

Editor:

Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.
State Consultant on
Blindness/Low Vision

Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175
Denver, CO 80202

(303) 866-6681 (voice)

(303) 866-6767 (fax)

E-mail: anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
August—September 2012

August—September 2012

Nothing is Impossible

By Tanni L. Anthony

My niece is a relatively new second grade teacher in a Colorado school district. Sara often delights me with stories of her students. One story in particular seemed like an appropriate way to begin our own new school year.

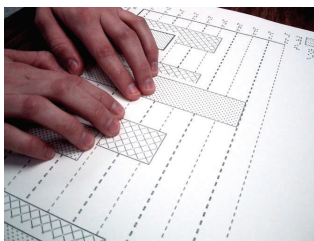
At one point in early fall of her 2011-12 teaching year, one of Sara's students grumbled loud enough for the whole class to hear "This is TOO hard!" in response to the work being covered. Sara responded simply "It is hard, but it is not too hard. In this class, I will never give you anything that is impossible for you to do." The class moved on and Sara forgot about the conversation ... until a few weeks later when she overheard the conversation of two of her students. One child said to the other, "I can't do this – it is too hard," and the other child responded promptly (in probably her best teacher-voice), "No IT isn't. This is Miss Lugert's class. NOTHING is impossible." This proclamation brought relief to the struggling student and she calmed, found her determination, and the two set back to work together on the task. Without a true plan to do so, Sara had established the manta of the class for the rest of the school year. Time again and again, the students worked on because they believed nothing was impossible—they could do it.

Whether it is said as *anything is possible* or *all is possible* or *nothing is impossible* – it is a mantra worth integrating in our work to be accomplished during this new school year. I wish for each of you the commitment of those determined second graders to believe and practice with yourselves, your colleagues, and most importantly, with your children and students. Welcome to a new school year – I do believe in all of you! With each of you in the world, in our Colorado School Districts, and with our shared children / students ... NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!

Table of Contents

2012 Conference	2	Just for Parents	17
2012-2013 Contact Information	40	Low Vision News	10
Bits from Bonnie	5	Nothing is Impossible	1
Calendar of Events	28	Resources and Materials	15
Check It Out!	30	Spotlight On ...	12
Colorado Connections	35	Technology Update	9
Colorado Jobs	27	Trainings & Activities	4
Dots of Interest	18	Welcome New Faces	39

Fall 2012 CDE Conference on Blindness/ Visual Impairment



GRAPHICACY: Creating and Instructing with Tactile Graphics October 4-6, 2012

The Colorado Department of Education 2012 Fall Conference on Blindness / Visual Impairment will have a primary focus on creating and instructing with tactile graphics. The two and a half day training is designed to highlight (a) state and national resources specific to blindness/visual impairment and deafblindness and (b) tactile graphics planning and design, production methods, and a curriculum for instruction in reading tactile graphics. Content will include an overview of the BANA Guidelines and Standards for tactile graphics, demonstration of low tech (hand-produced) and high tech (computer assisted) production methods, teaching strategies, commercial tactile graphics products available currently, and include a designated time for participants to have hands-on experiences with graphics materials and equipment for producing graphics "on the fly."

This training will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street in Denver. It will be offered for ACVREP/ CDE clock hours & UNC course credit.

Presenter: The featured speaker for the Friday and Saturday sessions on October 5-6, 2012 (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p. m.) of the conference will be **Lucia Hasty**. Ms. Hasty incorporates in each training her experience from 17 years teaching students with disabilities and 18 years in administrative positions in the field. She coordinated a curriculum development project, a recreational facility for children and adults with disabilities, and Colorado's state instructional materials center for students with vision disabilities. Lucia a co-author of the recent BANA Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics and is the co-author of the upcoming "The Secret Language of Lines: A curriculum for achieving graphicacy."



These two training days are reserved for teachers / braillists / VI paraeducators certified in the area of visual impairment and parents of children who are blind/visually impaired or deafblind.

Content and Learning Objectives: Participants will learn to:

1. Identify key features of state and national resources specific to the education of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired or deafblind.
2. Design, plan and edit a print graphic for tactile production.

3. Identify at least five methods (including tools and equipment needed) for producing a tactile graphic.
4. Use the new braille code document and its examples as a reference for tactile graphics production.
5. Identify materials and equipment needed for "on the fly" immediate production of graphics in schools.
6. Identify components of curriculum for teaching graphicacy skills to students, including reading and writing graphics.

For more information about the training, please see the course proposal at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/BLV.asp>

Cost Information: There is no registration cost to attend this training. However, CDE requests the courtesy of **at least three days notice** if a participant has to cancel so that every attempt can be made to cancel ordered meals.

What will Be Provided: Light reception snacks will be provided at the Thursday evening training. An early morning coffee/ tea service and lunch (with vegetarian food options) will be provided for the Friday and Saturday sessions.

Lodging: The Double Tree Hotel is located south of I-70 on the east side of I-25. From I-70 take exit 278 (Quebec) and travel south. The hotel is located on the west side of Quebec. If you need detailed directions and a map, please check online. A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved. To make a reservation for a sleeping room for October 3-6, please call (303) 321-3333 or (800) 222-TREE (8733). Ask for the block reserved for the ***State Conference on Visual Impairment*** (code C-SCV). The room rate is \$104 plus tax for both single and double rooms.

Clock Hours / UNC Credit: The course will be offered for one semester hour through UNC at an expected tuition cost of \$55. Registration for the university credit will occur onsite and UNC will bill those registered for university credit. Full attendance of all sessions is required for the UNC credit. CDE / ACVREP clock hours will be prorated to attendance.

Registration URL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StateConferenceOnBVI2012>

Confirmation of Acceptance: Registrations **will not be** accepted after September 28, 2012. All accommodations requests must be made no later than September 21 in order to confirm these arrangements. A confirmation email will be sent to accepted participants no later than **September 21, 2012**

??s: If you have any questions, please contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or by email at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Training and Support Activities Specific to Children and Youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Their Families and Service Providers

School Year 2012-13

Compiled By Tanni Anthony
State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment, Colorado Department of Education

Legend for Acronyms:

CDE ESSU	=	Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit
CIMC	=	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
COMS	=	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
TCAP	=	Colorado Student Assessment Program (our statewide general summative assessment)
CSDB	=	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

We have a lot of good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year. The following activities are not exclusive to all that may be happening across the state. If there is an activity that was missed on this list, please be in touch with Tanni Anthony to post it in future editions of the newsletter.

Adult Role Model Team (CSDB Outreach Funds): The Adult Blind and Visually Impaired Role Model Team's purpose is to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and teachers the opportunity to meet successful adult role models who are blind and visually impaired. To openly and frankly discuss, from personal experience, topics related to low vision, vision loss and blindness. Team members share their experiences, triumphant and otherwise, on topics ranging from low vision aids and high-tech devices to overcoming denial and when and how to seek support. Discussion topics have included careers, social interaction, drivers' licenses, organizations, resources, orientation/mobility, daily living skills and other topics that are of interest to students and their families. Contact: Laura Douglas at 719-578-2110 or ldouglas@csdb.org.

Braille Competency (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): Funds have been reserved for four braille proctors (Lucia Hasty, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) to provide opportunities to TVIs / Braillists to take the Colorado Braille Mastery Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE established renewal modules. Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the modules over the five-year-renewal period so that competency can truly be demonstrated across a period of five years. For information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>

Braille-Format Colorado Student Assessment Program (TCAP) Test Review (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): TVIs have had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and the TCAP publisher to review the large print and braille TCAP tests each year since June 2004. Thanks to the feedback of many of you, we had helpful data to draft "theme recommendations" for improvement to future TCAP tests. Funds have been reserved to review the 2012-13 braille tests BEFORE they are sent to Colorado. Sarah Sonnier, Nancy Cozart, and Tanni Anthony will return to Boston's National Braille Press in early December for a seventh year of onsite test review. They will meet with the tactile graphics experts and the test publisher over a two-day period.

Braille Transcriber Mentor Project (CSDB Outreach Funds): The Braille Transcribers Mentor Project is for experienced Library of Congress certified braillists to mentor new braillists who are working on their LOC certification. Arrangements will be made to pay the mentor for his or her time. For more information, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195.

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be the *Graphicacy: Creating and Instructing with Tactile Graphics*. The primary speaker will be our very own Lucia Hasty. The course is specifically for

Colorado TVIs working with children and youth who are blind/visually impaired and parents of children who are blind/visually impaired, and district braillists or VI paraeducators. The dates of the training, which will be held in Denver, are October 4-6, 2012. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Activities Each summer, the CCB offers programs to students who are blind/visually impaired. During summer 2012, CCB offered programs for elementary, middle, and secondary aged students. For more information, please contact Brent Batron at batron@cocenter.org

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB, administrative unit assessment fees of \$250 per identified child who is blind/visually impaired, CSDB in-kind and personnel contributions): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille textbooks and serve as a repository for APH educational materials for all Colorado school-age students through twelfth grade who are blind/visually impaired. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 579-2196.

CIMC Braillist Scholarships (Sponsored by the CIMC) The CIMC is offering three \$200 scholarships to help certified Library of Congress braillists from Colorado attend the National Braille Association Professional Development Conference. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado braillists. Conference information is posted at www.nationalbraille.org. For more information, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195.

CSDB Internship Placements (CSDB Sponsored). CSDB offers an educational setting with a diverse student population for university students completing their graduate training in vision to obtain internship or student teaching credits. Contact: Carol Hilty, CSDB Superintendent, at chilty@csdb.org or (719) 578-2102.

CSDB Lending Library (Sponsored by CSDB): The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and service providers. Most items may be borrowed the library's community use form. The libraries are open Monday—Friday during the school year from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call before coming in person to either library. For more information, please refer to the CSDB website at www.csdb.org

CSDB Short Courses (Sponsored by CSDB): CSDB will offer short courses to focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum during the school year. Check out dates and a description of short-courses for the 2012-12 school year in future editions of the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter and the CSDB website (www.csdb.org). If you have questions, contact Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 578-2251.

CSDB Summer Enrichment Program (Sponsored by CSDB): Each summer programs are offered to students who are blind/visually impaired across the state. The programs focus on Braille/O&M/ independent living, social relationships, and recreational activities. For more information, contact Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 578-2251.

CSDB Touch Museum (Sponsored by CSDB): Some animal specimens are available for loan within the State of Colorado. The contract person is Laura Douglas (ldouglas@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2110.

Colorado O&M Workshop (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): This training is co-sponsored by CDE and CAER. A planning committee works together to determine the theme, presenters, dates, and location. Be watching future newsletters for more details on the annual workshop. This training is reserved for Colorado Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists. The contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deafblind Project) (Funded by the federal Office of Special Education Projects, housed at CDE ESSU): The project is entering its fifth year of a new five-year grant cycle. There are currently 131 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness). The project hosts an annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of and intervention / instructional strategies for children and youth who are deafblind

and/or who have significant support needs. The project has a newsletter, *VIBRATIONS*, which is disseminated three times over the course of a school year. The project website has over 100 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deafblindness. The library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 100 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloadable book-loan order form. For more information about the CO Deafblind Project's free services, , contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681, Gina Quintana at Quintana_g@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6605 and/or go the project's continually updated webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp>

CO TVI COMS listserv (operated through CDE ESSU): This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and COMSs working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Family Learning Retreat 2013 (CSDB Outreach Funds): The weekend retreat is for families who have a child who is deaf/ hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind. The retreat is a great opportunity for families to meet other families and share their stories, have fun, make friends, and learn together. More information about the Family Learning Retreat will be posted in future *Keeping in Touch* newsletters and on the CSDB website (www.csdb.org).

Family Literacy Packs (CSDB Outreach Funds): Each Family Literacy Pack contains several books (braille and print) along with a Video or DVD of each story and several Activity Kits placed in a colorful child's backpack. Students keep the items they make and return the extra materials with the backpack. Activities may include a game, a song, or an activity and can be enjoyed by the whole family. The packs are available for TVIs to check out by contacting Ginny Gallagher (ggallagher@csdb.org). Or (719) 578-2198.

Keeping in Touch Newsletter (formerly called the What's Happening Out There Newsletter) (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): This newsletter started about 18-plus years ago when folks across the state talked about a lack of communication continuity. It has mostly been a labor of love internal to CDE, but there are some great folks who actively contribute to each edition or from time-to-time. Please consider being one of them – there is always room to brag on the accomplishments of a colleague, post an announcement, or to share an article. The newsletter is sent out to CO parents of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired, TVIs, COMS, braillists, and VI paraeducators. It is also posted on the CDE Blindness/ Low Vision website for others to download. The following editions are planned for this school year: August / September 2012, October 2012, November / December 2012, January / February 2013, March / April 2013, and May 2013. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (CDE ESSU Set Aside and CSDB in kind funds): The Low Vision Evaluation Team is once again funded for five regional clinics. The clinic team consists of an optometrist specializing in low vision services (Dr. Tom Theune), a certified low vision therapist / TVI (Jim Olson), certified low vision therapist (Wendy Stoltman), and a Clinic Coordinator (Debbie Haberkorn). The dates of the 2012-13 clinics are posted within this newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic (who have the clinic paperwork). For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

National Braille Challenge: (Sponsored by CSDB) The Colorado regional contest will again be held at CSDB in 2013. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. The date for this event is to be determined. For more information, contact Diane Covington (DCovington@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2225. Please visit www.brailleinstitute.org for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

Psychological Assessments and Consultation (CSDB staff) Psychological assessments (cognitive and social emotional) provided to school districts by Ellen Trapp, Ed. S., school psychologist, to assist school districts in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service. The contract person is Laura Douglas at ldouglas@csdb.org or (719) 578-2110.

Snow Shoe Weekend (sponsored CSDB and CAER): The 11th Annual Snowshoe Weekend is March 1 & 2, 2013 at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch outside of Winter Park, CO. This event has been successful over the years thanks to the partnership between CAER and CSDB. Registration information will be sent to TVIs throughout the state from CSDB in the fall, 2012. Diane Covington (dcovington@csdb.org) is the contact for information.

Student Activities Mini-Grant Funds (CSDB Outreach Funds): To achieve the goal of supporting students with vision loss coming together for social and recreational opportunities, the CSDB Outreach program offers some funding for school districts and BOCES staff who want to offer EEC activities for their students in these areas. Contact: Dr. Laura Douglas (ldouglas@csdb.org). A mini-grant request form is also provided on the CSDB website.

Technology Consultation (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): Bonnie Snyder has been hired to provide 28 days of free consultation across the state. Bonnie can meet with TVIs on an individual or a small group basis or access her through skype! She is also available for phone or email consultation. Contact: Bonnie at BonnieLS21@gmail.com or (719) 322-3854.

TVI Mentor Project (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): This will be the tenth year of the mentor project! The goal is to provide mentoring assistance to students enrolled in the UNC Visual Impairment Program, as well as new TVIs and/or COMSs in Colorado administrative units. Each participant will be paired with a mentor teacher currently working in Colorado. Mentors will receive a \$500 annual stipend for their time and commitment to mentoring over a full school year. In addition the CDE will fund up to ten mentor sessions for TVIs who need tune-ups with the literary braille code (specific to braille competency testing). If you would like to be a mentor or would like to have a mentor, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681

Vision Coalition: (CDE ESSU Set Aside Funds): The Vision Coalition is a statewide advisory committee on the educational activities for students who are blind/visually impaired, support activities for their parents, and professional development activities specific to their service providers. Members include: Tanni Anthony (CDE ESSU), Paula Conroy (UNC), Nancy Cozart (Metro region), Laverne Dell (Voc Rehab), Charlotte Javier (Anchor Center for Blind Children), Jennifer Langley (School for the Blind– CSDB), Barb Galgano (CAER), Judy Mumford (Southern Region), Jim Olson (CIMC), Everett Romero (Parents of Blind Children), Angela Sims (Western region), and TBD (Northern region). The VC meets three times a school year. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.





Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

<http://TVIVIP.org>

There are lots of things going on for this year!! I think this is going to be an exciting and outstandingly productive school year for all of us. First of all, I would like to offer a series of webinars over Skype. If you don't have Skype (which is free) and/or don't know how to use Skype, just let me know and I can come and get it installed, set up and show you how to use it. I can only accommodate six participants per session and will gladly repeat sessions where needed. Here are the webinars I am planning:

- **iDevices:** connecting and using braille displays via Bluetooth
- **iDevices:** connecting and using external keyboards (bluetooth and USB)
- **iDevices:** demo apps specifically for users who are blind and visually impaired
- **DAISY:** visually understanding what goes on inside that BookPort Plus and Victor Reader Stream
- **DAISY:** using Save as DAISY add-on to MS Word 2007 and 2010 to create basic DAISY books for your students
- **Screen Readers:** focus on efficiency using keyboard shortcuts and basic computer skills
- **Screen Readers:** specific training on JAWS, Window-Eyes and NVDA
- **Google Docs:** how to use Google Docs with JAWS, NVDA and iDevice VoiceOver (Window-Eyes and Mac VoiceOver still do not work with Google Docs)
- **Other:** feel free to suggest other topics for webinars; I want them to be pertinent to your teaching needs.

There will not be a Symposium on Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired this school year. For the past three years, the UCCS Department of Engineering has carried us, but no longer has the funds to continue to do so. I would like to thank the TVIs, parents and students who did attend the Symposium over the years. If we can find funding and gain more attendance support, we might be able to have the Symposium again starting in the 2013-2014 school year.

Have a great year and I hope to be seeing many of you as the year progresses! Please be in touch with your technology support training needs!

Editor's Note: *Bonnie continues to be a part-time employee with the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services Unit. Our purpose is to provide statewide technical assistance specific to technology training to parents of and TVIs working with school-age students who are blind/visually impaired. This is a free service. The focus is in-person or distance-delivery-styled training. The only restriction is that Bonnie cannot provide any student-specific assessments or program consultations.*

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Video on Refreshable Braille and iPod

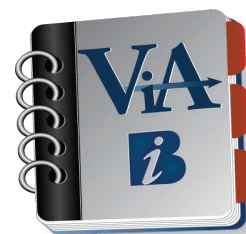
A YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x9yE08w2ZY> shows a positive story of a student using the Refreshabraille 18 and an iPod! The American Printing House for the Blind believes this to be a concrete example of APH's mission to provide products that contribute to independence.

Apple Resources

Apple computer products such as the iPhone and iPad are increasingly used in schools and in the workplace. A new web site, AppleVis, assists users of Apple products to get the most out of the built-in accessibility features in these devices. The online community reviews apps, shares tips and tutorials, and shares information about what's new and what works best. For more information, visit www.applevis.com

ViA App

Braille Institute has a new free ViA app. ViA provides all of the available information about apps that are recommended for users who are low vision or blind. It was created so that users who are visually impaired (or professionals who work with students/adults who are visually impaired) can easily find ACCESSIBLE apps. There is a description of the apps, screen shots, reviews and you can add your own review. The reviews are wonderful – at the bottom of the review, it will indicate if Voiceover is truly accessible or not! People can recommend new apps and the list of accessible apps grows constantly.



Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program is proud to present its next webinar...

Appsolutely Engaging & Educational - Part 2

Presenter: Eric Jerman,
iPad App Expert,
O & M Specialist

When: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. EST
Wed., May 30, 2012

Unable to attend? This webinar will be
recorded and available at
perkins.org/webinars

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageNavigator/Appsolutely_Engaging_Part2.html



In this webinar, Eric will share strategies, tips and techniques to begin using an iPad with students who are visually impaired with additional disabilities. Participants will:

- Learn how to make better decisions about which apps to purchase for your students or children
- Learn to think about apps, belonging to one of a half-dozen categories, instead of a giant ocean of a half-million apps
- Categories include: cause & effect; read-to-me books; music; communication; accessibility, and specialty apps for users who are blind or have low vision
- Learn to think of the motor coordination needed to access apps (finger-touch, touch-and-hold, finger-swipe, speaking, etc.)



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Professional Care for Students with Visual Impairments

1 – 2 – 3

By Thomas W. Theune, OD, FAAO

The end of the 2011-12 school year marked the completion of the 15th year of the Colorado Low Vision Clinic sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Students Services Unit and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. I have been privileged to be a part of the Low Vision Clinic for all 15 years and each year I gain more insight into the valuable services that the Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments bring to their students and families.

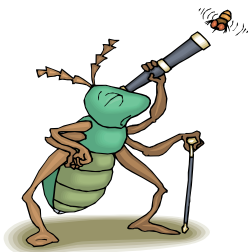
When I discuss quality, professional care to patients with visual impairments in my office, I use a three step approach. This same three step approach is essential for your students who are visually impaired as well, to ensure they have received proper care throughout their K – Transition experience.

Step #1 - Stabilizing: Continued eye health and refractive care on an every one or two year basis, provided by an **optometrist and/or ophthalmologist**, is essential for your students with visual impairment. For some students who may be dealing with glaucoma, corneal disease, retinal disease, or other disease with a guarded prognosis, they may need to see their eye care professional much more often.

The “Step 1” care is essential to help stabilize the student’s condition and provide the best eye health and glasses possible. This care is mandatory before we see the student in the low vision clinic and greatly improves the outcome of a low vision evaluation

Step #2 – Maximizing: Step 2 is provided by an **optometrist who specializes in referral – based low vision care or our Colorado Low Vision Clinic**. Once proper eye health and refractive care has been performed and a solid base is provided, then the low vision specialist can maximize the remaining vision. The use of devices including optical (hand-held, stand and spectacle-mounted magnification) and electronic video magnification (desk-top, intermediate and portable) can allow students to access any print size in any lighting situation. These devices also allow the student to read continuous text more comfortably (and enjoyably) with less eye strain and fatigue.

The low vision evaluation may also provide an assessment in proper devices for writing, distance viewing, lighting and glare control. Using the proper optical devices to access a desk-top, laptop or tablet computer; an e-reader, cell phone or MP3 player may also be very beneficial for the student who is visually impaired. There are thousands of low vision devices available and prescribing the proper device, for a specific task, for the individual needs of the student is the role of the low vision specialist.



LOW VISION EVALUATION



Step #3 – Strategizing: This step is provided by **you, the Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments**. The student may have excellent eye health and refractive care as well as proper devices, but without your help in providing proper training, encouragement, and strategies; the student may still not utilize their “tools” and therefore may not achieve to their highest ability.

The hope of the low vision clinic team is that properly prescribed low vision devices will help to improve the literacy and overall independence of your student. As a certified teacher of students with visual impairments, you have a critical role in educating the student and his/her family members about the student’s diagnosis and its functional implications. You also have the exciting and challenging role of tying all the steps together and ensuring the outcome is positive. And, if not, consulting with the eye care and low vision providers and letting them know the problems you are experiencing.

Stabilizing, Maximizing and Strategizing – three critical steps, provided by trained professionals, that will ensure your student is as successful as possible!

2012 / 2013 CDE LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC DATES			
REGION	DATES	PAPERWORK DEADLINE	SITE COORDINATOR
Southern 1 (CSDB low vision room)	Already Occurred	Already Occurred	Donice Fennimore
Western (Hawthorn Building/Grand Junction)	Fri Sept 14, 2012 Sat Sept 15, 2012	Tuesday, August 28, 2012	Sarah Sonnier
Southern 2 (CSDB low vision room)	Thurs Sept 27, 2012 Fri Sept 28, 2012	Tuesday, September 11, 2012	Donice Fennimore
Northern (Location to be determined)	Fri Nov 16, 2012 Sat Nov 17, 2012	Tuesday, October 30, 2012	Vicki Pearson and Rita Albright
Metro (Anchor Center for Blind Children)	Wed Feb 27, 2013 Thurs Feb 28, 2012 Fri March 1, 2013	Friday, February 8, 2013	Nancy Knight
Southern 3 (CSDB low vision room)	Fri April 12, 2013	Wednesday, March 27, 2013	Donice Fennimore



Spotlight on Coat's Disease

Information Retrieved from: http://www.medicinenet.com/coats_disease/article.htm and <http://www.coatsdiseasefoundation.org/>

What is Coats' Disease? In 1912, Dr. George Coats described a particular form of exudative retinitis, clinically characterized as follows: (a) occurrence in infant or young males; (b) involvement of one eye (unilateral); (c) absence of a systemic disease; (d) exudates below the retinal vessels; (e) evidence of retinal hemorrhages; and (f) slow progression to retinal detachment, cataracts, optic nerve atrophy; and (g) glaucoma. In easier terms, Coat's Disease involves abnormal development in the blood vessels behind the retina of the eye. The blood-rich retinal capillaries break open, leaking the serum portion of the blood into the back of the eye. The leakage causes the retina to swell, leading to partial or complete detachment of the retina.

What are Symptoms and Signs of Coats' disease? Early warning signs may include the following; (a) *yellow-eye in flash photography* - an eye affected by Coat's Disease will glow yellow in photographs as light reflects off cholesterol deposits; (b) a *yellow reflex from the pupil* (called leukocoria); (c) *signs of loss of depth perception*; (d) *deterioration of sight* in either the central or peripheral vision. This deterioration is likely to begin in the upper part of the vision field, as this corresponds with the bottom of the eye where blood usually pools; and (e) *the eye turning out or in* (called strabismus) There is a gradual decrease of vision, which may not be recognized at first due to the young age at which the disease begins. It is a painless disease. Since Coat's Disease typically begins in one eye, the child may compensate well and no one may notice that the vision is compromised in the affected eye. The vision loss may begin as early as infancy, but is most commonly seen between 6-9 years of age, and it rarely is seen in geriatric patients.

How is Staging of Coats' Disease Classified? There are five stages to the disease. Stage 1 is characterized by telangiectasia only, which involves chronic dilation of groups of capillaries causing elevated dark red blotches on the skin. Stage 2 demonstrates telangiectasias and exudation and is further subcategorized depending on involvement of the fovea (center of the retina with the sharpest vision). Stage 3 demonstrates subtotal retinal detachment, also subcategorized based on foveal involvement. Stage 4 exhibits total retina detachment with glaucoma. Stage 5 is end-stage disease with a blind, painless or painful eye and total retinal detachment, often with cataract and eventual phthisis bulbi (shrinkage of the eyeball after trauma or disease).

What are Causes and Risk Factors for Coats' Disease? There are no known causes or risk factors. Although there is no known hereditary component or any other cause, there may be some evidence to suggest that Coats' disease is caused by a somatic mutation of the Norrie disease protein (NDP) gene. There are no known risk factors, although Coat's Disease occurs in males three times as often in females. Coat's Disease does not appear to be inherited and has no reported racial or ethnic predilection. Coat's disease cannot be prevented.

What is the Prevalence of Coat's Disease? This is a rare disorder. Fewer than 2000,000 people in the US population are affected. In England, one study found 0.09 cases in every 100,000 individuals. It has been estimated that about 69% of the cases are male. The average age at diagnosis is 8–16 years, although the disease has been diagnosed in infants as young as

Spotlight on

four months. The peak age of onset is between 6-8 years of age, but ranges from four months to 71 years. About two-thirds of childhood cases present with symptoms before age 10 years; approximately one-third of individuals with Coats Disease are 30 years or older before the symptoms begin.

How is Coat's Disease Diagnosed? Although it may be diagnosed on a routine eye exam, often it is not suspected until a late stage when a child develops a cloudy white or yellow pupil due to the presence of a cataract or a retinal detachment. In a photograph, the pupil of the affected eye appears yellow or white, while the other pupil appears to be normal black. Coat's Disease may be diagnosed on a routine eye exam, at which time a cataract might be seen or abnormal blood vessels may be seen at the back of the eye when the pupil is dilated. On an eye examination, the pupil is dilated to enable the physician to see abnormalities of blood vessels or a retinal detachment. Retinal damage may be seen due to the accumulation of cholesterol deposits in the vessels. Glaucoma and atrophy or deterioration of the optic nerve may occur.

Since Coat's Disease may come on gradually in one eye, the person often doesn't notice the painless decrease of vision. As it progresses, the person may notice the following symptoms from the retinal damage: loss of peripheral vision, light flashes, floaters (deposits or condensation in the vitreous jelly of the eye), or a general loss of vision. Especially in children, the parent may notice a yellow reflex in the pupil (due to a cataract or retinal detachment) when a picture is taken.

Coats Disease may be misdiagnosed, so it is very important for parents to work with an eye care specialist who is experienced in managing the disease. One challenge to making an accurate diagnosis is that the patients are often young people who can't describe their physical problem. Another is that the presenting symptoms of Coats can resemble other conditions such as retinoblastoma, which is potentially life-threatening. By definition, patients with Coats Disease do not have any other health problems. However, symptoms that are typical of Coats may appear in several multisystem disorders, such as Fascioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy, Pericentric Inversion of Chromosome 3, and Alport Syndrome.

What is the Treatment for Coats' disease? This is a progressive disease with no visual impairment in the early stages of the disease. If caught in an early stage (relatively rare since it usually isn't recognized by the child), freezing or laser treatment of the retina may be quite successful. Occasionally the disease stops on its own and may even reverse itself. Treatment is aimed at halting the blood vessel progression and is of limited value. Freezing (cryotherapy) or laser photocoagulation may be used with limited success. However, if the leaking blood vessels are clustered around the optic nerve, this treatment may not be recommended as accidental damage to the nerve itself can result in worsening of vision.

Once diagnosed the person should be followed by an eye care specialist on a regular basis, usually annually. It is important that the patient have regular examinations of the good eye in order to keep it healthy.

Where Can People Get More Information about Coats' disease?

The Jack McGovern Coats Disease Foundation <http://www.coatsdiseasefoundation.org>

The Coats' Disease web site has a wealth of information about the disease for families:
<http://www.coatsdisease.org/index.html>



Continued Bookshare Grant Award to Benetech

The award, named “Bookshare and Innovation for Education” (BI4E), allows Benetech to meet the challenges of the changing educational landscape by also creating free open source tools for content providers and working with those providers to make educational materials accessible from the start. Benetech has won a five-year award from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, to continue its work ensuring that educational materials are accessible to students with print disabilities through its Bookshare initiative.

Benetech’s innovative tools will tackle such major challenges as accessible math and graphics, and this project will increase dissemination of tools developed under the DIAGRAM R&D Center. Other new tools will promote better ways to find and read accessible materials. At the same time, Benetech intends to double its Bookshare student membership from 200,000 to 400,000, grow usage by 150%, increase to more than 200,000 educational titles in its library and scale its teacher training program and parent outreach. It will collaborate on these innovations with the American Institutes of Research (AIR) and a host of other leading organizations.

EBooks, online courseware, teacher-created materials, open educational resources, increased use of graphics and new Common Core Standards are causing a fundamental shift in curriculum and assessments and how they are delivered to students. Benetech sees this time as an opportunity to make a crucial change in the way accessible content is created: by ensuring that accessibility can be built into the content creation process from the outset. Current processes of retrofitting accessibility are still relatively time-consuming, expensive and result in delays in putting books into students’ hands. More importantly, as the pace of creation and ubiquity of content creators increase, these current approaches will no longer work.

Benetech has far exceeded the goals of the current “Bookshare for Education” award made in 2007, more than doubling membership expectations and out-delivering educational materials and usage. It will receive \$6.5 million per year to continue its work through 2017.

About Benetech

Benetech is a nonprofit technology company based in Palo Alto, California. Benetech pursues projects with a strong social rather than financial rate of return on investment, harnessing open source technology to create innovative solutions to challenging social issues. Programs that Benetech supports include the Bookshare library, DIAGRAM, Route 66 Literacy, the Human Rights Data Analysis Group, the Martus software project, and Social Coding for Good. <http://www.benetech.org>

About Bookshare

Bookshare is the world’s largest online accessible library of copyrighted content for people with print disabilities. Through its technology initiatives and partnerships, Bookshare seeks to raise the floor on accessibility issues so that individuals with print disabilities have the same ease of access to print materials as people without disabilities. In 2007, Bookshare received a five-year award from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), to provide free access for all U.S. students with a qualified print disability. The Bookshare library now has over 150,000 books and serves more than 200,000 members. Bookshare is an initiative of Benetech, a Palo Alto, CA-based nonprofit which creates sustainable technology to solve pressing social needs. <http://www.bookshare.org>

The content of this press release was developed under cooperative agreements H327D120002 and H327K070001 with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The contents, however, do not necessarily represent the policies of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Resources and Materials

Celebrate Science!

Want to make your own volcano? How about a geyser? Do you know how to make an ordinary bottle burp? The new book from National Braille Press *Out-of-Sight Science Experiments* by Rankel and Winograd will show you how. Designed especially for students in grades 2 through 5, but enjoyable for children (and adults!) of all ages, the book describes 32 experiments that can be done at home or school as part of a science fair. Each activity is explained step-by-step and uses safe, household materials. Encourage the budding scientist you know! The book is available in large print and braille for \$20 from National Braille Press; 1-800-548-7323 ext. 520; www.nbp.org

VisioBook—Portable Electronic Magnifier and Distance Viewer

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in-house video production crew has just completed a [3-minute overview video](#) about our amazing new VisioBook Portable Electronic Magnifier and Distance Viewer. The cast includes several APH staff members, including Will Evans, Products and Services Advisor, in a starring role! Thanks to everyone who helped create this video!

Language and Early Literacy Activities: Free and Reproducible

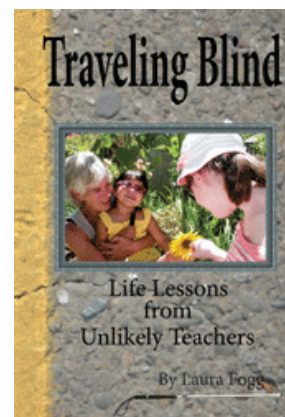
Developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D, and Judy Challoner, M.S.

Illustrations: Don Syverson

These materials include home and community activities for adults and young children (birth to five) that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for all children. Each of the activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. An activity checklist helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, and also cues adults to examine and grow their own interactions with children. The materials are made available by Angela Notari-Syverson and colleagues, and may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold. To download materials go to <http://www.wlearning.com> and click on the button that says "Literacy Resources" on the home page. You will need to create a logon account using your email address and a password. For questions please contact: Mary Maddox at mmaddox@wlearning.com

Traveling Blind: Life Lessons from Unlikely Teachers

Orientation and Mobility teacher Laura Fogg has written a book entitled *Traveling Blind: Life Lessons from Unlikely Teachers*. It is now available as a Kindle book and will soon be available for the iPad and all other ebook readers. It is DRM free, so can be adapted for readers who are visually impaired.





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

WEBSITE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

“We Connect Now” (<http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/>) is a website developed in an effort to connect and integrate college students with disabilities as a virtual community. One of the goals of this site is to help college students with disabilities to succeed in their studies by getting the information and support they need, through resources, links, and blogs. There is a page devoted to upcoming legislation that affects people with disabilities. Another page about jobs is designed to help empower people with disabilities to find employment through job posting and job searching tips.



It's the Five Year Anniversary for Perkins webcasts! Five years ago Perkins released this first webcast: Creating Vocational Portfolios for Adolescents with significant Disabilities with Mary C. Zatta, Ph.D., which focuses on the development and use of portfolios to assist in the process of transition to adult life. The webcast is based on the book **School to Work** which is currently available in the Perkins Store.

This webcast can be found at:
https://secure2.convio.net/psb/site/SPageServer?pagename=Webcasts_CreatingVocationalPortfoliosMaryZatta



NEW PARENT BLOG

A new blog for parents and teachers of blind children has recently debuted. Mary Jo Hartle is a mom who is blind, a teacher of blind and visually impaired kids, a certified orientation and mobility instructor and, now, a blogger! The focus of the blog is to offer discussion on how parents and teachers can help children become successful. Mary Jo uses the challenges of gaining independence on the playground as a metaphor for life and has named her blog, "Making it on the Playground." To read Mary Jo Hartle's blog go to www.makingitontheplayground.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child has graduated, please be in touch so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. If your child is still enrolled in a Colorado school district and you have a new mailing address, please be in touch with your address changes

TVIs and COMSs: If you have any changes in program contact information for the next school year, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up-to-date! Send changes to anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESLU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or call and leave her a voice message at (303) 866-6681.

PEAK Parent Center

Peak Parent Center is Colorado's federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PEAK assists families and others through services like its telephone hotline, workshops, conferences, website, and publications. As a PTI, PEAK offers parent-to-parent support, but it does not hold support group meetings. We work one-on-one with families and also collaborate with state government and the education, rehabilitation, and medical communities to make system changes that improve outcomes for children.

To contact Peak:

Phone: 719-531-9400

Fax: 719-531-9452

Hotline: 1-800-284-0251

DOTS OF INTEREST



The Evolution of Braille

The Evolution of Braille: Can the Past Help Plan the Future?

Part three of a three-part article from the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) (*Editor's Note: Parts 1 and 2 were published in earlier Keeping in Touch newsletter editions*).

The Challenges Ahead: Previous installments of this article traced the changes in braille and print production methods over the past decades and discussed some of the challenges caused by the interaction of current codes with current production methods. This final section discusses the history of efforts to resolve these issues and briefly outlines possible solutions.

With the proliferation of better and more efficient technology, the relevance of braille as a reading and writing medium is frequently questioned. Technology has made it easier than ever for people who are blind to access a wide variety of texts, to create print documents, and to be more productive at work and home. Some people report that they can read faster with speech than with braille—and they probably can. But are those same people continuing to use braille? Have the ways braille readers use braille in their daily lives changed so dramatically that it should impact the development of braille codes?

The answer to both questions is a resounding yes. While the ways people are using braille have changed over the years, braille remains a viable and crucially important medium for communication. Speech access allows for quick skimming of information, but braille gives access to text in a manner that allows the reader to read independently and to see the spelling of words, the format of documents, and the symbols used. For these reasons, it's imperative that the codes are kept up to date so braille users can read and write accurately.

For many years, BANA has continued to make small changes to the braille code where absolutely necessary. Out of consideration for the impact on braille readers, teachers, and transcribers, BANA has acted conservatively in making changes. However, the "small fixes" made over the years have, in some cases, increased the complexity and ambiguity of the braille code. An example of how an effort to make a seemingly simple change to the code led to bigger complications was illustrated in the second installment of this article. To resolve many of the shortcomings of the current braille code outlined in the previous installments, serious efforts at code restructuring have taken place in the past two decades. A more comprehensive approach was needed to create flexible solutions for the changing needs of braille users.

Unified English Braille: The first of these efforts was the Unified English Braille (UEB) code project, which was initiated in 1992 by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA). The impetus for this effort was a memorandum sent to the BANA Board in January, 1991, by Abraham Nemeth and Tim Cranmer. In this memo, Drs. Nemeth and Cranmer expressed their concern over the "proliferation of braille codes" with different symbols for common characters. They stated: "For a long time now, the blindness community has been experiencing a steady erosion in braille usage, both among children and adults. This trend shows no sign of abatement, so that there is now a clear and present danger that braille will become a secondary means of written communication among the blind, or that it will become obsolete altogether." Later in their memo, they cited "the complexity and disarray" of the braille codes then in use, and they asked BANA to give the braille code a major overhaul to improve its usability and flexibility. They stated clearly: "It is time to modernize the braille system." Based on the recommendations in this memo, BANA established a committee to explore the development of a unified code.

The original intent of the unified code project was to explore the possibility of bringing together three of the official braille codes that are used for various purposes: English Braille, American Edition (literary material), Nemeth Code (mathematics and scientific notation), and Computer Braille Code (computer notation). In 1993, the project was adopted

DOTS OF INTEREST



by the full International Council on English Braille (ICEB). The project was expanded in scope to explore the possible unification of the braille codes that are used for those purposes in all seven ICEB member countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States. Work to develop a unified code was conducted primarily by braille readers in those countries with input from transcribers and educators.

At the time the project began, the braille codes used for English literary purposes were similar, though not identical, in most English-speaking countries. Because of this, substantial preservation of that code was one of the basic goals in the development of UEB. However, the codes used for technical purposes in the other ICEB countries were very different from those used in the BANA countries, so that UEB can be regarded as bringing together the braille codes used in different countries as well as those used for different kinds of notation. The only notation specifically exempted from consideration under the UEB project was the music braille code, which was already and still is a well-accepted international code.

In the initial stages of UEB development, one of the most pressing issues to be decided was the placement of numbers. In the U.S., numbers in the literary code were written using the four dots in the upper portion of the cell while in math and science, numbers were written in the lower portion of the cell. For a consistent code, one method for writing numbers had to be chosen, using either the upper or lower part of the cell.

In addition to these two possibilities, a third way of writing numbers was considered. Called "dot 6" or "Antoine" numbers, this system forms numbers by using the same dots as upper-cell numbers with dot 6 added. In this system, 1 is dots 1-6, 2 is dots 1-2-6, and so on. The zero departs from this pattern. Dot 6 numbers are still widely used in France, Germany, and other European countries.

To decide which system of numbers should be used, the committees, both in the U.S. and internationally, looked at the ramifications of using upper numbers, lower numbers, or the dot 6 numbers. Using lower numbers would mean changing all of the punctuation signs or having a special mode for numbers. The number sign would still have been needed in most cases because numbers standing alone could easily be misread. Use of Antoine numbers would mean losing ten frequently-used contractions, and many people reported that they were slower to read. Upper numbers had the advantage of being familiar to everyone and not conflicting with punctuation. In an analysis conducted using literature that contained frequent numbers, such as math and economics textbooks, numbers were found to come in contact more frequently with punctuation than with letters. After intense debate, the familiarity of the standard upper number system with its advantage of keeping current punctuation was judged to be more important and suitable, especially for the general reader. Based on this rationale, the upper number system was selected for all purposes within UEB.

A full discussion of all characteristics of any code would be beyond the scope of this article. However, the primary changes in UEB from the current literary code used in the U.S. are:

1. Spacing: Words that are currently written together such as "and the" must have a space between them as they do in print.
2. Less ambiguity: Nine contractions are eliminated: "ally," "ation," "ble," "by," "com," "dd," "into," "o'clock," and "to" because of translation difficulties and confusion with other symbols.
3. Punctuation: A few punctuation marks are different (for example, parentheses are two-cell sequences of dots 5, 1-2-6 and 5, 3-4-5). This change follows a new systematic pattern developed for creating symbols in UEB. In addition, sym-



DOTS OF INTEREST



bols are included for different types of brackets, quotation marks, dashes, and others to show the braille reader exactly which symbol is used in the original text.

4. Indicators: Bold, underline, and italics each have their own indicators. There is a method using three capital signs to show a long passage of uppercase text.
5. Math symbols: Numbers are shown in the upper portion of the cell as they are now in literary braille; operational symbols such as plus and equals, which do not exist in current literary code, have been added and are different from those in the Nemeth code.

In 2004, the international community voted that UEB was sufficiently complete to be considered an international standard and for braille authorities of individual countries to vote on its adoption for their respective use. To date, UEB has been adopted in six of the seven ICEB countries, including Canada. The United Kingdom voted in favor of UEB adoption in October, 2011.

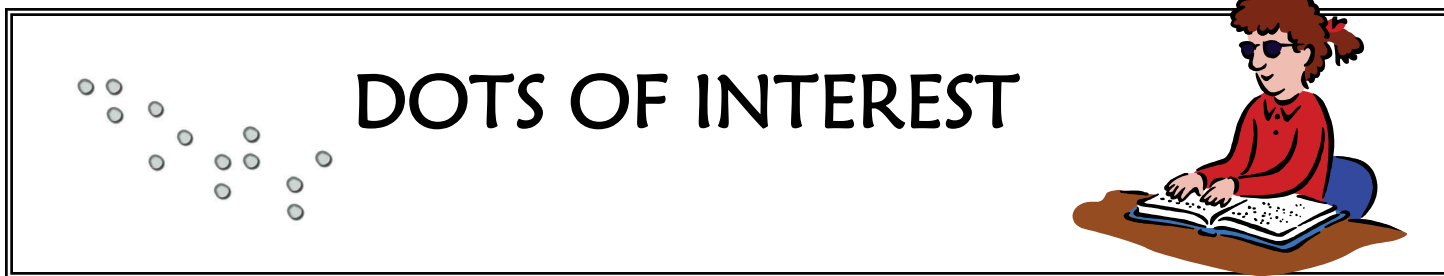
Nemeth Uniform Braille System: The decision to write numbers in the upper portion of the braille cell had a major impact on the technical aspects of the development of UEB. Dr. Abraham Nemeth, the developer of the Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, recently completed development of a code that uses lower numbers throughout called the Nemeth Uniform Braille System (NUBS). Like UEB, it is also designed to represent literary, math, and computer information—combining all three codes into one unified system. While this system proposes changes to some parts of all three codes, it makes no changes to current literary braille contractions.

The primary changes from the present literary braille code would be:

1. Numerals: Numbers in all contexts occupy the lower part of the cell; these are referred to as "dropped numbers."
2. Use of modes: There are two modes—narrative, for normal literary material, and notational, for numeric and technical material. Notational mode is invoked with the number sign (dots 3-4-5-6) or by the "begin notational mode indicator" (dots 5-6). Notational mode is terminated by a dash or a space when the space is not within a string of numbers or a mathematical expression. Notational mode can also be terminated by a hyphen or a slash, and when these characters are not followed by a space, they are preceded by a dot 5. Contractions are not allowed in notational mode.
3. Punctuation: Proposed changes in punctuation include new symbols for parentheses, brackets, quotation marks, and the dash. Because the NUBS symbols for parentheses (dots 1-2-3-5-6 and dots 2-3-4-5-6) could be confused with the words "of" and "with," a punctuation indicator (dots 4-5-6) must precede each parenthesis when used in narrative mode. The semicolon, exclamation point, and question mark remain unchanged, but require a punctuation indicator in notational mode to distinguish them from digits. The period, the comma, and the colon are completely different in the two modes.
4. Type indicators: There are some changes in the technique for capitalization and for implementing italics and other types of emphasis.

Similarities Of the Codes

Both proposed codes employ the use of "modes." It should be noted that even the current literary code uses modes, although they are not often referred to in this way. For example, when the word "dance" is written in contracted braille, it uses three cells



(d, dots 4-6, e). When a number sign is placed before these three cells, their meaning is completely different; that is, it becomes the number 4.5. It can be said that the number sign has invoked a "numbers mode." Similarly, the use of a letter sign before a "c" changes the "mode" so that "c" means "c" instead of "can."

Although modes are not a feature requiring much notice in current literary code, the concept is inherent in the code. Modes do not create conflict within a code if their application is systematic. Part of the problem with current codes, however, is that the concept is not applied systematically, and creates conflict and ambiguity. Both UEB and NUBS were designed to be systematic in their application of modes and symbol construction.

At a Crossroads: As clearly indicated in the previous parts of this three-part article, braille in the United States must change to keep up with current trends in publishing and technology. It must also be more flexible and responsive to changing conventions of text. Two new braille codes have been developed, one of which has been adopted internationally. Both codes were developed with an effort toward retaining as much of the current literary braille code as possible; both codes have the reduction of ambiguity as a guiding principle to facilitate ease of learning and production. Easier facilitation of forward and backward translation would make it simpler for the user to create print documents and would also make the "on-the-fly" translation required for accessing the screens of computers and mobile devices much more accurate and reliable. It could also significantly reduce the cost of producing paper braille, which could have the effect of making much more braille material available for readers.

BANA will soon be at a critical juncture. It appears we have several choices as to how to proceed:

1. We can continue to tinker with the current codes we have, potentially making them less easy to use and more ambiguous;
2. We can adopt UEB, as have all of the other ICEB countries;
3. We can adopt NUBS;
4. We can do nothing at all to change braille, realizing this might cause braille to become obsolete.

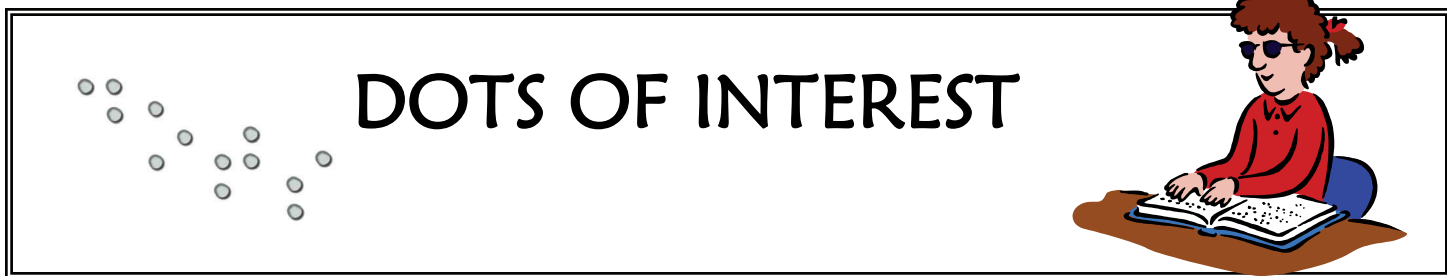
The BANA Board recognizes that to preserve the viability of braille, changes must be made. The BANA Literary Technical Committee believes that continuing to make small changes to the current code will place braille readers and transcribers in an ever-worsening spiral of ever more complicated braille codes. The committee recommends that BANA adopt a system such as UEB or NUBS that was designed to be extendible, flexible, and consistent.

BANA is conducting an impact analysis that will look at the costs and benefits of making changes to the current system of codes as well as the costs inherent in not changing. The impact on transcribing and embossing various materials, training of new teachers and transcribers, the retraining of current braille teachers and transcribers, costs for creating e-texts, and other critical factors are being considered.

Any major change in braille would necessitate careful planning and implementation. New code books would be needed, as well as training sessions for transcribers and teachers. A phase-in period would be necessary with diligent attention to the needs of all braille readers—from the very youngest who are just learning to read and write to the reader who has known and loved braille for many years. The most important consideration of all is to keep braille as practical, usable, and flexible as possible in the future as it has been for the past 150 years.

As BANA examines the past and considers options for the future of braille, we encourage you to share your ideas, concerns, and suggestions with BANA Board members. Please visit www.brailleauthority.org and share your thoughts with us.

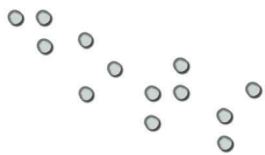
References



For more information about the history of current braille codes, UEB, and NUBS, please see the following references and resources.

1. The Nemeth/Cranmer paper from 1991: <http://www.iceb.org/cranem.html>
2. ICEB resolution 1 from the 2004 General Assembly: <http://www.iceb.org/gares04.html>
3. BANA's Braille Unification efforts: <http://www.brailleauthority.org/unification/unification.html>
4. Sullivan's monographs on the ICEB page: <http://www.iceb.org/ubc.html>
5. The UEB Rule book on ICEB page: <http://www.iceb.org/ueb.html>
6. UEB training materials available on: <http://www.ebility.com/roundtable/aba/ueb.php>
7. The NUBS code book on brl2000 page: <http://www.braille2000.com/brl2000/nubs2.htm>
8. American Council of the Blind (ACB) Resolutions 2001-27: <http://www.acb.org/magazine/2001/bf092001.html>
<http://www.acb.org/resolutions/res2004.html> <http://www.acb.org/resolutions/res2008.html>
9. National Federation of the Blind (NFB) resolutions 2002-04 and 2002-05:
<http://nfb.org/legacy/bm/bm02/bm0209/bm020912.htm>
10. BANA's UEB and NUBS research: <http://www.brailleauthority.org/research-ueb/research-ueb.html>
<http://www.brailleauthority.org/nubs/executivesummary-nubs.pdf> <http://www.brailleauthority.org/nubs/nubs-samplerresponses.pdf>

"It is a fact that that in the right formation of the lifting power of many wings can achieve twice the distance of any bird flying alone!"

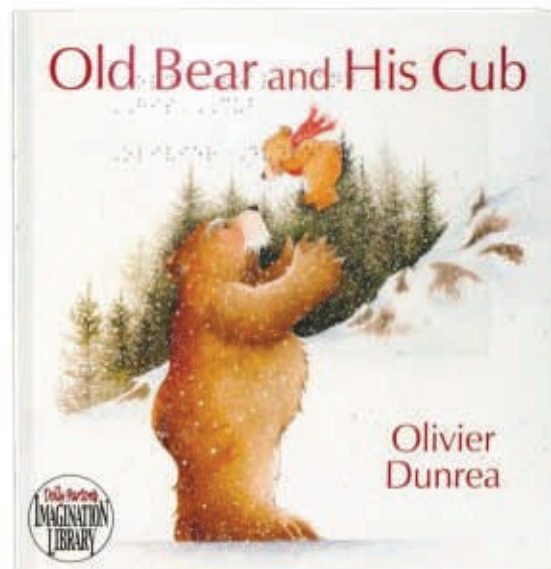


DOTS OF INTEREST



APH Endowment Makes Free Braille / Print Books Available for Preschool Children

Dotty Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) has provided many Imagination Library books in a digital audio format for young children who are blind and visually impaired. Now five titles each year will also be available in print/braille format through the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). The titles selected from the current year's list of DPIL books published by Penguin Group, have been determine to be those most appropriate to translate into Braille. Two hundred copies of each title will be made. The books will be provided free-of-charge to families.



This year's print / braille titles include:

- Old Bear and His Cub
- A Mud Pie for Mother
- My Lucky Day
- Read to Tiger
- Llama Llama Misses Mama

For more information (books will be disseminated on a first-come-first serve-basis), go to: [http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-
imagination-library/](http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-
imagination-library/)



DOTS OF INTEREST



Recycle and Share!

How many times have you looked at a stack of braille pleasure books that your children / students have outgrown? Or upgraded to a new piece of technology while the old one was perfectly useful? Don't let it gather dust or end up in a landfill! The Sight Exchange group has been formed to provide a way to share usable items for people who are blind or visually impaired. Whether it's braille books and manuals, braille or talking watches, or assistive technology, join the Sight Exchange and share—and find—usable materials. Things to remember: (a) everything posted must be free, legal and appropriate; (b) everyone must begin by offering an item before requesting an item; and (c) mail items via "Free Matter for the Blind or Visually Impaired" whenever possible. For more information, visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sightexchange/>

Braille Book Files for Download

The American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults (AAF) is making its free braille books for blind children available online as downloadable braille ready files (BRFs). Since 1997, the AAF has provided popular and award-winning children's books, including titles from popular series, to blind children throughout the United States as well as to libraries and other organizations that serve blind children. The books have been and will continue to be distributed by mail, but now readers and libraries will also be able to download them from the American Action Fund website. The BRF files are ready to be used on notetakers with refreshable braille displays and other devices. For more information, visit their website: www.actionfund.org/actionfund/default.asp

BANA News

BANA is pleased to announce the immediate release of the new *Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription*, 2011. This completely revised publication is available in three accessible electronic versions: enhanced PDF, BRF, and online HTML. These are available at www.brailleauthority.org and are offered without charge. Print and braille versions will be available for purchase from the American Printing House for the Blind later this year. This is an extensive revision of the previous formats publication. Appendix A of the new publication provides a quick reference of changes and additions. The official implementation date for use of *Braille Formats 2011* is January 1, 2013. The principles set forth in *Braille Formats 2011* supersede all previous formats documents, including the rules and appendices regarding formatting given in *English Braille American Edition (EBAE)*.



DOTS OF INTEREST



Braille/Tactile Posters Available for Request

As part of the "From Earth to the Universe" (FETTU) project, a NASA-funded tactile and braille poster series for the visually impaired community was launched in 2009. These posters are accessible to both visually impaired and sighted readers. The free materials available for present celestial objects as they appear through visible-light telescopes and in different spectral regions that are invisible to the naked eye. The five posters use a combination of Braille and large-format traditional text, and a variety of tactile textures and symbols are shown to represent different physical features and characteristics of the images.

Please Note: These materials are available to educators for use with their organizations. We cannot fill requests for personal use. On the request form, you must clearly indicate the full name (no abbreviations or acronyms) of the educational institution, library, museum or other educational or amateur astronomy organization for which these materials are being requested, and state your position in it. For more information, please contact: chandra.si.edu/edu/fettutactile.html

Touch of Genius

The National Braille Press would like to invite creative people to apply for a **\$20,000 award** to honor those innovating in the field of Tactile Literacy. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation was developed to inspire an innovator to continue the promotion of braille literacy for people who are blind or deafblind worldwide. The prize will be granted to a group or individual for a new educational method, tactile literacy product, software application or technological advance related to tactile literacy. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation may be awarded for a completed project or anticipated concept that shows viability and will improve opportunities for blind people — projects such as the 2011 Co-Awardees Christine Short's *Feel the Beat: Braille Music Curriculum*, which uses the soprano recorder to teach the braille music code to blind students, and Ashok Sapre's Tactile Accudraw Graphics Set, a low cost, multifunctional, manual device for producing rich graphics and embossing braille notes. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is provided through support from National Braille Press and The Gibney Family Foundation.

Applications must be received by November 2, 2012. For more information and to download the application please visit www.touchofgeniusprize.org

Education Beyond High School Fair

Date: September 26, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Colorado School for the Deaf
and the Blind
33 North Institute Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



College Fair at CSDB in Colorado Springs

Information will be presented for students who have hearing or vision loss about post-secondary educational options and services!

Please complete the registration form (page 2) and return to Diane Covington, dcovington@csdb.org or call 719-578-2225 for additional information.



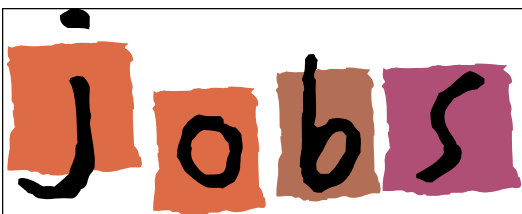
33 North Institute St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: 719-578-2100; Fax: 719-578-2239
www.csdb.org

CSDB does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, religion, marital status, disability or handicap on admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities in which it operates.

Highlights

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- Goal: to assist students with sensory loss to make informed choices about post-secondary education
- College recruiters will be available to explain their admissions requirements, registration policies, school programs and support, and required documents deadlines.
- Colorado high school and transition-aged students who have hearing and vision loss will attend.



IMPORTANT!

We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession. Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado!

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.
COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Metro Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (2 FTE): Aurora Public Schools. Apply online at www.aps.k12.co.us. For more information contact Jo Cunningham at 720-271-9668 or Brenda Shepard @ 303 995 7913
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): Jefferson County Public Schools. For more information, contact Karie Yenter in Human Resources at (303) 982-6515.

Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** is actively recruiting and accepting applications for positions for the 2012-13 school year. Those interested in TVI positions specific to early childhood, the School for the Blind, and/or the Outreach Program should contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@csdb.org or (719) 578-2114.

Northern

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** - 1 FTE - Position with Brighton School District. For more information, please contact Mary Gomez at mgomez@sd27j.org or 303-655-2925.

Statewide

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (hourly contract work): Colorado Virtual Academy position. Flexible to your schedule. Contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 or saltman@covcs.org



Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- September 20** **Vision Coalition—CO Rehab Office in Denver**
Contact: Tanni Anthony—anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681
- September 26** **Education Beyond High School Fair —CSDB, Colorado Springs**
Contact: Diane Covington— dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225
- October 4 - 6** **CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment—Denver**
Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681
- October 11 - 13** **APH Annual Meeting of Ed Officio Trustees - Louisville, KY**
Visit: www.aph.org
- October 15** **White Cane Day**
- October 15** **White Cane Day —CSDB, Colorado Springs**
Contact: Diane Covington— dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225
- Oct 25 - 27** **Colorado State NFB Convention - Harvest House in Boulder**
Contact: <http://cocenter.org/>
- Oct 31 – Nov 23** **Window for Ordering Braille or 18 Point Large Print TCAP Tests with Your DACs**
- November** **ICEVI and WBU have agreed to hold a joint General Assembly - Bangkok**
Visit: www.worldblindunion.org or www.icevi.org
- November 15** Last day to Order a Extra Large (18+ Print) TCAP Test with Your DAC
- November 16 - 18** **2012 CAOMS Statewide Conference for O&Ms - San Diego, CA**
Visit: www.caoms.org
- November 30 - Dec 1** **NFB's Tactile Graphics Conference - Baltimore, MD**
Visit: www.nfb.org/tactilegraphicsconference

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

- January 24** **Colorado Braille Challenge —CSDB, Colorado Springs**
Contact: Diane Covington— dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225

More Calendar of Events

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

March 1 - 3

CSDB Snowshoe Weekend

Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225

March 20

CSDB Career Day — Colorado Springs

Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225

June 3 - 7

Assistive Technology Conference—Denver

Contact: TBD

June 10—14

Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN—Denver

Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681

2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014

July 30-Aug 3

AER International Conference – San Antonio, TX

Contact: www.aerbvi.org

Visit The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation Website



Experience the Wonder



The 11th International CHARGE SYNDROME CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATES

Professional Day July 25

Conference July 26 - 28

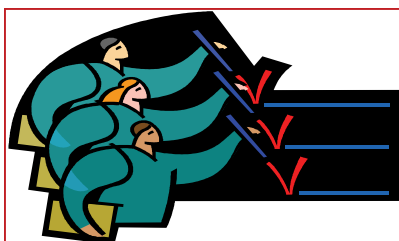
**July 25 - 28, 2013
Scottsdale, Arizona**

It's hard to believe that we're only one year away from the 11th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference. No matter whether this is your eleventh conference or your first, a CHARGE conference is truly a wondrous experience.

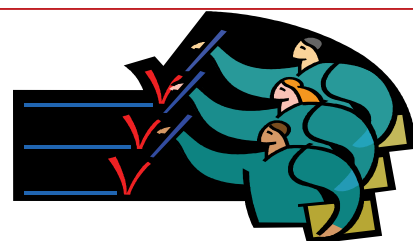
At the 2011 conference we hosted more than 850 attendees including individuals with CHARGE, their families, professionals and 65 experts on CHARGE syndrome. When families and professionals get together to share and learn, wonder fills the air.

Let the wonder begin in your home: save the dates and commit to attending the conference. We'll have many more conference details in the months ahead so check the [Foundation website](http://www.chargefoundation.org) often and keep an eye on your email inbox.

 Find us on Facebook



CHECK IT OUT!



facebook

NFB of Colorado Now Has Facebook Page

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado now has an active Facebook page, Twitter account, and blog. You will be able to use these resources to keep track of what is going on in the NFB of Colorado. Please like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/National-Federation-of-the-Blind-of-Colorado-NFB-CO/326986067377559>



Website Supports Literacy

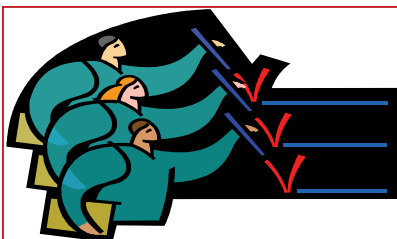
The Perkins School for the Blind and the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired have joined forces to provide a robust literacy resource for teachers and families. The information on this site ranges from a basic overview of literacy to various stages of development and special challenges, as well as an exploration of different media (print, braille, auditory strategies). Visitors are encouraged to add ideas, suggestions and questions, so that the site serves as an interactive hub of resources. For more information, visit their website: www.pathstoliteracy.org

Blindness Blogs

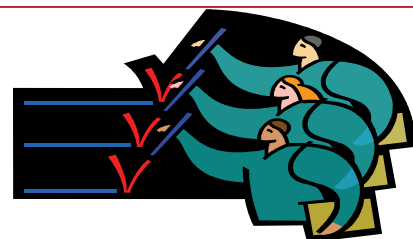
Two new blogs serve as valuable resources for families and professionals who work with children who are visually impaired or blind. Long-time teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI) Liz Eagan Satter shares her expertise and creative ideas with colleagues on her blog Traveling VI. Join her on the journey at www.travelingvi.com. Another TVI who is blind herself provides insights into promoting success and independence in young children with visual impairments. Mary Jo Hartle, former director of education for the National Federation of the Blind, writes for parents and teachers about "making it on the playground" of life as a successful blind person. Her blog can be found at makingitontheplayground.com/

July 1st Starts New Era in Described Programming

The American Foundation for the Blind reports that beginning Sunday, July 1, the landmark provisions of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) requiring the nation's leading networks to provide a combined total of at least 450 hours of described video programming per calendar quarter will come to life. Consumers are encouraged to begin asking their local broadcast stations and cable providers about accessing the described programming to be provided. In addition, given that information about which programs are to be described and the means for accessing description can sometimes be difficult to obtain, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has recently launched a web resource to help consumers navigate program choices, the technical means for accessing description via digital TV and/or cable set top box, and the FCC's complaint process for consumers to use to resolve network, station, or cable provider failure to put described programming in consumers' hands. Visit the FCC's web resource at: www.fccgov/encyclopedia/video-description



CHECK IT OUT!



webcast

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program presents

CHARGE Syndrome: Preparing for the World of Work



In this webcast, Wendy Bridgeo talks about the importance of preparing students for life after school and beginning that planning well in advance of the post-school transition. Wendy shares teaching strategies for helping students with CHARGE achieve success in work environments and provides many examples of those strategies being used in real-life situations.

The chapters in this webcast are: CH 1: Introduction, CH 2: Value of work, CH 3: Considering Strengths and Preferences, CH 4: Behavioral Implications, CH 5: Physical Considerations, CH 6: Communication and Collaboration, CH 7: Defining Success.

[http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts CHARGE Syndrome Preparing For The World Of Work](http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_CHARGE_Syndrome_Preparing_For_The_World_Of_Work)

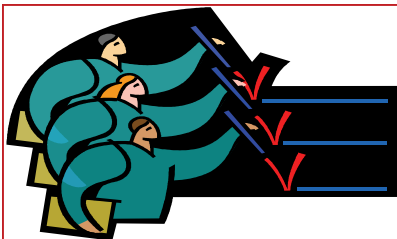
Colorado Joins PARCC

Colorado officially joined as a governing member the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) which is a 23-state consortium working together to create next generation tests in English language arts and mathematics. While Colorado has been working with PARCC over the past year, the decision to become a full governing member will ensure Colorado has a strong voice in creating the new tests which are slated to launch in Colorado in 2015.

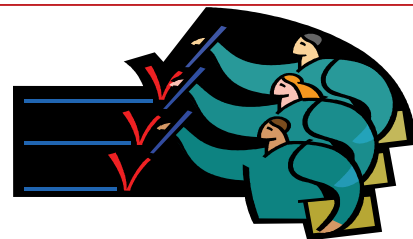
To prepare for the national launch of the new, innovative assessments, PARCC just released its first set of item and task prototypes. These are designed to give educators and the public a preview of what some of the assessments items may look like. To view the item and task prototypes, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/>. Additional sample test items will be released over the next two years.



Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers



CHECK IT OUT!



Assessment Workshops to be held November 1-2 in Fort Lauderdale

The Tactile Assessment of Performance (TAP) Workshop is designed to provide training for licensed or certified psychologists who anticipate a need to assess students who are totally blind. In addition, some measures for students with other levels of visual impairment will be discussed. The primary focus of this training is a series of subtests to be administered to students who use tactile and auditory means of accessing information. Each workshop participant will be given a free TAP kit and other materials to use for this training and future assessment purposes. The TAP Workshop will be held on November 1 and 2, 2012 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For more information, please contact Dr. Joan Chase, jbchase@gte.net, (727) 733-7771, for more information or to register for this workshop.

While licensed psychologists are receiving training on administration of the TAP from Dr. Joan Chase, teachers of students with visual impairments have the opportunity to attend the "Weekend with the Experts" workshop with Dr. Lynne Jaffe. Dr. Jaffe will provide instruction on administration of the braille version of the Woodcock-Johnson III: Tests of Achievement. The W-J III training workshop is being sponsored and hosted free of charge to participants in cooperation with the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired and the American Printing House for the Blind. For more information or to register for the Woodcock-Johnson training, please contact Kay Ratzlaff at kratzlaff@fimcvi.org or (813) 837-7829.

New Downloadable APH Manual Available



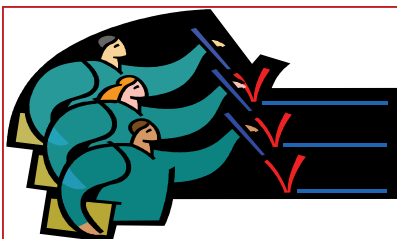
Get the manual you need instantly! The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) offers a selected list of product manuals available for free download (www.aph.org/manuals/). You may print or emboss these as needed.

House Bill 12-1238: The Colorado READ Act

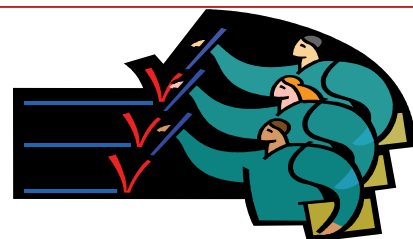
The Colorado Reading To Ensure Academic Development Act (Colorado READ Act) was passed by the Colorado Legislature during the 2012 legislative session. The READ Act repeals the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) as of July 1, 2013, keeping many of the elements of CBLA such as a focus on K-3 literacy, assessment, and individual plans for students reading below grade level. The READ Act differs from CBLA by focusing on students identified as having a significant reading deficiency, delineating requirements for parent communication, and providing funding to support intervention. Other components of the Colorado READ Act include a competitive Early Literacy Grant and a resource bank of assessments, instructional programming, and professional development. Many resources on the following website provide more information about the Colorado READ Act:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/ReadAct/index.asp>





CHECK IT OUT!



The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado State Conference



MAKING A DIFFERENCE, CHANGING LIVES! The 58th Annual State Convention will be held *October 25, 26, 27, and 28 in Boulder, Colorado*. The convention will kick off Thursday October 25th with exciting tours in beautiful Boulder. The fun will include informative presentations, seminars, and much more! Exhibitors will be demonstrating their products on Friday and Saturday. Look for information about our vendors times and location: <http://www.nfbco.org/>

The 2012 convention will be held at the Millennium Harvest House Hotel in Boulder, located at 1345 Twenty-Eighth Street. For reservations: call 800-545-6285.

To reserve your room online by September 25th, use the following link: <http://www.millenniumhotels.com/boulder> - Select Group Code, under the Corp/Promo Code and enter: 1210NATFED

Pre-registration fees: \$15 registration; \$15 Friday lunch; \$15 Saturday lunch; \$30 Saturday banquet = Total: \$75.00

Onsite Registration fees: \$20 registration, \$20 Friday lunch; \$20 Sat lunch; \$40 Saturday banquet = Total: \$100.00

For more information, contact Scott C. LaBarre, President, Phone: (303) 504-5979; Email: slabarre@labarrelaw.com

Upcoming State Ordering Statewide Assessment Accommodations Dates:

TVIs – please note this important information about when you will need to work with your District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) to order special format state assessments.

- Special Populations Books orders (contracted braille, uncontracted braille and 18 point large print) can be ordered from October 31 – November 23, 2012
- Extra-large Print (font size over 18 point) and High Contrast test booklets must be ordered no later than November 15, 2012

Please work with your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) to know the specific district deadlines for ordering accommodated materials for the statewide assessments. This will help ensure that students receive the materials they need.

APH training for the Braille Plus Mobile Manager Paired with the Refreshabraille 18.

Staff from American Printing House for the Blind (APH) are coming to Colorado! APH is offering a training for teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) on the use of the “Braille Plus Mobile Manager” paired with the “Refreshabraille 18” refreshable braille display. This training is open to the first 25 participants per training. Training will occur in two locations:

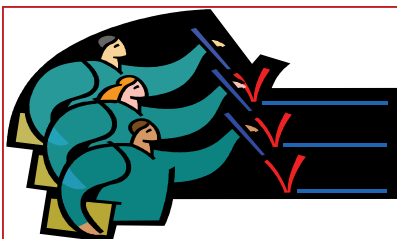
Southern Colorado: Friday, September 21, 2012 from 9:00am – 3:00 pm

Sponsored by the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) Outreach Programs and Services
Location: CSDB campus, Lions Conference Building, 33 North Institute Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
CIMC phone: (719) 578-2196

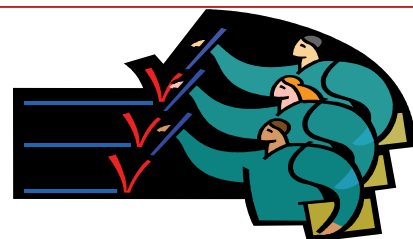
Metro Denver: Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 9:00am – 3:00 pm

Co-Sponsored by Adams 12 Five Star Schools & CSDB Outreach Programs and Services
Location: Adams 12 Five Star Schools Administration and Training Center, 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton, CO 808241

For more information or to register, contact Debbie Haberkorn in the CIMC at (719) 578-2196 or email her at dhaberkorn@csdb.org



CHECK IT OUT!



educator series

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

See it here first!

We've revamped Educator Series! Not only will you continue to receive new activities under Cindy's Corner, you will also get advance notice of what's to come: the latest webinar and webcasts, additions to our archives, and a chance to earn continuing education credits.

Earn Credits through Paths to Literacy



Paths to Literacy now offers a way to earn continuing education credits! Teachers are invited to post strategies related to any aspect of literacy for children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities. We're looking for practical ideas that have worked well for you related to writing, emergent literacy, braille, large print, objects, auditory strategies, or anything that you would like to share with others.

www.perkins.org



USABA Opportunities: The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) is seeking to enhance the opportunities for youth in Colorado who are blind and visually impaired by introducing them to sports, especially in the disciplines of goalball, cycling, track and field, cross country, Judo and swimming.

USABA's goal is to provide every blind and visually impaired youth in Colorado the chance to participate in sports with the aim of promoting independence, physical fitness, and the confidence and skills to participate in mainstream athletic activities. It is our hope to see each student be able to join regular physical education classes, participate in a wide variety of sports teams and use our community based programs as a springboard for future athletic achievement. USABA would like to partner with the O&M and VI teachers of Colorado so that every student who is blind and visually impaired can be reached. We would also like for interested teachers to participate as coaches or volunteers. This project is started by USABA's newest employee, Matt Simpson. Matt is a recent graduate of Washington and Lee University and played on the United States Men's National Goalball Team. He also has won both an IBSA World Youth Championship and a USABA National Championship. If you would like to help USABA reach our goal, please contact Matt Simpson, Membership and Outreach Coordinator, by e-mail at msimpson@usaba.org or by phone at (719)866-3019.



colorado connections

🔊 So proud to have a good turn out of TVIs at the June 11-15 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs: **Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Elaine Brown, Nancy Cozart, Karin Hensel, Ann Gillmeister, Mimi Schaper, Melissa Shular, Edie Smith, Morgan Turner, and Chloann Woolley.** You all ROCK!

🔊 Congratulations to **Ann Cunningham** for being awarded the Boltoin Award at the July 2012 National Federation of the Blind Convention in Dallas. Ann was one of five recognized innovators and was awarded \$5,000 for her efforts in tearing down the barriers to art appreciation and participation by the blind. Dr. Jacob Bolotin, the namesake of the award program, was a blind physician who lived and practiced in Chicago in the early twentieth century. He was widely known and respected in Chicago and throughout the Midwest during his career, which spanned the period from 1912 until his untimely death at the age of thirty-six in 1924. He was particularly recognized for his expertise on diseases of the heart and lungs. Bolotin used his many public speaking engagements to advocate for the employment of the blind and their full integration into society. The award was given Ann with these words of praise ...



"Specializing as a tactile artist, Ann Cunningham first started to teach art classes at the Colorado Center for the Blind, beginning in 1997. Her classes include stone carving, sculpting, tactile mapping, painting, drawing, and more. Ann routinely travels with students to gardens, art galleries, and museums, helping them learn that enjoyment and creation of artistic works is a reasonable and realistic expectation for people who are blind. More than anyone Ann has become a mentor and teacher for blind artists throughout the country, encouraging them to prove their skills, often when others are discouraging them. Ann has even provided training for sighted professional artists, sharing her non-visual techniques for making art fun, creative, and accessible to all blind students. Her recent invention of the Sensational BlackBoard allows blind students to create and understand maps, diagrams, and other graphics. This is a low-cost tool to make such drawings fully accessible to blind people. When you think of a can do spirit and creative problem solving, tearing down barriers and surmounting obstacles, just saying "yes," when conventional wisdom says "no," think of Ann Cunningham." We all applaud Ann for this honor and her wonderful work in Colorado and other states! She will be at our upcoming vendor night of the state conference, so people will have a chance to meet and talk with her!

🔊 **Dr. Loana Mason**, past CO TVI/COMS and graduate of UNC and most recently the Braille Literacy Project Leader, was awarded The Graduate Dean's Citation for Dissertation for her outstanding dissertation, "An Experimental Investigation of Hand and Finger Usage in Braille Reading." Loana's dissertation was selected for this award from over 60 dissertations submitted at the University of Northern Colorado this year. Congrats, Loana - we are so proud of you!



colorado connections

- Thirteen APH Ex Officio Trustees gathered at APH May 15–18 to learn just exactly what it means to be an Ex Officio Trustee.

The eleven new EOTs were joined by “seasoned” Ex Officio Trustees Marie Piquion-Leach (NC) and **Jim Olson** (CO) to hear about the history of APH, learn more about the Federal Quota Census, meet key APH staff, tour the facility, learn from each other and more.



- Way to go to all the CO O&Ms who attended the May 2012 Accessible Pedestrian Signal Workshop: **Mimi Schaper, Jeannie Lei, David Gooldy, Barb Galgano, Teresa Barone, Rita Albright, Vicki Pearson, Elaine Karns, Mary Chambers, Trina Boyd Pratt, Carol Inglis, Mardee Zweibohmer, Bev Cherry, Donna Keale, Keale, James Strader, Karen Jamison, Sue Newhart-Larson, Pat Lewis, Nancy Knight, Nancy Cozart, Jasmine Campbell, Debbie Mendoza, Karin Hensel, Sherry Bainbridge, Edith Smith, Peg Collins, Shelley Moats, Patty Wagner, Ken Neve, Lorraine Hutcheson, Garrett Mumma, Jadwiga Brown, Michelle McGowan, Tim Richard, and Rebecca Porter.** Many thanks to the woman who brought this training to CO - our very own **Patty Wagner!**

- A belated congrats to **Dr. Paula Conroy** for her article entitled, *Supporting Students with Visual Impairments in Physical Education: Needs of Physical Educators* that was published in the Spring 2012 edition of *Insight: Research and Practice in Visual impairment and Blindness*. Also congrats to **Paula Conroy** and **Peg Collins** for their shared article in the same journal, which was entitled *Mnemonic Devices for Braille Instruction*. We are so proud of you both!

- This is the last newsletter that will have the special design and creative touches of **Anna Langegger**. Anna has been with the CDE Exceptional Student Services Unit for three years and has worked with Tanni and Gina on their shared work with the CO Services to Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. Anna also has worked closely with Tanni on ALL THINGS BLINDNESS, including the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter. Anna has moved onto new projects and her last day with CDE was July 27th. She will be missed beyond measure for all she did to organize, highlight, and complete. Thank you so much, Anna! And a big thank you to **Lori Kochevar** who took on the newsletter task after Anna's departure. Thank you, Lori!

- Congratulations to **Lesli Tigert** (braillist in Mesa School District), **Brandon Mapes** (Mountain BOCES), **David Gooldy** (TVI in Cherry Creek Schools), **Karin Hensel** (TVI in Adams 12), and **Morgan Turner** (El Paso 11) for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency! Lesli was the 100th person to pass the Colorado Braille Competency Test! As of July 2012, 106 Colorado TVIs and braillists have demonstrated braille competency via the state test. Congrats also to **Amy Gunning** and **Paula Quintana** for earning their Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency. A special thank you to mentors **Linda Campbell, Paula LaBossiere, and Lisa Brocard** for their over-the-summer work! Thanks to proctor Lucia Hasty!



colorado connections



🔊 Colorado is so proud of **Mimi Schaper** who represented us on July 9 -12 at a work group meeting at the American Printing House for the Blind. The focus was on a new math product (two math kits with manipulatives and worksheets that will align with the Common Core standards). Be watching for the products associated with this great work!

🔊 Over the summer months, Colorado said goodbye to three wonderful TVIs in our midst. **Samantha Hoffman**, a TVI in Jefferson County, relocated to Texas in June. **Carol Jordan** from Douglas County School District also relocated out of state. Finally, **Ruth Massara** retired from Pueblo 60. We will miss each of them and thank Samantha, Carol, and Ruth for all they gave and shared!

🔊 The 2012 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs was held in Denver on June 10-14. This five-day training focused on *Literacy for Students with Significant Support Needs*. Colorado TVIs in attendance included: **Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Elaine Brown, Nancy Cozart, Carol Davidson, Ann Gillmeister, Karin Hensel, Melissa Shular, Edie Smith, Morgan Turner, and Chloann Woolley**. Thanks to these wonderful folks for giving up five summer days to gather, learn, and really train on this important topic!

🔊 Colorado had representation at the AER International Conference 2012, which was held on July 18-22 in Bellevue, Washington. AER Executive Director and former CSDB School for the Blind Principal **Louis Tutt** was on site to oversee the conference and offered everyone a gracious welcome. Colorado personnel in attendance included: **Tanni Anthony, Kathryn (Kat) Botsford, Ann Cunningham, Paula Conroy, Mark Davis, Lucia Hasty, Kay Ferrell, JC Greeley, Amy Gunning, Mark Lucas, Christine Moe, Matt Simpson, and Randy Witte**.

🔊 There were close to 15 different presentations by Colorado contributors on the program:

- *An Interwoven Developmental Approach: Early Preschool Experiences and the Expanded Core Curriculum* (**JC Greeley and Tanni Anthony**)
- *Development and Field Test of the Boehm-3 Preschool Tactile and Large Print Analogs* (**Kay Ferrell**)
- *Every Child Has a Lot to Say: Using the Communication Matrix with Learners who are Blind/Visually Impaired with Other Disabilities* (**Tanni Anthony**)
- *How Challenge Recreation-Skiing Builds Life Skills on and Off the Slopes* (**Mark Davis**)
- *Image Description in High Stakes Testing: Preliminary Results of the Description Enhanced Study* (**Kay Ferrell, Kat Botsford, Nana Phangia Dewald, and Tanni Anthony**)
- *Introduction to the Sport of Goalball* (**Mark Lucas and Mark Davis**)
- *Physical Education for Students with Visual Impairments: Implementing planning and Teaching Strategies to Address the Expanded Core Curriculum* (**Paula Conroy**)
- *Phoenix and Firebird: Technology for Producing High Quality Tactile Graphics* (**Lucia Hasty**)
- *Reflections and Learning: Looking Outside the Field to Support Educational Practices* (**Kat Botsford and Nana Hong Phangia**)



colorado connections

- *Sports and Recreation Panel* (**Mark Davis** and **Mark Lucas**)
- *Supporting Children and Families Diagnosed with Juvenile Batten Disease* (**Kat Botsford** and **Marjorie Newell**)
- *The Secret Language of Lines: A Curriculum for Achieving Graphicacy* (**Lucia Hasty**, **Ann Cunningham**, and **Dawn Wilkinson**)
- *Thinking Aloud for Better O&M Instruction: Pre-Service O&M Specialists' Decision-Making Thought Process* (**Kat Botsford** and **Kim Zebahazy**)

🔊 Colorado is so very proud of **Dr. Kay Ferrell** who was honored with two impressive field awards at the conference. Kay was the recipient of the Mary K Bauman Award and the Josephine L. Taylor Award. The Mary K. Bauman Award was established to honor an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the education of children and youth who are blind or visually impaired. These leadership contributions have had an impact on a national or international level through their direct effect on visually impaired children or through the example, insight and inspiration that they provided to educators of visually impaired children in other states or nations. The Josephine L. Taylor Award is bestowed to a member of the Personnel Preparation Division.

We are also proud to announce that **Margaret Cleary** was the recipient of the Susan and Paul Ponchillia VRT Publication Award. This award was established in 2008 to honor VRT Division members who have written and published for the benefit of the field and the enhancement of our knowledge base.

There were two additional awards that had some Colorado ties. One of Tanni's favorite people and someone who came to Colorado in the past to share his wisdom, **Dr. Jim Jan** was the recipient the Robert M Lambert Award. Many of you know about Dr. Jan through his important work in cortical visual impairment and sleep studies for children with visual impairments. Many of us had the privilege of hearing him present when he came to Colorado in 1996. In addition, **Bess Dennison**, author (and major force behind) the VIISA materials was given the C. Warren Beldsoe Award. All of you who have taken either of both the Infant or the VIISA course offered here in Colorado over the last 20 years know firsthand the level of work that went into gathering all the resources that went into the course content. Bess, who resides in Utah, is one of our hardest working TVIs out there! Colorado extends its congratulations to Kay, Margaret, Jim, and Bess!

🔊 **Tanni Anthony**, **Kat Botsford**, and **Kay Ferrell** presented a poster session on the Image Description Study at the July 23 - 25 Office of Special Education Program Project Directors' Meeting in Washington, DC.

🔊 **Tanni Anthony** attended a focus group at the American Printing House for the Blind on August 5—7, 2012. The purpose of this focus group meeting was to identify products that APH might produce to sell on quota in the future. The focus group discussed and prioritized product needs for children, ages birth to pre-k, who are blind and visually impaired.

🔊 We thank our CAER Board for their hard work—our current slate of officers and board members are as follow: **Heather Parsons** (President), **Mike Plansker** (Past President), **David Gooldy** (President Elect), **Trina Boyd Pratt** (Treasurer), **Nancy Cozart** (Secretary), and Board Members **Paula Conroy**, **Bill Muir**, **Deb Andrews**, **Kat Botsford**, **Sally Burch**, and **Barb Galagano**.

Welcome New Faces in Colorado!



We may be missing some of the new faces in Colorado with this first newsletter, but there will be another chance to introduce and welcome new TVIs, COMS, braillists, and VI-paras. In this edition, we have the chance to welcome four new people to our state and field!

Welcome **Anitha Muthukumaran** to the Douglas County School District! She is originally from India and has been in the USA for the last 10 years. Anitha completed her M.A in the special education vision impairment program with the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in the Summer 2012. She also worked as a software engineer with over 8 years of experience in the banking industry. She was associated with many non-profit organizations while working in India such as Little Flower School for the Blind (Chennai, India), Christal House (Bangalore, India). To move to a more socially satisfying career has always been a strong desire of hers; she loved the M.A program and hopes to use the knowledge in an effective manner when she begins teaching students with visual impairment this fall. Anitha has been married for 9 years and had two children (6 years and 4 years).

Welcome to **Rock Campbell**, a new TVI in Aurora School District. He grew up in St. Petersburg, FL. Rock did his undergraduate work in Psychology at USF and worked in Social Services with foster kids for a few years. He notes that he always wanted to be a teacher and decided that becoming a TVI was a good fit. Rock went to the University of Pittsburgh for his TVI and COMS training and actually became emergency certified very early on and taught for 4 years in Allegheny County. He decided to have a new experience in Colorado after visiting and falling in love with the mountains. Rock is looking forward to having some wonderful travelling and teaching experiences now that he is here!

Welcome to **Jennifer Langley**, the new principal in the Adams Building (School for the Blind), at CSDB. She comes to our state as a 21-year veteran teacher. Jennifer has taught most recently at the Washington State School for the Blind and prior to that at the Maryland School for the Blind. While primarily a Music Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Jennifer has served in a variety of roles to include Daily Living Skills Coordinator/ Assessor and providing outreach in Washington in the area of Music Braille. Jennifer has a passion for braille and supporting all students to become as independent as they can. Jennifer is very excited to join CSDB. She looks forward to building a long relationship with CSDB and becoming acquainted with service providers across the state.

Welcome to **Jackie Jackson** who recently moved to Colorado from a western suburb of Chicago, IL. Jackie received her Masters of Science in Education with a specialty in teaching students who are blind/visually impaired. She is also a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Jackie was originally a high school mathematics teacher and plans on using her background in this area to help the students who are blind/visually impaired understand such a visual subject. She has three children and we are enjoying exploring, hiking, and running in many of the Colorado State Parks.

Who Ya Gonna Call / Email / Text

SCHOOL YEAR 2012-13

Rita Albright at (720) 561-8411 / (303) 570-8749 or rita.albright@bvsd.org

- Site Co-Coordinator of Northern LVE Clinic

Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- Braille Competency Testing/Braille Certification Renewal
- CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deafblindness, and O&M
- CDE Initiatives specific to Standards, Literacy, Numeracy, Science, etc.
- CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- CO Services for Children and Youth w/ Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- TCAP, CoAlt and Access for ELLs testing of students with BVI / deafblindness
- Eligibility of Learners who are Blind/Visually Impaired or Deafblind
- IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, instructional Accommodations
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- Licensure and Highly Qualified Status of TVIs and COMSs
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Response to Intervention (RtI) for students with BVI or deafblindness
- Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BVI and/or DB
- State Conference on Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Conference
- ***Keeping in Touch*** newsletter
- Vision Coalition

Alice Applebaum at (303) 337-9732 or aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org

- Anchor Center for Blind Children

Teresa Barone at (970) 613-5564 or teresa.barone@thompsonschoools.org

- Northern Region TVI Meetings

Brent Batron at (303) 778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs

Dinah Beams at (720) 413-7567 or dbeams@comcast.net

- CSDB CO Home Intervention Program (specific to 0-3 children who are DHH and Deafblind)

Paula Conroy at (970) 351-1651 or paula.conroy@unco.edu

- UNC's Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment
- UNC Representative at Vision Coalition meetings



Diane Covington at (719) 578-2225 or dcovington@csdb.org

- Braille Challenge
- CSDB Career Day
- Snow Shoe Weekend

Nancy Cozart at (303) 734-3090 or NCozart@lps.k12.co.us

- Metro TVI/COMS representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- State Reviewer of TCAP Braille Format

Veronica Crim at (719) 578-2102 or vcrim@csdb.org

- CSDB Board of Trustees' meetings

Mark Davis at (866) 860-0972 or info@forseightskiguide.org

- Foresight Ski Guides

Julie Deden at (303) 778-1130 or jdeden@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind

David Dawson at (303) 786-7777 x 101 or ainc@aincolorao.org

- Audio Information Network of Colorado

LaVerne Dell at (303) 866-3562 or Laverne.DELL@state.co.us

- Colorado Rehabilitation Services representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Laura Douglas at (719) 578-2110 or ldouglas@csdb.org

- CSDB Outreach Services (DHH and BVI)
- CSDB Preschool Programs (DHH and BVI)
- Braille Challenge
- Close-Up
- BVI Adult Role Model Team
- Regional Student Activity Mini-Grants
- Touch Museum

Kay Ferrell at (970) 302-1995 or kay.ferrell@unco.edu

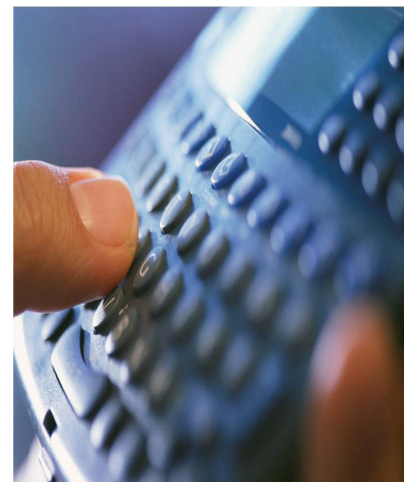
- National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities (housed at UNC)

Ginny Gallagher at (719) 578-2198 or ggallagher@csdb.org

- CSDB Family Literacy Packs
-

Barb Galgano at (303) 349-7661 or bgalgano@cherrycreekschools.org

- CAER representative on Vision Coalition



J.C. Greeley at (303) 337-9732 or jcgreeley@anchorcenter.org

- Program Coordinator of the Anchor Center for Blind Children

Debbie Haberkorn at (719) 578-2120 or dhaberkorn@csdb.org

- Low Vision Clinic Coordinator

Lucia Hasty at (719) 339-2935 or Lucia@TactileGraphics.org

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Carol Hilty at (719) 578-2102 or chilty@csdb.org

- CSDB Intern Placement

Charlotta Javier at (303) 377-9732 or cjavier@anchorcenter.org

- Anchor Center for Blind Children representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Donna Keale at (719) 578-2251 or dkeale@csdb.org

- CSDB Summer Enrichment Program
- Sports Camp
- CSDB Short Courses

Nancy Knight at (303) 734-3070 or NKnight@lps.k12.co.us

- Metro TVI Regional Meetings
- Site Coordinator of the Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Jennifer Langley at (719) 578-2201 or jlangley@csdb.org

- Principal, School for the Blind, CSDB
- Representative of School for the Blind at CSDB on Vision Coalition
- CSDB's Library

Debbie Macleod at (303) 727-9277 or Macleod_d@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Talking Book Library

Judy Mumford at (719) 719 234-1360 or judy.mumford@asd20.org

- Southern TVI/COMS Region Representative at Vision Coalition Meetings

Terri Noland at (325) 260-3911 or tnoland@LearningAlly.org

- Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic) – authorized Colorado NIMAS file user

Kevin O'Brien at (970) 874-7607 or kobrien@mcsd.k12.co.us

- Western Region TVI Meetings



Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org

- CIMC Braille Book Orders and APH Loan Materials—authorized Colorado NIMAS file user
- CIMC Braillist Scholarships
- Annual CIMC registration of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired
- Braille Transcribers Mentoring Project
- Southern Region TVI Meeting Coordinator

Vicki Pearson at (970) 219-8807 or vickip@psdschools.org

- Site Co-Coordinator of Northern LVE Clinic

Gina Quintana at (303) 866-6605 or quintana_g@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project

Brenda Shepard at (303) 995 7913 or Brendashep@comcast.net

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Angela Sims at (970) 254-5414 or sims@mesa.k12.co.us

- Western Slope TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Bonnie Snyder at (719) 322.3854 or BonnieLS21@Gmail.com or tvivip.org website

- CDE Regional Technology Assistance

Sarah Sonnier at (970) 254-5414 or ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us

- Site Coordinator for Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor
- State Reviewer of TCAP Braille Format

Jon Vigne at (719) 578-2177 or jvigne@csdb.org

- CSDB Director of Special Education
- Questions about CSDB and Enrollment

Julie Wetzstein at (303) 216-6124 or jwetzste@jeffco.k12.co.us

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor



Thanks for working hard to keep in touch this school year!

State of Colorado Department of Education

Colorado State Board of Education

Marcia Neal
3rd Congressional District

Deborah Scheffel
6th Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District

Paul Lundeen
5th Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff
7th Congressional District

Bob Schaffer
4th Congressional District

Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Exceptional Student Services

1560 Broadway, Suite 1175

Denver, CO 80202

25-23B-3401

MAIL TO: