.

**Dorm activities**

* 8.22.23 Vibes Baseball CSDB staff, community members, and students attended Vibes Baseball game
* 8.17.23 BtL Game night hosted
* 8.24.23 BtL movie night 7pm to 9pm
* 8.28.23 BtL food shopping for work lunches
* 8.30.23 State Fair
* Back to Dorm Splash water balloon fun.
* Bicycle Safety Lesson (Demo new bikes with kids)
* Garden trip to learn about growing vegetables.
* Homemade carrot cake and soup from garden - carrots grown by our dorm supervisors
* Trip to Panorama Park
* Harrison Urban Garden off campus trip
* Dorm UNO tournament

**Residential Overview**

We have six vacancies in the residential program right now. Subs are an ongoing issue; we currently, for this month, only have one sub and that sub is already working the maximum that her availability allows. We have several prospects for subs coming soon. I am cautiously optimistic that things will improve soon.

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

### Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

**Book Orders filled to date for the start of the 2023-2024 school year:**

* 219 orders have been received for braille textbooks and novels for the 2023-2024 school year. As of 8/23/23, 169 have been shipped complete to Colorado school districts. The remaining 50 titles are currently in the process of being transcribed by vendors across the country.

**New CIMC Staff:**

* Felizia Gosine, Administrative Assistant I, responsible for shipping and receiving tasks as well as processing school district orders for educational materials from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH).
* Maddee Durossette, Administrative Assistant II, responsible for the statewide registration database of students with visual impairment, including blindness; the CIMC library database; and the student registration system database used for the federal quota census program.

### **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meetings**

* The Southern Region membership decided the Southern Region TVI-DVR meetings will be held 5 times during the 2023-24 school year, alternating locations by host district. The only meeting CSDB will host this year is scheduled for September 12, 2023, from 2:30-4:00pm in the Argo conference room. (Contacts: Jamie Lugo, Jim Olson).

### American Sign Language Team

An ASL (American Sign Language) instructor position has been posted. Jodie Adams-Chevalier has transferred to the Gottlieb Building. Congratulations and best wishes, Jodie!

### ASL Family Immersion

**Eighteen CSDB staff from many areas of campus came together to present twelve families who have a child that is deaf/hard of hearing with a three-day learning opportunity to improve the family’s ability to communicate in ASL and an improved understanding of Deaf Culture.**

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

The collaboration between CDLS and Outreach Programs continues for the 2023-2024 School Year.

### Early Education Team

**Summers at the Park**

**Outreach Programs staff hosted Summers at the Park again this summer. These events are a casual opportunity for families to connect with each other and professionals from CSDB. Parks were chosen around the state in three regions – Northern Colorado, Denver (north, central, west, and south), and Pikes Peak. While Northern Colorado and Denver had events 1x/month, Pikes Peak hosted events 2x a month. Each park event is open to families with children, birth to age 5, who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, or deafblind.**

**New Staff**

**This summer, Outreach Early Education Programs hired three new staff. Abby Killam is the new Toddler Teacher in Little Language Learners, Kim Parra is the new Early Education American Sign Language (ASL) Lead, and Cathy Noble Hornsby is the new Colorado Shared Reading Program (CSRP) Lead. We are excited to have these new positions to support our growing early education needs!**

## Media:

The Maverick Observer – The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Fills A Need

The Herald Times – Arellano earns CDL license

Boulder Daily Camera – Three Boulder County candidates appointed to state boards and commissions

Kiowa County Press – Colorado Boards and Commissions appointments announced

The Blind Coloradoan – Blind Students Visit the City by the Bay

The Center Square - Colorado education board reviewing salary range increases for top paid employees

### Media Production:

### Filmed 18 interviews with CSDB alumni for 150th history video

### Completed video in ASL “Dragons Love Tacos”, an Outreach request

### Completed Blind Awareness training videos and created a Canvas course

### Completed the Athletics tour video

### Filmed Interim Superintendent welcome and began monthly videos in ASL/ English/Spanish

### Filmed three principal videos for the programs’ webpages and posted

### Filmed video message from the Board of Trustees and distributed

### Completed nine Super in 60 Seconds videos reaching more than 500,000 people in nine weeks

* + ASL Immersion for Families
  + Extended School Year
  + Facility Project Updates
  + New Staff
  + Registration of students
  + Returning Staff
  + 1st Day of School
  + 1st Day of Preschool
  + Little Language Learners Open House

### Social Media - July 24-August 23 monthly analytics

Facebook reach 223,812 Instagram reach 457   
New fans 535 Growth N/A   
Total followers 7,130 Total followers 507

Linked Unique views 33 Twitter Impressions 347   
New followers 6 New followers 3   
Total followers 618 Total followers 297

YouTube  
 8,200 views/382.5 hours  
New subscribers 67   
Subscribers 5,362