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KEEPING IN TOUCH!

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

A New Slate, A New Beginning

By Tanni Anthony

*“And now we welcome the new year,
full of things that have never been”*

– Rainer Maria Rilke

There is something magical about new beginnings, the novelty of that first blank page of a journal; a new day to greet and fill; the proverbial clean slate upon which to design, write and to leave a new and lasting mark. Such is the beginning of a new school year. New teachers, new students, new grades, new subjects, new places ... and, for many, a reunion of people and content areas that are already familiar, but where there are new opportunities to start again, to expand, to refine, to evolve.

There is a lot to look forward to in this new school year. Please be sure to take time to digest all of the Colorado activities reviewed on pages 2-6, as well as the *Calendar of Events*. There is so much occurring across our state and the many months ahead. Colorado has many entities who offer a rich variety of training, support, and networking activities. If you see a new resource that you are not familiar with, take time to truly check it out. As you find new resources or events that are not listed, please share them with Tanni for future editions of the newsletter or for a quick send-out via email.

This is a new school year for each of us. I look forward to sharing new training content with you all in the many months ahead and to hearing new stories about the good things that are happening for kids, families, and professionals across the state.

It’s a new day—time to fill the slate, have new discoveries, new pathways, a new experiences ... and new memories. I am grateful to have another school year with you all!

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**Colorado Resources, Professional Learning, and Support Activities
Specific to Children and Youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Their Families and Service Providers for
School Year 2018-19**

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

Legend for Acronyms:

CCB =	Colorado Center for the Blind
CDE ESSU =	Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit
CIMC =	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
CMAS =	Colorado Measures of Academic Success
COMS =	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
CSDB =	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
TVI =	Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

We have a lot of good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year! The following resources and activities are not exclusive to all that may be happening across the state in the area of supporting children and youth with blindness/visual impairment, their families, and service providers. If there is a resource or activity that was missed on this list, please be in touch with Tanni Anthony to post it in future editions of the newsletter.

A Shared Vision: This Colorado private nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization provides early intervention services for children who are blind or visually impaired or have vision concerns, and their parents and caregivers. Their goal is that all children, families and caregivers have access to and receive essential early intervention services specific to blindness, visual impairment or vision concerns from a community of highly skilled and collaborative professionals. Services include: Home-based services and specialty co-visits; hospital visits and consultation services for in-patient children; community visits, ophthalmology appointments, childcare and educational programs; community outreach programs; Family Assessments; Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP); Functional Vision Assessments (FVA), initial and annual reviews, including learning styles, learning media assessments, Teller Acuity testing; transition support from Part C to Part B; Community Centered Board transdisciplinary team meetings; professional development trainings and presentations in pediatric blindness and visual impairment; and internship opportunities for students in pursuit of degrees in early intervention, visual impairment services. For more information, contact Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org.

Anchor Center for Blind Children: Headquartered in Denver for over 35 years, Anchor Center for Blind Children specializes in serving children with visual impairments or combined vision and hearing loss during their most formative years of development, birth – five years. Staffed by a multidisciplinary team of highly trained teachers of students with visual impairments, therapists and ophthalmologists, Anchor Center’s vision services are customized to meet each child’s unique needs and strengths. Families also receive support, guidance, practical knowledge, and connections to other important resources.

Anchor Center’s primary programming includes: vision assessments and pediatric ophthalmology exams; infant (newborn – 18 months), toddler (18 months – 3 years), and preschool (3 – 5 years) programs; occupational, physical, and speech/language therapies; recreational, music, and horticultural therapies; summer camp and respite care; and family support, including programs for caregivers and siblings. The Anchor Center charges a nominal tuition fee for toddler and preschool programs, but does not charge for infant services; no child is ever denied access to services based on the family’s inability to pay. In the 2017-18 school year, Anchor Center served over 275 children, caregivers and siblings at their state-of-the-art facility in the Stapleton neighborhood, located at: 2550 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO 80238. For more information, please visit the Anchor Center website at www.anchorcenter.org or call (303) 377-9732.

Audio Information Network of Colorado: The Audio Information Network of Colorado (AINC) is one of the nation's finest audio information resources for blind, visually impaired and print disabled individuals. AINC provides its listeners with information services (24/7) in both English and Spanish at no cost. The only information service of its kind in Colorado, AINC's audio services provide registered listeners with total access to RMPBS broadcasts of informational/educational programs, online podcasts, InterNet radio, Amazon ECHO devices, TUNE-IN Smart phone app, and two phone information services. 1,500+ AINC listeners are provided access to everything from national / international news features to Colorado-focused, detailed local news and community events. AINC continues to serve school-age students, K-12, in schools throughout Colorado. A parallel initiative serves all ages of the Latino/Hispanic population in schools and their homes. AINC now has a 24-7 broadcast in Spanish. AINC is able to provide its audio information services to English as a Second Language (ESL) residents of all ages. For more information, please contact the Boulder office at (303) 786-7777 or 1-877-443-2001 (toll free).

Braille and Large Print Format Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Test Review: During previous assessment administrations, TVIs had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and the CMAS publisher to review braille CMAS tests. There will be continued work specific to these assessments and TVIs are always needed. If you are interested in signing up for the educator pool, please contact Mindy Roden, Special Education Assessment Specialist, at roden_m@cde.state.co.us or at (303) 866-6709.

CAER - Colorado Chapter of AER: As professionals who serve the community of individuals who are blind/visually impaired, we have an active CO chapter of our national Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER for short) professional organization. Within our specialized field, there are a number of ways to access continuing education, network with peers and learn to serve the needs of our clients and students more effectively. The CAER is comprised of members from school district administration units, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Colorado Center for the Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation, and community members with an interest in vision loss. For more information about scheduled meetings and activities for member benefit, please contact Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us or 303-905-4074.

CAER Annual Awards Banquet and Business Meeting: This special event occurs in conjunction with the annual CDE O&M Seminar. The evening banquet is a time to celebrate colleagues and friends and to announce the recipients of the following awards: the *Gary Schmidt Award*, the *Connections Award*, the *President's Award*, the *Ken Neve Award*, and the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. Information will be emailed in February 2019 to ask for nominations of awards and to provide more details about the date of the 2019 Awards Banquet / Business Meeting.

CAER Mini Grants: CAER provides mini-grants to current AER members or those sponsored by an AER member. The maximum amount of the funds available will vary, but the allotted amount per grant must not exceed \$300. Recipients are only eligible to receive a mini-grant once every two years. Recipients need to fulfill their obligation to provide CAER with their product of how the mini-grant funds were used within 90 days of check issue. Mini-grants are awarded every year in November.

CAER Reimbursement for ACVREP Certification: Reimbursement for initial (\$100) and renewal (\$50) certification through ACVREP may be available to Colorado members. After receiving your initial and/or renewal, please submit a copy of the certification and letter requesting reimbursement to CAER at caerboard@gmail.com.> To apply, you must provide proof of AER membership.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Braille Competency Certification: Funds have been reserved for five braille proctors (Nancy Cozart, Christine Maynard, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) and a braille proof-reader (Jo Pinto) to provide opportunities to TVIs / Braillists to take the Colorado Braille Competency Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE established renewal modules. Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the 15 modules over the five-year-renewal period so that competency can be truly 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-vision_guidedocs>. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_tA@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE Brailist Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for school braillists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for braillists to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE Braille Mentors: Our amazing CDE Braille Committee personnel (Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) are available to provide mentoring to TVIs who need support in preparing for a second round of the Colorado Braille Competency Test. Please contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us for more information.

CDE *Keeping in Touch* (KIT) Newsletter: This newsletter started about 20-plus years ago when personnel 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 share the accomplishments of a colleague, post an announcement, or to write an article. The newsletter is sent out to CO parents of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired, TVIs, COMSs, brailleists, and VI paraeducators. It is also posted on the CDE BVI website for others to download. The following editions are planned for this school year: Sept. 2018, Oct. 2018, Nov. / Dec. 2018, Jan. / Feb. 2019, March / April 2019, and May 2019. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. Back copies of recent newsletters can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_activities

CDE Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinics: This is the 21st anniversary of the inception of the Low Vision Evaluation Clinics! The LVE Team is once again funded for five regional clinics. This is a collaborative partnership with CSDB. 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 2018-19 clinics will be posted in the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. For access to the clinic paperwork, please go to: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_activities

CDE O&M Seminar: This training is co-sponsored by CDE. The topics and dates for this training are under discussion. The contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be offered on September 24-25, 2017. The topic of the training is *Responding to Challenging Behaviors of Students with Disabilities, Including Sensory Impairments: A Function-Based Approach*. The speakers are Dr. MaryAnn Demchak and Chevonne Sutter from the University of Nevada – Reno. Registration details have been sent to CO TVIs/ COMSs. The training is also open to VI paras / techs and brailleists. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us >.

CDE TVI COMS Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for 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 Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE TVI / COMS 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. We are so excited this year to bring on three veteran TVIs/ COMS with incredible teaching experience. Check out the bios of Wendy Stoltman, Janet Anderson, and Shelley Moats in this first newsletter. Funds and hours are limited, this is the first real trial year. As such, we will take care to make assignments to make sure this resource is evenly distributed across Colorado administrative units. For more information or to ask for mentor assistance, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE United English Braille (UEB) Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and school brailleists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information about the Unified English Braille Code. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv, who are Colorado TVIs or brailleists, should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE Web Pages Specific to Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blindness:

Deaf-Blindness — <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-db>

NIMAS / NIMC — <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/nimas>

Orientation and Mobility — <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/rs-om>

Visual Impairment, Including Blindness — <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision>

Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) Youth Program: Throughout the school year and over the summer, the CCB offers learning and recreation programs to students who are blind/visually impaired or deaf-blind. For more information, please contact Brent Batron at bbatron@cocenter.org or (303) 778-1130 x 222.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille and textbooks and serve as a repository for APH educational materials for all Colorado school-age students through twelfth grade who are blind/visually impaired. The CIMC also houses an impressive lending library of professional materials for access by TVIs. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact CIMC staff at (719) 579-2196 or Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org. CIMC webpage: www.csdb.org; click on "Programs and Services," "Outreach," then "CIMC."

CIMC Brailist Scholarships: The CIMC has a scholarship fund to assist Colorado brailists with their registration fees to attend the annual National Braille Association (NBA) Professional Development Conference. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado brailists. Conference information is posted at www.nationalbraille.org. For more information, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195.

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Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) Internship Placements: 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: 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 using 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 Psychological Assessments and Consultation: Psychological assessments (cognitive and social emotional) provided to school districts to assist in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service. Contact Laura Douglas, interim Director of Outreach Programs and Services at the CSDB at (719) 578-2110 or ldouglas@csdb.org for more information.

CSDB Role Model Videos: The CSDB Role Model Videos are designed 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. There are a total of ten role model clips for students and families to watch. The role models speak to their diagnosis, independence as an adult, thoughts for parents, interpersonal skills, and why they feel they are successful. <http://tinyurl.com/yamlqmag>

CSDB Sensory Safari: This event is in collaboration with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs and it involves a special day for students with blindness / visual impairments – there is time to touch, hear, and smell the exhibits! Check the CSDB website (www.csdb.org > Programs & Services > Outreach Programs > Outreach Calendar of Events/Classes). The contact person is Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 330-7387.

CSDB Student Activities Mini-Grant Funds: To achieve the goal of supporting students with vision impairment coming together for social and recreational opportunities, the CSDB Outreach program offers some funding for school districts and BOCES staff who want to offer Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) activities for their students in these areas. For more information, please contact Laura Douglas at (719) 578-2110 or ldouglas@csdb.org >. A mini-grant request form is also provided on the CSDB website.

CSDB Summer Enrichment Program: Summer programs are offered for middle school 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.



Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deafblind Project): As of October 1 of this year, we hope that the project will be in the first year of a new five-year grant cycle! There are currently 142 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado.

Free technical assistance is provided to the families and service providers of identified children by project specialists. 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 website has over 100 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deaf-blindness. 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 technical assistance services, contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6605 or Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us and/or go the project's continually updated webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>

Colorado Talking Book Library: For people who cannot read standard print CTBL provides free audio, Braille and large print books keeping you connected to reading, stories and adventure. Books and magazines go through the mail post-age paid. Audio and braille books are available for download through the BARD mobile app for either iOS or Android. For more information, contact the library via email at ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us or by phone toll free at 1-800-685-2136.

Foresight Ski Guides: Foresight Ski Guides served upwards of 50 students with visual disabilities from more than 5 Colorado school districts plus the Colorado School for the Blind during the 2016-17 ski season in Vail and Beaver Creek, including the reinstatement of the Randy Witte Champions Weekend and Race. Students came with school groups and their TVIs while others came with their parents and families. Every student learned how to ski and how to be guided by our expert guides.

Foresight Ski Guides can partner with TVIs, districts and parents to address several important areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum for the Blind, as well as Colorado Academic Standards for Health / Physical Education for your students. Bring your students to Vail for the most fun they might ever experience, all while learning important life skills including a sport they can safely enjoy throughout their lifetime with family and friends. Coming this fall – How to work with Foresight Ski Guides may qualify as a tool in your IEP Toolbox. Stay tuned or contact Mark at Foresight at (303) 506-6965 email us at foresightskiguides@gmail.com.

You can also go to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and visit their website a: <https://foresightskiguides.org/>

National Braille Challenge: The Colorado Braille Challenge regional contest will again be held at CSDB and CCB in 2018. 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. Please hold January 17, 2019 for the Braille Challenge at CSDB and January 24, 2019 for the Braille Challenge at the CCB. For more information about the CSDB event, contact Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org>. For more information about the CCB event, contact Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org>. Please visit www.brailleinstitute.org for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

Tools for Life: Students who are blind/visually impaired may be highly motivated and highly educated, but without the proper adaptive devices (tools) they are not able to perform to their highest level. These students need special "tools" to interact and compete with their sighted peers. Unfortunately, many families cannot afford these tools for their children due to their financial situation. The mission of Tools for Life is to provide financial assistance to the families of students who are blind/visually impaired / students (pre K – Transition) who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is to help purchase necessary adaptive equipment which students may own and utilize in their home, school, and community. These tools will help support literacy and the pursuit of higher education.

Since 2007, \$230,000 has been awarded to over 120 families. The application deadline is October 15, 2018, so do not delay. The application can be found at: <https://www.seethefuture.org/tfl-app-info.html>

See the Future Fund: The mission of the See the Future Fund is to award scholarships to qualified students who are blind/ visually impaired and Colorado residents. This scholarship fund is made possible through generous donations by ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians, staff, corporations, educators, foundations and many others with an interest in the lives of young adults who are visually impaired and blind.

All scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, school and community service, and individual need. Scholarships totaling up to \$42,000 may be awarded. Probable distribution will be one (1) \$12,000 four year scholarship, one (1) \$10,000 four year scholarship, one (1) \$8,000 four year scholarship, and three (3) \$4,000 two year scholarships. The Selection Committee will determine the final number of scholarships awarded and the amount of each scholarship. The application deadline is March 1, 2019. To locate the application and more information, go to: <https://www.seethefuture.org/efl-app-info.html>

United States Association of Blind Athletes: USABA is a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) organization that provides life-enriching sports opportunities for every individual with a visual impairment. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, USABA provides athletic opportunities in various sports including, but not limited to track and field, nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, judo, wrestling, swimming, tandem cycling, powerlifting and goalball (a team sport for the blind / visually impaired). For USABA activities specific to Colorado, please contact Kevin Brouard at kbrouard@usaba.org or by phone at (719) 866-3019.

Vision Coalition: The Vision Coalition is a statewide advisory / workgroup on the educational needs / activities for students who are blind/visually impaired, support activities for their parents, and professional development activities specific to their service providers. Members include: Deb Andrews (Southern Region), Tanni Anthony (CDE ESSU), Dan Burke (Colorado Center for the Blind), Paula Conroy (UNC), Nancy Cozart (Metro region), Jayme Cusimano (CSDB BVI Outreach), Julia Hutchison (Northern region), Julie King (Western region), Paula Landry, (A Shared Vision); Jamie Lugo (School for the Blind– CSDB), Michelle Reed (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Tim Richard (CAER), Jim Olson (CIMC), and Callie Robinson (Anchor Center for Blind Children). 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.



White Cane Day: October 15th of each year marks White Cane Day across the country. There may well be celebrations across the state in a variety of school districts. CSDB will host a celebration at Acacia Park Band Shell in Colorado Springs from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. There will be a featured keynote speaker, the music of the CSDB Bulldog Band, student presentations, information booths, and merchandise.

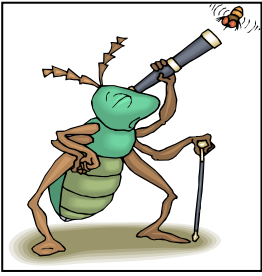
For more information, contact Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org or (719) 578-2108.



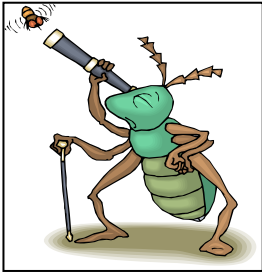
MEET YOUR CDE BVI INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

The opportunity to work with a mentor / coach is not a new activity to the CDE Blindness / Low Vision budget. This year, however, we have more dedicated hours to the project and an expansion of personnel. It is thrilling to have Janet, Shelley, and Wendy on board to provide technical assistance to TVIs and COMSs working in Colorado school districts. The bios below will introduce you to our coaches and provide a sense of their expertise. If you would like to work with a coach over the course of this school year, please be in touch with Tanni with an email request of your needs. Hours are finite, so the goal is for a good use of their time across personnel, districts, and the state. With that said, the hope is to fully actualize the hours to support both new and veteran personnel across professional learning needs. It will be a pilot year for this level of technical assistance support. Let's see where your needs and their capacity to serve will take us!

- ◆ **Janet Anderson** retired from Aurora Public Schools in May of 2018. She taught for 31 years in APS, 27 years as a TVI and an O&M Specialist and 4 years as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. She is currently working part-time with *A Shared Vision* providing services to infants and toddlers with visual impairment. She has worked with a variety of students over the years and believes in quality education for each and every student. Janet has her UEB Braille certification and enjoys teaching Braille. She also has a passion for teaching young children and teaching children with deaf-blindness. She is knowledgeable about caseload management and the IEP. Janet has enthusiastically mentored many new teachers in APS over the years and has been a contributing member of the APS team. She believes in positivity, balance, collaboration, and respect. Janet received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Vision Impairment from the University of North Dakota. She re-ceived her Masters Degree in Severe Needs Vision and Orientation and Mobility from the UNC in 1992. She went back to UNC in the spring of 2010 and obtained certification in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education.
- ◆ **Shelley Moats** graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education/ Special Education with an emphasis in Vision. She has a Masters Degree from UNC in Special Education/Severe Needs/Vision and also certified in Orientation & Mobility at UNC. Shelley has worked teaching children who are visually impaired for over 25 years, and has specialized in a variety of areas within the field. Along with being certified in O&M she has also received her Colorado UEB braille certification. She has extensive knowledge of the IEP. She is an expert in functional vision assessments, working with students with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) and teaching technology to students with visual impairments. Shelley has spent most of her teaching career (22 years) with Douglas County School District, and was the team lead for 7 of those years. She enjoys working with teachers of the visually impaired and collaborating with class room teachers and school personnel to provide the best instruction for her students. Shelley recently retired from her full time work, but continues to contract with Elizabeth School District 2 days a month. Shelley and her husband Bill have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. She loves the outdoors, biking, running, and most of all spending time with her family and friends.
- ◆ **Wendy Stoltman** may be retired on paper, but is a continuously learning and growing teacher for children who are blind/visually impaired or deaf-blind. She is a TVI, a COMS, and a Certified Low Vision Specialist. She was a TVI / COMS in Brighton School District for many years. Prior to teaching children with visual impairment/blindness, Wendy taught students with emotional/behavior disabilities. She is a member of the CDE Low Vision Evaluation Team and a TA Specialist with the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. Her passion is for kids with multiple disabilities and the creativity it takes to enable them to participate fully in their schools and communities. Wendy also has strengths in assessing visual functioning communicating the results to team members, and planning and implementing teaching strategies and accommodations in the classroom. She has skills in training on the use of low vision devices. Wendy is originally from Madison, Wisconsin and is a true Badger and Green Bay Packer fan inside and out. In her spare time, Wendy enjoys gardening, hiking, biking and working out.



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



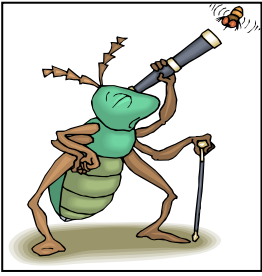
Low Vision Evaluation Clinics for School year 2018-2019

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator
Southern Region	September 26-27, 2018. All paperwork due September 12.	Debbie Haberkorn
Western Region	October 19-20, 2018. All paperwork due to October 4.	Angela Sims
Northern Region	November 8-9, 2018. All paperwork due October 22.	Carol Love Liz Wieder
Metro Region	February 21-23, 2019. All paperwork due February 6th.	Nancy Knight
Southern Region	March 9, 2019. All paperwork due February 19th.	Debbie Haberkorn

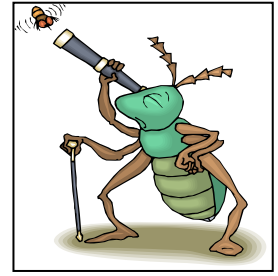
Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Rubric for Students

Please consider the use of the following type of rubric for your students attending Low Vision Evaluation Clinics this school year. The rubric provides the student with an opportunity to be more prepared for the clinic and its outcome. This is an important aspect of self-determination as an individual with an eye condition resulting in low vision.

	4	3	2	1
Prepare for Low Vision Clinic	Writes at least 5 questions for Dr. Theune, which discuss pros and cons of current devices, new devices to try, and questions about visual impairment and independently asks questions at the	Writes at least 4-5 questions for Dr. Theune, which discuss pros and cons of current devices, new devices to try, and questions about visual impairment, but does not ask questions at exam.	Writes 0-3 questions for Dr. Theune, which discuss pros and cons of current devices, new devices to try, and questions about visual impairment.	Does not prepare for Low Vision Exam.



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Meet Your Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team

Debbie Haberkorn - Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Coordinator: Debbie has been with the Colorado Regional Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinics since 2012. In this role, she coordinates the dates and procedures of the clinics with the local site coordinators and oversees the involved paperwork. Debbie is also the Southern Region LVE site coordinator. These roles are built into her CIMC responsibilities with CDE support for her over-time on the clinic work. Under Debbie's watch, her teammates are well prepared for each clinic and reports are disseminated on a timely basis at the conclusion of the clinics.

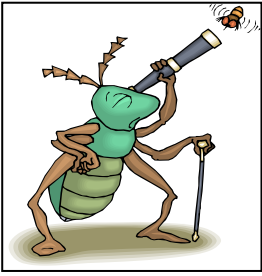
Jim Olson—Low Vision Therapist: Jim is a TVI, COMS, and Certified Low Vision Therapist. In his current role as the CIMC Program Coordinator, he understands how many Colorado learners with low vision can benefit from magnification tools. Jim works closely with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) on materials and tools that benefit learners with low vision. Jim was a TVI / COMS with El Paso 11 District before his work at CSDB. Jim serves as a Low Vision Therapist for the southern region clinics and has been with the LVE Regional Clinics since the beginning of our history!

Wendy Stoltman—Low Vision Therapist: Wendy is a TVI, COMS, and a Certified Low Vision Therapist. Wendy shares that she has been lucky to be a member of the LVE Clinic team since 2012. Her college education was from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Northern Colorado. She has been working with students with disabilities since the early 1980s, and taught in both the Madison Metropolitan School District and in Brighton School District 27J. She notes, "The combined skills of our team make an awesome whole, and make me excited to come to work each day. The team (Dr. Theune, Jim and Debbie) provides me with unconditional support which allows me to continue to grow and to learn. We each - and this includes the TVIs, students and their families have different strengths and different perspectives. When we come together to work with a child, we can often make positive change and that is very rewarding."

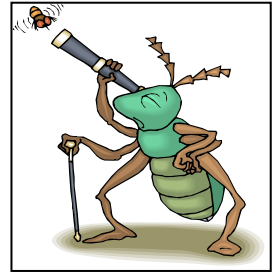
Thomas Theune - Low Vision Specialist – Optometrist: Tom says that he has been honored to be a part of the Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic since its inception in 1998. His role is to provide insight into proper devices and strategies that can assist students with visual impairment to access and read print and support literacy. When Tom is not traveling around the state to clinic sites, he is working in private practice as a low vision specialist in Colorado Springs. He is a 1985 graduate of Indiana University School of Optometry, and he practiced primary care optometry in Colorado Springs for seven years. After being diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa and experiencing his own vision loss, Tom chose to specialize in the field of low vision. He uses low vision devices and adaptive technology on a daily basis. This provides a unique perspective in relating to students and adults who have low vision.

He notes that the Colorado Regional LVE Clinic has helped him to better understand the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach in providing vision rehabilitation care. He respects the roles family, doctors, and educators play in helping students with visual impairments reach their full potential. He further shares that the LVE Clinics have broadened his perspective and heightened his awareness of the amazing abilities of students who are visually impaired, and he is honored to play a small role in helping to encourage and support these abilities





LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Who Should Have a Low Vision Evaluation?

By Wendy Stoltman

How do you know which of your students would benefit from a low vision clinic evaluation?

- * You order large print books for your student.
- * You order large print tests for your student.
- * You are enlarging every worksheet for your student.
- * You gave the student a magnifier without a prescription.
- * Your student has a whole drawer of unused low vision devices.
- * Your student has devices that were prescribed by a doctor, dispensed by you, but is not using them.
- * Your student with low vision is transitioning to a different educational program or location.
- * You are not certain which device should be used for which activity.
- * You want to be sure that your student has the best lighting options available.
- * The tablet or computer used at home or at school is not accessible to your student.
- * Your student can't see the board or street signs very well.

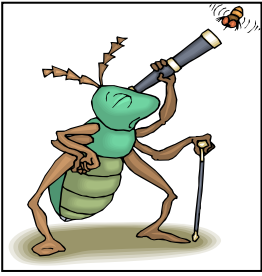
Please be aware that only Colorado public school students with a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) can participate in the Low Vision Evaluation Clinics, which are funded with federal IDEA funds.



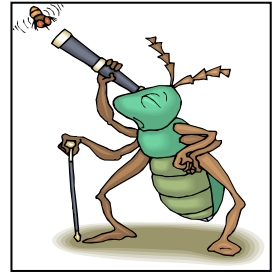
The goal of the Colorado Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics is to provide an examination that details whether your student / child will benefit from low vision devices that can be used in school, at home, and in the community. The student should be determined to have low vision ahead of the clinic based on a current eye care report. The other important consideration is that plans have been made ahead of the clinic to secure funding for prescribed devices.

First priority will be students who have not been evaluated in past years. With all of these considerations, we trust you are in good shape to determine if the student is definitely a candidate for a low vision evaluation during this school year!

If you should have a question about whether a child is appropriate to participate in the clinic, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Colorado Regional Low Vision Evaluation Team.



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Paperwork Matters:

Because THIS Paperwork Does Matter

By Tanni Anthony

Picture our Low Vision Evaluation Coordinator, Debbie Haberkorn, getting all of the paperwork organized per child in a timely manner ahead of the clinic. She is thrilled to have each folder ready to go for the team, knowing they will put the information to good use. She is pulling together massive information across a docket of students for each of the clinics and is grateful that she does not have to chase information when she has so many other tasks to complete to get ready for the clinic.

Now picture Dr. Tom Theune, our optometrist specializing in low vision examinations and devices, as he reads the completed Eye Doctor Form, that was submitted on a student who has been accepted in one of the Colorado Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics that will be held during this school year. He nods appreciatively, as he gleans important information that will help him understand and customize his evaluation of each student. He knows that he is not replacing the regular eye care specialist of the child, so this information is critical to his knowledge and understanding of the child's diagnosis, it's implications, the presence of refractive error, etc. Dr. Theune then checks the name of the TVI involved and thinks to himself, "Thank you, (insert maybe your name here!), for taking the time to provide me with this valuable information."

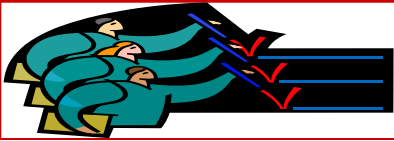
Finally picture our low vision therapists, Jim Olson and Wendy Stoltman, reading the submitted Parent and TVI Pre-Evaluation Form content detailing the history, abilities, and functional needs of each student. This information guides the game plan further for the upcoming low vision evaluation - what will be done specifically to learn about the student and his or her needs for magnification.

The LVE Clinic paperwork is a transfer of information from the people who know the child best to people who have a precious 90 minute session with the child. It takes a team to build a meaningful low vision evaluation. The paperwork for the clinic is the first step. Without it, the clinic appointment cannot happen for the student and the appointment will be need to cancelled. Due dates for the clinic paperwork to be in Debbie's hands are posted in each newsletter. Without paperwork being completed in a timely and quality manner, the low vision evaluation exam will be compromised.

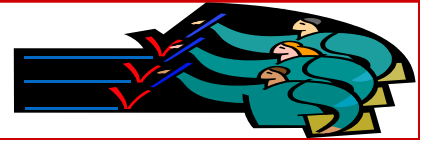
Simply put, the clinic paperwork is about needed information and a courtesy to our LVE team who are dedicated to providing a thorough and meaningful evaluation of each child. If you plan on bringing a student to one of the regional clinics, please understand this expectation. Schedule time well ahead of the clinic to secure the needed information, including content on the form that requires both TVI and parent input. Be proactive, be timely, and be thorough.

Your efforts are expected, needed, and appreciated!





CHECK IT OUT!



SAVE THE DATE

Vision Resource Expo—Sponsored by DVR

When: Thursday, October 4, 2018

9:30 am - 1 pm OPEN HOUSE

Vendor set up – 9:00 a.m.

Where: Library 21C-Pikes Peak Library District

1175 Chapel Hills Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Accessible from Bus Route 39**

What: Resources for individuals with vision loss.

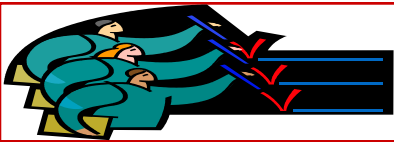
Vendors ranging from Assistive Technology,

Rehabilitation Services, Guide Dogs, Daily Living Skills, and more!

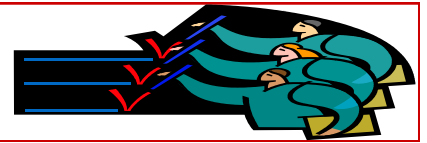
Have questions?

Call Colorado Springs DVR at 719-635-3585 ask for Liz Robertson or

Megann Karch or call Pueblo DVR at 719-544-1406 ask for Muck



CHECK IT OUT!



A New Day for the American Printing House for the Blind!

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) recognizes that people will have questions about what changes to expect and who to contact as the transition from AFB Press to APH Press completes on July 1. Operations will continue, especially sales of existing titles, but also including continuing development of books in process. However, development of titles may also slow initially, as they acquire all the needed information from AFB Press and ramp up operations at the new APH Press.

Commitment: APH is honored to continue the legacy established by the AFB Press and its essential publications, including *the Foundations* series that has proven critical to our field. APH is taking on the responsibility to ensure the timely publication of these books.

APH Federal Quota: AFB Press titles will not be quota eligible.

Titles Currently in Development: They will complete work at APH on the titles that are currently in development at AFB Press.

New Titles and New Revisions: APH is concentrating on the transition of all Press operations from AFB and integration into APH. They will not be taking on new projects in this interim period. Beginning in 2019, APH will work with the APH Press Advisory Council and seek input from stakeholders to develop the publication schedule for new titles and revisions going forward.

APH Press Advisory Council: An Advisory Council comprised of APH staff, leaders, educators and practitioners in the field will offer advice. This group will be led by Dorinda Rife, APH Vice President of Educational Services and Product Development, and will include George Abbott, AFB Chief Knowledge Advancement Officer and current head of the AFB Press, to insure continuity through the transition and establishment of the APH Press. This group will also provide counsel on new titles going forward.

Editor's Note: Tanni has been asked to be a member of the APH Press Advisory Council.

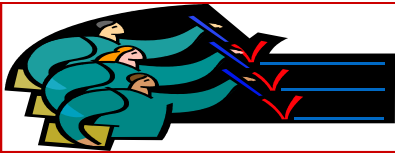
APH has established the Press@aph.org as the contact for the team responsible for the transition of editorial operations to APH. Updates will be provided periodically during the transition. Because this is a team effort, with multiple staff working on the transition together, they ask that any editorial questions or inquiries be sent to this email address. As the transition proceeds, APH will provide additional information.

Orders and Customer Service: The AFB store stopped accepting online orders for AFB Press publications after June 22, 2018. The AFB store will remain in place for ordering JVIB subscriptions and online articles.

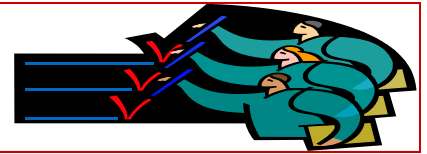
To place orders for books, please contact APH at po@aph.org to place an order using a purchase order or info@aph.org for general questions or comments.

Customers can also call Customer Relations at 1-800-223-1839 to place an order by phone.





CHECK IT OUT!



PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Contact: Joel Snyder, PhD

(202) 467-5083

jsnyder@acb.org

BENEFITS OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION IN EDUCATION CONTEST

Young People Who Are Blind Write Reviews of Film and Video

September 4, 2018 - The American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project (ACB-ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are co-sponsoring an exciting opportunity for blind and visually impaired young people, in four categories from ages 7 to 21: the Benefits of Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Contest.

Kids love movies! Multimedia experiences are integral to public, private, and special education curriculum. Audio description provides access to all the visual images of the films and videos that sighted young people enjoy.

Students choose an audio-described film or video from the more than 6,000 titles available through DCMP - visit www.dcmp.org Or a young person who is blind can borrow an audio-described video or film from a library, and dozens of audio-described films videos are available for purchase through the ACB-ADP's website at www.acb.org/adp/dvds.html

Reviews can be submitted in writing, in braille or via an audio recording. Register for the contest at: <http://listeningislearning.org/badie.html>. Entries can also be submitted via e-mail or postal mail (submissions from outside the United States are fine) to:

ACB-DCMP Benefits of Audio Description In Education

1703 N. Beauregard St. Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22311 USA

E-mail: jsnyder@acb.org Phone: (202) 467-5083

Resources and Materials

New Adapted PE and Sport Instructional Videos

University of Wisconsin La Crosse has posted a series of instructional videos. Their hope is that these videos will assist with teaching students with disabilities in various physical education and sport settings. The videos are produced by graduate students at UW-La Crosse who are specializing in teaching adapted physical education. Each video is also accompanied by a detailed document on the topic (see PDF link after title of each video)". You may access these videos and documents at:

<https://www.uwlax.edu/center/cdhapa/adapted-physical-education-instructional-videos/>



Colorado Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

CAER Board Members and Key Activities

The current slate of CAER Board members are as follows:

President:	Nancy Cozart
Past President:	Brent Batron
Treasurer:	Heather Solberg
Secretary:	Michelle Robinson

Members at Large: Sally Burch, Paula Conroy, Ann Cunningham, Barb Galgano, Jeannie Lei, Tim Richard, and Michelle Robinson.

Thanks to each of these good people for leading us to sustain a strong Colorado AER Chapter!

For membership information to join the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AERBVI), please go to: <https://aerbvi.org/>

Your new or continued membership makes us Colorado AER Strong.



Key Activities in Process:

Be watching for information on the sale of White Cane day tee shirts. That is coming out soon! Check out the opportunity for a mini-grant—applications are due in November. Also they are working on regional trainings for this school year.

Be in touch with the CAER Board on ideas for other support and fund raising activities.



Licensure Requirements for TVIs and COMSs

Colorado Initial Licensure in the Endorsement Area of Visual Impairment

For information about Colorado licensing requirements in the area of Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment and/or School O&M Specialist, please refer to the information contained within Educator Licensing's Endorsement Requirements page at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

All candidates for initial educator licenses in Colorado have historically been required to take and pass one or more of the PLACE Content Assessments. Candidates for the special education endorsement in Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment were mandated previously to pass the *PLACE Educator Content Assessment for Special Education Specialist: Severe Needs – Visually Impaired*. This particular content assessment is suspended currently as a licensure requirement. Whether this specific test will be revised to include a section specific to Unified English Braille or is fully replaced with another test as a licensure requirement is yet to be determined.

At this time, it is important to note there is not a Professional Services and Educator Licensing Unit content test that requires a candidate for the Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment to demonstrate braille competency as a requirement of licensure. It is further important to note that if such a content test is reinstated, it does not replace the Colorado Braille Competency Test administered through the Exceptional Student Services Unit. This latter test is not tied to CDE licensure.

Braille Competency Testing Requirements

All licensed teachers endorsed in the area of visual impairment, including those individuals employed on a temporary status (Temporary Educator Eligibility-TEE) who are completing their university program in visual impairment), must have a valid CDE Certificate of Braille Competency or a CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency on file with their current administrative unit of employment.

The CDE Certificate of Braille Competency must be earned no later than the end of the first instructional year, but no later than May 31st of the first instructional year, with a Colorado administrative unit as a teacher of students who are blind/visually impaired. If a TVI moves from one Colorado administrative unit to another, the expectation of first-year braille competency demonstration does not “reactivate” from year-to-year. The testing clock begins with the first day of Colorado employment as a TVI.

For more information about Colorado's braille competency requirements, please go to:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

CDE Licensure Requirement for O&M Specialists

If you are working in a Colorado administrative unit as a School Orientation and Mobility Specialists, please know that you **MUST** have a current CDE license as a special services provider: School O&M Specialist. If you do not have this license, your scope of O and M services should be severely restricted to those skills that could already be taught by a TVI. Without this license, you are placing yourself and your AU at risk for O&M-related liability. There is no temporary or emergency licenses for School O&M Specialists.

Questions or need some assistance? Contact Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



Licensure and Endorsement Specific to Visual Impairment

For information about the endorsement requirements for the Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth -21, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

<p>Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21: (9.02)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Must hold a Master’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution in special education visual impairment or its equivalent, as determined by the Department. ✓ Must have completed a program from a regionally-accredited institution for special education specialists: visually impaired that includes prescribed field experience requirements
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For information about the endorsement requirements for the School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

<p>School Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ages 0-21: (11.03)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution ✓ Completion of a preparation program from a regionally-accredited institution for school orientation and mobility specialists ✓ Completion of practicum or internship, which must be in a school setting and equivalent to a minimum of 320 hours, full-time, under the supervision of an Academy of Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) licensed orientation and mobility specialist. ✓ Passing of the ACVREP exam ✓ Hold a current and valid ACVREP orientation and mobility certificate
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Educator Talent Website

Check out the Educator Talent website! Their mission is to develop, deploy and support talent management and human capital development strategies for districts and schools so that the most effective educators are in every school and classroom and all students are prepared for college, career, and life.

Check it out at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent>



EDUCATOR TALENT

Effective Educators for Every Student and
Effective Leaders for Every School

Revised Teacher Rubric and Support Materials

Teacher Rubric Revisions: The State Model Evaluation System for teachers has undergone significant revisions, informed by multiple stakeholder groups including a rubric Technical Working Group, a scoring Technical Working Group and more than 30 focus groups conducted throughout the state. All changes were piloted by 50 districts and BOCES in Colorado during the 2017-18 school year.

Data collected from these pilot sites informed changes to the State Model Evaluation System Teacher Rubric. This included updates to the Teacher Quality Standards and Elements that were approved by the State Board of Education at the June 2018 meeting. Visit the State Model Evaluation System for Teachers webpage for resources. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent>

Special Services Provides Rubric Revisions - Coming Soon

A similar review and revision process of all nine Special Services Providers (SSP) State Model Evaluation System Rubrics (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/specialservicesproviders>) will be conducted by the EE Office. This review process will include:

- A Steering Committee assembled over the summer/fall of 2018 to create a common set of Standards and Elements aligned to the educator
- Once a common set of Standards and Elements are created, work groups will realign or create pro-fessional practices under those Standards and Elements
- A statewide feedback period during the 2018-19 school year that will include focus groups
- Anticipated State Board of Education approval of rule revisions in the winter/spring 2019
- Anticipated statewide implementation of the revised SSP rubrics in the 2019-20 school year

For additional information and updates about the SSP rubric revision process, visit the State Model Evaluation System Revisions webpage.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/smes-revisions#teacher-rev>

Educator Effectiveness Video Library Available

The EE Office has released a video library of Colorado educators teaching lessons to students throughout the state. The videos are intended to provide educators and evaluators with a way to view Colorado teachers in action and spark conversations to develop a deeper understanding of quality instructional practices and better collaboration of instructional expectations. A variety of content areas, grade levels and quality of instructional practices are available for viewing. To use the system, contact your district's local access manager (LAM). For more information, visit the EE Video Library webpage.

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/eevideos/login>



COLORADO
Department of Education

CDE Happenings

THE SPARK

A Newsletter Filled with
Information and Inspiration
for Colorado Teachers



COLORADO
Department of Education

Sign up for this monthly e-newsletter to receive up-to-date information and resources on state-level issues, events and actions involving teachers. For back copies of the SPARK newsletter and/or to sign up to receive this monthly newsletters. Please go to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/thespark>

The CDE Vision:

All students graduate ready for college and careers, and are prepared to be productive citizens of Colorado.

The CDE Mission:

The mission of the Colorado Department of Education is to ensure equity and opportunity for every student, every step of the way.






Calendar of Events

2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018

September 24-25	CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment — Front Range Community College Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
October 4	Vision Resource Expo —Pikes Peak Library—Colorado Springs, CO Contact: Liz at 719-635-3585 Colorado Springs DVR or Muck at 719-544-1406 Pueblo DVR
October 4-6	APH Annual Meeting —Louisville, KY Contact: www.aph.org
October 9	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
October 10	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting —CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
October 15	White Cane Day! (At CSDB and A School District Near You!)
October 15	Tools for Life Applications are Due! To apply go to: https://www.seethefuture.org/tfl-app-info.html
October 19	Northern Region TVI / COMS Meeting —Longmont Contacts: Liz Wieder (wieder_elizabeth@svvsd.org) and Carol Love (love_carol@svvsd.org).
October 25-28	National Federation of the Blind of Colorado State Convention —Denver Marriott Visit: NFBCO— http://www.nfbco.org/
November 1-3	Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference —Fort Collins Contact: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/pep
November 13	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
November 14	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting —CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
November 15	Metro TVI / COMS Meeting in Cherry Creek Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
December 11	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us






Calendar of Events

2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018

December 12 Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org

2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019

January 8	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
January 9	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
January 17	Braille Challenge Southern Region—CSDB Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
January 24	Braille Challenge Metro Location – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org
February 7	Metro TVI / COMS Meeting in Denver Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
February 13	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
February 21	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
March 1	Deadline for the See the Future Scholarship Applications To apply go to: https://www.seethefuture.org/efl-app-info.html
March 13	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
March 14	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
April 10	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
April 18	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us






Calendar of Events

2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019

April 25	Metro TVI / COMS Meeting - location to be determined Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
May 8	Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
May 16	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind (Tentative Date) Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
June 20	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us

2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020

June 22-25	International Mobility Conference (IMC) 17 – Gothenburg, Sweden For more information: http://ips.gu.se/english/cooperation/conferences/imc17
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64th ANNUAL STATE NFB– COLORADO CONVENTION October 25 through October 28, 2018

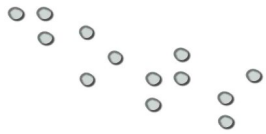
The 64th Annual National Federation of the Blind of Colorado State Convention will kick off Thursday, October 25 in Denver, Colorado. The conference will continue all weekend long with exhibitors, informative presentations, seminars, and much more. Join the largest gathering of blind men and women in Colorado to make a difference in the lives of the blind across the state!

Please note that the Convention is still being planned and not all sessions are finalized. Stay tuned for a full Convention Agenda slated to be released in early October. Key highlights include seminars on leadership, chapter building, and exciting developments in NFB-Newsline®. There will also be social activities including a fully accessible escape room and other live entertainment and an Annual Banquet with a keynote address from the National Representative, Pam Allen.

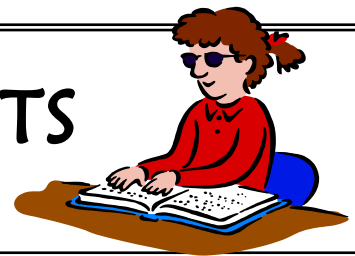
The 2018 convention will be held at the Marriott Denver South at Park Meadows located at 10345 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree, CO 80124.

Check the web site at www.nfbco.org for more information about convention registration, including the registration fees. Early bird registration is available until October 12.

For questions, contact Lisa Bonderson at lkb@labarrelaw.com.



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Colorado Braille Competency Committee

Please keep this information handy, if you are in the process of earning your initial Colorado Braille Competency Certificate or working on your renewal modules. The CDE Braille Competency Committee members serve as part-time employees of the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services Unit for their important role in: (a) developing, refining, and reviewing braille competency testing and support materials, (b) proctoring test sessions for initial braille competency and renewal modules; (c) providing approved mentoring to test candidates, and (d) other duties as needed to support our UEB competency process across the state.

The committee consists currently of the following individuals:

Tanni Anthony	(303) 866-6681	anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
Nancy Cozart	(303) 905-4074	ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
Christine Maynard	(719) 229-4981	christine.maynard@asd20.org
Brenda Shepard	(303) 995-7913	brendashep@comcast.net
Sarah Sonnier	(970) 245-5228	sonnier.sarah5@gmail.com
Julie Wetzstein	(303) 819-7887	jwetzstein@jeffco.k12.co.us

As far as regional representation for initial testing and renewal modules, Christine Maynard is our southern region proctor and Sarah Sonnier is the western region proctor. Nancy Cozart, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein are metro proctors for the renewal modules. Brenda Shepard is our northern proctor for renewal modules. Tanni Anthony is the proctor for initial braille competency testing for the metro and northern area.

The Practice Test items have been posted on the braille competency webpage—that information and other resources can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

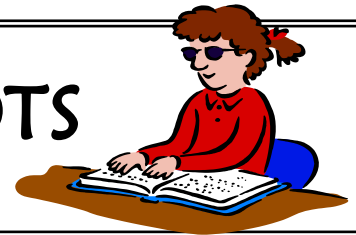
Braillewriter Repair

Mark Carpenter is available for braillewriter repair. His contact information is: Phone: 719-634-8720 and Email: carpdiane@yahoo.com





CONNECTING THE DOTS



Meet Your CDE Braille Committee!

Tanni Anthony assumed leadership of the CDE Braille Committee many years ago! The current committee still has two founding members (Brenda and Sarah). We owe a debt of gratitude to former first members Jan Barron and Lucia Hasty. Two state tests have been created (with periodic updates) under the guidance of this committee. The first testing materials were specific to English Braille American Edition. A major update occurred in 2016-17 to convert all testing materials to the Unified English Braille Code. Braille is what got Tanni into our profession. She took the Braille course at her undergraduate university just thinking that she should know braille as a well-prepared elementary and special educator. She had no idea there was even a program on that campus to train TVIs! She went on to complete the program ... and the rest, as they say, is history!

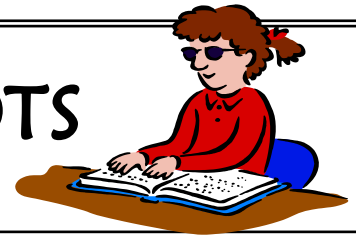
Nancy Cozart has been a teacher for students with visual impairment and a certified O&M specialist for 31 years. Nancy shares, "There are many aspects in my professional role that I treasure, but one at the top has to be my love for braille instruction. We have to continue to advocate for quality instruction and services for children to acquire literacy skills as their peers do! I have been fortunate to have at least one braille student each year. The format changes, but I have offered Braille Clubs for my student's peers to learn about braille. Sometimes, it is an informal "lunch bunch" and other times it has been an after school extra-curricular activity. The students get to be involved in implementing the activities and the clubs have had a positive impact in the schools." Nancy has been a presenter at local, regional, state and national trainings on topics including daily living skills, pre/braille skills, braille assessments and advocacy. She joined the CDE Braille Committee in 2016.

Christine Maynard began learning braille with her son, along with his teacher Anna Swenson in Northern Virginia in 1991. In 2004 she joined Academy District 20 School District as a Vision Para and became Colorado Braille Certified. Since that time Christine earned her Library of Congress Braille Certification in UEB. In 2016 with the change in braille code, Chris joined the CDE Braille Committee. She has contributed in creating and proofreading many of teaching and testing materials. Christina has mentored and proctored in the Southern Region and presented at CSDB for refresher updates.

Jo Elizabeth Pinto has been blind since birth. She learned to read braille by touch as a public school student. She got her certification as a literary proofreader in the mid-nineties and started working for the state of Colorado in 1997. In 2005, she began proofreading textbooks full-time from home for clients across the country. Jo is our proofreader of the Colorado Braille Competency Test braille samples. In addition to literary braille, Jo Elizabeth can read both Nemeth and Spanish, which keeps her services in high demand. In addition to her work, Jo Elizabeth enjoys baking, reading, and gardening with her preteen daughter, and creative writing. She published her first novel, *The Bright Side of Darkness*, in 2015.

To see more about the award-winning novel, available in paperback, Kindle, and audio formats, please click <http://www.amazon.com/author/jepinto>

CONNECTING THE DOTS



Meet Your CDE Braille Committee!

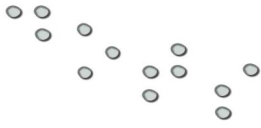


Brenda Shepard began on the CDE Braille Committee when the first braille competency test was developed following enactment of the Colorado Braille Bill. Brenda worked as a TVI/ COMS for 20 years and then moved into administration, which included supervision of Program for Students Who are Visually Impaired for another 12 years. Brenda taught braille instruction in public school, as well as two semesters at UNC in 1981. Following her retirement in 2012, she worked to develop and teach the Refresher Braille coursework to train teachers in UEB code, development. She has contributed greatly to the refinement of the 15 Braille Renewal Modules / Braille Competency Test materials, and mentoring TVIs to develop Braille knowledge and skills.

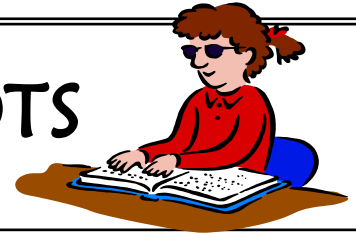
Sarah Sonnier has been on the braille committee since its inception. She helped to write the original Braille Competency Test for the State of Colorado, updated the test when Colorado switched to UEB, wrote Braille Renewal Modules, and served as a mentor for TVIs in braille. Sarah also served on the CDE committee to give advice to the former national test publishers of Colorado's State English Language Arts and Math assessments regarding the adaptations needed to make the tests accessible to braille readers. Sarah primarily serves braille test candidates on the Western Slope. She was a TVI for 40 years in Mesa Valley School District in Grand Junction and taught braille to many students during her career. Sarah is now retired and continues to administer competency tests, modules, and offers mentoring for teachers, and consultation services for CDE.

Julie Wetzstein has been working as a TVI /COMS for 25 years, and has taught braille to students in all but one year of the twenty-five. She worked previously as a Brailist for Boulder Valley Schools, she also did contract braille transcribing for the CIMC and Wyoming Schools (all concurrent with teaching). Julie has also taught braille to a number of paraprofessionals during her teaching tenure.

As a member of the CDE Braille Committee for 15 years, Julie has mentored new teachers, proctored State Braille Competency Testing and renewal modules, and helped develop braille testing materials. Julie shares that she thoroughly enjoys teaching and producing braille, and especially enjoys transcribing math materials into Nemeth with accompanying tactile diagrams. Over the years, Julie has attended numerous conferences and workshops on all aspects of braille production, and am currently pursuing her Library of Congress certification for the UEB Code.



CONNECTING THE DOTS



**"BRAILLE IS KNOWLEDGE,
AND KNOWLEDGE IS POWER."**

- LOUIS BRAILLE-

New on the CDE Website!

Thanks for Brenda Shepard taking a lead role with the support of our other members of the CDE Braille Competency Committee, we once again have practice test documents on the CDE website specific to visual impairment, including blindness. Currently the following information is posted on this webpage:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

Colorado Braille Competency Practice Test Documents

The Colorado Braille Competency Practice Test Documents are only for approved candidates for the Colorado Braille Competency Test. Approved candidates include licensed teachers of students with visual impairments or braillists employed in a Colorado public school district. If a copy of the Practice Test documents is needed in braille format, please email Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or call her at (303) 866-6681.

- ◆ [Colorado Braille Practice Test - Example Multiple Choice Questions \(PDF\)](#)
- ◆ [Colorado Braille Practice Test - Answers to Example Multiple Choice Questions \(PDF\)](#)

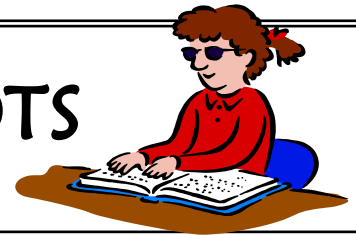
Over the next few months, we will also post several practice braille samples. This work is designed to support new test takers or others who may want to go in and “test the waters” of their UEB knowledge and skills.

Another excellent resource for learning /testing your UEB braille skills is the *Literary Braille Transcribing Course*, which is online and free. Under a contract with the National Library Service for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS), the NFB Jernigan Institute offers this course in literary braille transcribing to teach students to transcribe print materials into braille.

Check it out at: <https://nfb.org/braille-transcribing>

Thanks for all you do in our state to ensure that we offer our students high quality braille instruction and braille instructional materials. Braille distinguishes the TVI and braillist from all other professions. It is what we do! It is literally what we do.

CONNECTING THE DOTS



Share the Love!!



The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) has partnered with Kellogg's Rice Krispies Treats to create Braille and audio "Love Notes" so parents can share messages of love and encouragement with children who are blind. The Love Notes are an accessible version of the writable wrapper on Rice Krispies Treats, which allows parents to include messages in their children's lunch boxes.

The new, accessible Love Notes are available in two forms: Braille stickers and re-recordable audio boxes. The Braille stickers are heart shaped to match the space on Rice Krispies Treats writable wrappers for written notes.

Each Braille sticker sheet includes eight uplifting messages for parents to share with their children, such as "you've got this" and "love you lots."

The re-recordable audio box holds a Rice Krispies Treat and, when opened, plays a ten-second, pre-recorded message. The audio box messages can be re-recorded over a thousand times. A video has been produced to promote this partnership, featuring two of our members, Eme and Tabby Mitchell.

The plan is to distribute over 6,000 sheets of Braille stickers and co-branded NFB/Kellogg's Rice Krispy Treats alphabet cards, as well as over 1,500 re-recordable audio boxes.

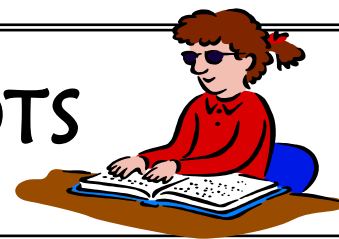
A print/Braille welcome letter will go out in every delivery to reinforce the importance of Braille and ensure everyone gets the same welcome. The National Federation of the Blind will be prominently featured on the website about this program, including a link to subscribe to our Imagineering Our Future newsletter.

The participation in this initiative reflects the commitment to helping parents raise blind children who are prepared to be confident, happy, and productive members of society, as well as a strong emphasis on Braille literacy and accessibility.

To check out the website and order Love Notes for your child, visit www.ricekrispies.com/lovenotes



CONNECTING THE DOTS



BANA Publication Announcements!

August 2018

2018 Revision of Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts:

BANA recently approved a revision of *Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts*. This document is accompanied by a change log that lists updates to the original *Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts* that was posted in June 2016. Individuals who downloaded the file prior to the new April 2018 version should note the indicated changes. Both the guidelines document and the change log are available in BRF and PDF versions on the Nemeth Code page of the BANA website. The direct link to that page is <http://www.brailleauthority.org/mathscience/math-science.html>.

Provisional Guidance for Chemistry Notation Using Nemeth in UEB Contexts:

BANA's Chemistry Committee developed this provisional guidance for transcribing chemistry using Nemeth in UEB contexts. BANA welcomes feedback from users of this publication. Just click on the "Send a Message to the Chemistry Committee" link and enter your comment or question. *Provisional Guidance for Chemistry Notation Using Nemeth in UEB Contexts* is available in both BRF and enhanced PDF.

The direct link to that page is <http://www.brailleauthority.org/mathscience/math-science.html#chem>.

Hard Copy Versions of Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription:

Hard copy print and braille versions of *Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription, 2016* are available for purchase from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). To order, go to: American Printing House for the Blind: www.aph.org; 1-800-223-1839

Print: Catalog number 7-09653-00

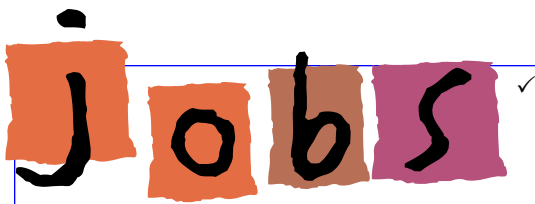
Braille: Catalog number: 5-09653-00

Hard Copy Versions of Music Braille Code, 2015:

Hard copy print and braille versions of *Music Braille Code, 2015* are available for purchase from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Ordering information is provided below. American Printing House for the Blind: www.aph.org; 1-800-223-1839

Print: Catalog number 7-09651-01

Braille: Catalog number 5-09651-01



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with current vacancies for the upcoming 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 O&M 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 of students with visual impairments and COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist.

Northern Region Jobs:

We are in serious need of TVIs / COMSs in the northern region. Please work to encourage paraeducators with a BA / other discipline colleague to join our field !

- ✓ **TVI/ COMS** (2 FTE) for Greeley Schools. For more information, please contact Nyla Buffington at nbuffington@greeleyschools.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5 FTE) for Weld County RE-FJ School District. For more information, please contact Rachael Browning at rachael.browning@weldre5j.org or (970) 587-6815

Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** - Please be in touch with Chelle Lutz for CSDB Openings in the School for the Blind. She can be reached at (719) 578-2100 or clutz@csdb.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE) There is a new opening in District 49. The contact person is Nancy Lemmon at nlemmond@d49.org

Metro Region—Jobs

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (2 FTE) openings in Denver Public Schools. For more information, please contact Julie Hemphill at (720) 595-6126 or JULIE_HEMPHILL@dpsk12.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS (1 FTE)** opening in Cherry Creek School District. For more information, please contact Frances Woolery Jones at fwoolery-jones@cherrycreekschools.org

TVIs and COMSs—If you are getting ready to retire, please do not let your CDE teaching and support services licenses expire, as you are in a great position to keep contributing in the future with part-time or substitute work. Please keep in touch with Tanni, if you are interested in this type of work after your retirement!

Please keep Tanni in the communication loop about the status of your vacancies. We need to work together to fill these positions! If you have ideas about how best to home-grow and/or support new personnel to the field, let your Vision Coalition representative know!

just for PARENTS



About the THRIVE Center

The THRIVE Center exists to provide parents with information and training about disabilities; parent and children's rights under the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and other relevant laws; and resources in the Denver Metro area.

THRIVE Center staff:

- Provide information and skills by educating parents through advising calls, trainings, workshops, collaborating with other agencies, a comprehensive offering of resources through our website and bi-monthly e-blasts.
- Mentor parents to become independent advocates and increase their participation in school activities.
- Offer outreach to under-served groups to identify families that have children with disabilities that need information, support and services.

They also provide a variety of services: (a) parent advisement; (b) workshops; (c) IEP Volunteer Program, (d) leadership program, and (e) community and policy outreach.

For more information about the THRIVE Center and their services, please go to:

<http://www.thrivectr.org/community-parent-resource-center/>

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind

NFADB is the largest nonprofit organization serving families of individuals who are deaf-blind (combined vision and hearing loss). Their website can be found at: <https://nfadb.org/>

The organization provides information on deaf-blindness, hosts webinars on a variety of topics, and is very involved in national conferences to support families of children with deaf-blindness.

Special Education Guide

This website has many resources for families who are looking to learn more about special education. There is a special education dictionary that defines many relevant terms in parent-friendly language. Additionally there are resources on early intervention, career path options, and informative disability profiles.

The weblink is: <https://www.specialeducationguide.com>

just for PARENTS



Center for
Parent Information
& Resources

Center for Parent Information and Resources

This website was produced under U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs No. H328R130014.

It has links to Resources and Parent TA Centers.

Check it out at: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

There is a specific webpage for Visual Impairment, Including Blindness.

Go to: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/visualimpairment/>

Native America Parent Technical Assistance Center (NAPTAC) New Guide

NAPTAC begins the New Year with a new publication, Reaching Native Youth with Disabilities. This is a comprehensive resource guide that explores how Parent Centers can plan and conduct outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native youth with disabilities. The guide supports Parent Centers in addressing the federal priority of connecting directly with youth who have disabilities and increasing their capacity to be effective self-advocates. A wide array of resources unique to Native youth with disabilities is now available to you in this new guide.

For more information and to access the guide, go to:

<http://naptac.org/resources/for-parent-centers/reaching-native-youth/>

Supporting Children by Improving Family Outcomes

This 13-minute video describes the importance of supporting families, collecting data on family outcomes, and using the data to improve the program. The video highlights how three families who received early intervention benefited from support to their family. From the DaSy Center, the ECTA Center, and collaborating partners.

To watch the video, go to: <http://dasycenter.org/supporting-children-by-improving-family-outcomes/>

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a national membership organization of parents and friends of blind children reaching out to each other to give vital support, encouragement, and information. They have over 3,000 members in all 50 states and divisions or parent contacts in about 30 states plus Puerto Rico. For more information: <https://nfb.org/Parents-and-Teachers-of-Blind-Children>



TRANSITION INFORMATION

Postsecondary and Workforce Pathways: A CDE Resource

Colorado's Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Description - *"Colorado high school graduates demonstrate the knowledge and skills (competencies) needed to succeed in postsecondary settings and to advance in career pathways as lifelong learners and contributing citizens".*

The Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Pathways supports districts, BOCES, and schools in thinking through the personalization of a pathway through high school and on to college and career for every student in Colorado. This office seeks to support all the ways students can enter into postsecondary education – including certificate programs, apprenticeships, 2- and 4-year degrees, military, and career training.

Through partnerships with higher education and the community college system, the Office of Postsecondary Readiness will work to strengthen, coordinate and align programs and policies to support students through to success in entering college and the workforce.

Their mission is to assist and support districts and schools to ensure that secondary students in Colorado graduate high school ready for college and career. Their goals include: (1) Ensure that students are engaged and graduate ready for success in postsecondary and the workforce; (2) Build capacity to meet student needs for postsecondary readiness; (3) Lead the nation in policy and positive outcomes—Become a National Model Leader; (4) Identify, scale and support LEAs to adopt evidenced –based best practices; and (5) Ensure policies are clear and well communicated; (6) Identify and utilize champions of Postsecondary Readiness; and (7) Promote adequate resources and staffing

Key news from this CDE office include information on the **Recommendations for work-based learning in Concurrent Enrollment** (per House Bill 15-1275), which are now posted and include information for implementing coursework related to pre-apprenticeship programs and internship programs as part of Concurrent Enrollment. For more information, go to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/concurrentenrollment>

For more information about the work of the Office of Postsecondary and Workforce Pathways, go to:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary>



TRANSITION INFORMATION

Colorado's 1st Annual Youth Leadership Forum

The first Colorado Annual Youth Leadership Forum happened this past July. The Exceptional Student Services Unit helped support and contribute to the planning of this exciting and successful event.

The Colorado Youth Leadership Forum (CO-YLF) is an innovative, 5-day on campus conference for Colorado high school juniors, seniors, and young adults ages 16-26 with disabilities, as they prepare for and experience transition to adulthood. Students stay overnight in college dorms at Colorado State University Campus and experience living independently.

The forum is designed to foster personal growth and leadership skills through self-discovery, the CO Youth Leadership Forum provided dynamic, experiential learning opportunities to assist each individual as they identify and embrace their strengths while planning for their future.

Check out a video from this first effort.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7h8T8oIrYA>

A Guide to Visual Disabilities: How Colleges Help People with Visually Impairment Succeed

Go to this webpage to learn more about a variety of resources for students who are college-bound. There is information about scholarships, technology resources, tips for effective and successful college learning.

The webpage is: <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/colleges-helping-visually-impaired-students/>

KEEPING IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Each edition of the *Keeping in Touch Newsletter* is posted on line at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Vision_Activities

Since there are so many links in each newsletter, this electronic version will give you direct access to the content tied to each link.



New Faces and New Places

New Faces

- ◆ **Jennifer Caster** is the new TVI / COMS in Brighton School District. She is a native Texas and has never lived anywhere else until moving from Austin to Colorado a couple of weeks ago. She earned her Bachelor's degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University. She has 15 years of experience working for Region 7 Education Services Center, County Co-Ops and multiple school districts. She has been a TVI / COMS for over 10 years and has also been a classroom teacher. Jennifer shared that she is very close to her three boys and always loves spending quality time with them. She also enjoys music, traveling, being on the water, cooking, and exploring new places. Jennifer notes that she is excited to be in Colorado and all it has to offer. We are glad to have you in Colorado, Jennifer!
- ◆ **Christina Cortes** is serving in the position of TVI, secondary Science and Assistive Technology instructor at CSDB. She has a double bachelor's degree in English Education and Creative Writing, and is currently working towards her Master's degree at UNC in Special Education, emphasis in blindness/ visual impairment. Christina shares that she is totally blind herself, a wife and a mom, and a lover of the written word. When she is not teaching, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading a great novel, playing the guitar, or taking a run. She shares that she is looking forward to being part of the CSDB team this coming school year, and can't wait to see what adventures are ahead. Welcome on board, Christina!
- ◆ **Colleen Lydon** shares that she is so excited to be the new TVI in the Cherry Creek School District! She completed her undergraduate education at Illinois State University where she earned her TVI degree in May of 2018. During this experience, Colleen worked at Clinical Placements where she provided itinerant vision services in Springfield, IL and Decatur IL, and residential vision services at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, IL. After moving to Colorado in July 2018, she reports that she has quickly learned to enjoy hiking and kayaking. Colleen shares that she is looking forward to her future in CCSD and is grateful to be welcomed into this TVI community. We are so glad to have Colleen in Cherry Creek School District and in Colorado!
- ◆ **Leonor Rosser** is a new TVI at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. She completed practicum hours at Anchor Center over the summer and now will be on board with them! Her family moved to Boulder from Miami Beach, FL five years ago. She studied at Florida International University and is a Licensed Special Education Teacher with over 12 years of experience. She is currently completing an MS degree to become a TVI through the University of North Dakota. She will be done in the spring. Leonor has a background in Music, Art, Sensory Integration, & Montessori Education. She loves reading, exercising (kick boxing, cycling, hiking, dancing), traveling and good, healthy food. So glad to see Leonor contributing all of her talents with families and our youngest learners
- ◆ **Savannah Spicer** is the new early elementary teacher for the blind at CSDB. She recently graduated Florida State University, studying visual disabilities education. She used to be a gymnast, and later a cheerleader and played Water Polo in college. She enjoys reading and learning new things and cooking. Savannah shares that she loves working with younger children and focusing on teaching independence! She has a lot of school spirit and it just so happens bulldogs are her favorite animal! She hopes to get to know all the students at CSDB and make strides to teach them new skills and independence. We welcome Savanna to Colorado!



New Faces and New Places

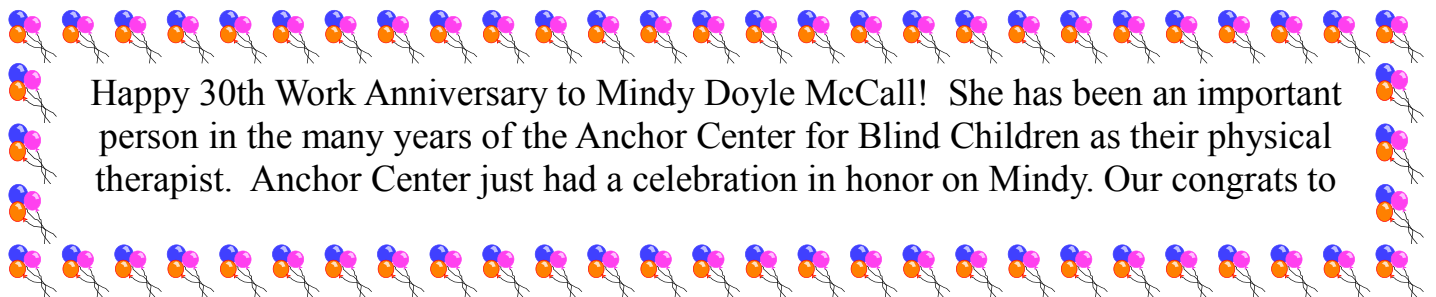
New Places!

- ◆ **Janet Anderson** is on board with CDE as a BVI Coach. She is also working with A Shared Vision. Janet retired last year from Aurora School District.
- ◆ **Suzan Barlow** is back in action after a year long retirement from DPS. She is now working with A Shared Vision.
- ◆ **Trina Boyd Pratt** continues to serve as an important TVI / COMS contractor. She is working with Denver Public Schools, Windsor School District, and two private schools.
- ◆ **Danielle Burden** is offering contract TVI and COMS services in the northern region. She will be working with Sterling, Johnstown, Estes Park, and Centennial BOCES. Danielle worked previously in the Greeley School District.
- ◆ **Lorraine Chavarria** is now working for Adams 12 School District. She was working for Developmental Pathways before this school year.
- ◆ **Abby Horner** is now working in Greeley School District as a TVI and COMS. She was formerly with Centennial BOCES.
- ◆ **Shelley Moats** is on board with CDE as a BVI coach. She is also working part-time with Elizabeth School District. Shelley fully retired from Douglas County School District last year.
- ◆ **Janis Mountford**, who retired from Greeley School District last year, has a new business called Beyond Next Steps, LLC. She is offering both TVI and COMS contracting services. Janis has a contract with will be working with Windsor School District. Janis is also working with A Shared Vision.
- ◆ Welcome back to **Robin Tueting** who has returned as a COMS with CSDB. Robin was out of country while her husband was stationed at Ramstein Air Base near Kaiserslautern, Germany. They lived off base in Ramstein Village. They were there from January of 2015 -February 2018. So glad to have you back with us, Robin!

Editor's Note: How thrilling to see so many of our newly retired TVIs/COMSs still working for us in Colorado!

A Familiar Face in a Familiar Place – But with a Spin

- ◆ **Cheryl Leidich** officially retired in August, but will be back with Denver Public Schools as a substitute for a TVI on maternity leave. So great to have Cheryl still with us!





colorado connections

- ◆ **Stephanie (Smithgall)** and Derek Crosen were married on June 16, 2018 in upstate New York on Canandaigua Lake. Stephanie shared, “We couldn’t have asked for a better day!” All the best to the happy couple!
- ◆ Congratulations to **Genevieve Francouer Anderson** and her husband David on the birth of their beautiful son Benedict Thomas, who was born on July 23, 2018 weighing in at 9 pounds and 1 ounce and at 20.5 inches long. What a special blessing!
- ◆ The 2018 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs was held on June 26-27, 2018 in Denver. A huge thank you to our esteemed speaker and special friend, **Mark Campano** from the Delaware Program for Children with Deaf-Blindness who presented on the topic of *How We All Learn: The Brain, the Body, and Communication*. We had an impressive turn-out with over 100 participants. It was great to have a number of TVIs in attendance. They included: **Tanni Anthony, Elaine Brown, Peg Collins, Nancy Cozart, Elsa D’Angelo, Elise Darrow, Morgan Fitzpatrick, Lisa Hebbert, Shelley Moats, Callie Robinson, Wendy Stoltman, and Berta Wiedemeyer.**
- ◆ Colorado was well represented at the AER International Conference that was held in Reno, NV in July. In attendance were: **Brent Batron, Dan Burke, Paula Conroy, Julie Deden, Amy Gunning, Kay Ferrell, Scott LaBarre, Jamie Lugo, Garrett Mumma, Tim Richard, Michelle Robinson, and Amber Rundle Kahn.** Presentations were given by Kay on the *Two Year Results from the MRVI Intervention Project*; Paula on *The Benefits of Extra Curricular Activities for Youths with Visual Impairments*; and Paula and Amber on *Just Behave! Teacher Needs: Let’s Prepare TVIs to Address Challenging Student Behavior*. Amy Gunning had a poster session: *Out with the Fluorescents!* NFB hosted a reception. Well done, Colorado!
- ◆ Yay for Colorado TVIs who attended the *Get Ready – Get Set: Write – Read – Communicate – GO!* training that was held on August 3-4 and sponsored by the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. In attendance were: **Tanni Anthony, Sally Burch, Morgan Fitzpatrick, Melissa French, Barb Galgano, Donna Keale, Nancy Knight, Ashley Ives, Will Reynolds, Wendy Stoltman, and Liz Weider.** Our field was well represented at this multi-disciplinary attended training.
- ◆ Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the following TVIs who took the time to submit a letter of support for the new proposal to fund the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. It was so appreciated and added great value to the grant proposal. **Angela Sims, Elaine Brown, Silvia Correa –Torres, Peg Collins, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, Diane Fitzkee, Carol Love, Teresa O’Brien, and Mike Plansker.**
- ◆ Hats off to **Sarah Goodfellow** and **Vicki Chinski,** TVIs with Poudre School District for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency! Thanks to proctors **Brenda Shepard, Nancy Cozart, and Chris Maynard** for braille proctor / mentor work over the summer months.
- ◆ So pleased to have a good turn out of TVIs/ COMS at the two recently offered day trainings in Colorado Springs and Denver on the Communication Matrix: **Mickey Abercrombie, Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Kerry Auld, Sherry Bainbridge, Jill Bookwalter, Sally Burch, Melinda Carter, Jayme Cusimano, Elsa D’Angelo, Donice Fennimore, Melissa French, Barb Galgano, Jeff Hadala, Karin Hensel, Stefanie Hamilton, Lisa Hebbert, Ashely Ives, Amber Rundle Kahn, Donna Keale, Paula Landry, Tonie Libby-Claire, Carol Love, Janis Mountford, Sara Noel, Jim Olson, Natalie Palmer, Kimala Rein, Wendy Schlageter, Melissa Shular, Wendy Unwin-Watson, Sarah Vallese, Leslie Kelly-Watrobka, Julie Wetstein, Chloann Woolley, and Berta Wiedemeyer.**



Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment at www.ASharedVision.org

- For referrals - referrals@ASharedVision.org (general mailbox)

Anchor Center for Blind Children at <https://anchorcenter.org/>

- For referrals or information contact (303) 337-9732

Janet Anderson at (303) 208-0761 or cjanderson2@comcast.net

- CDE TVI / COMS coach

Deb Andrews at (719) 234-1386 or Deborah.Andrews@ASD20.org

- Southern TVI/COMS Region Representative at Vision Coalition Meetings

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 State Assessments, Standards, READ Act, School Readiness Act, etc.
- CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- CO Services for Children and Youth w/ Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- Eligibility of Learners with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness or Deaf-Blindness
- IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, instructional accommodations
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- *Keeping in Touch (KIT)* newsletter
- Licensure and Highly Qualified Status of TVIs and COMSs
- Listservs for TVIs/COMs, braillists, and UEB
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BVI and/or deaf-blindness
- READ Act and guidance specific for learners with blind/visually impairment or deafblindness
- State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Conference
- Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs
- Vision Coalition

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

- Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs



Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



Deb Branch at (719) 578-2168 or dbranch@csdb.org

- CSDB Distance Learning Coordinator

Kevin Brouard at (719) 866-3019 or kbrouard@usaba.org

- USABA Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Dan Burke at (303) 778-1130 or dburke@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) at (719) 578-2196

- CIMC webpage: www.csdb.org; click on “Programs and Services,” then “CIMC”
- CIMC Email Accounts:
 - cimcregistrations@csdb.org: student “Registration” and “Exit” forms
 - cimceyereports@csdb.org: eye health records on file in school district for eligibility verification
 - cimcaphorders@csdb.org: “APH order form” submissions & questions
 - cimcbookorders@csdb.org: braille & large print book sourcing inquiries, questions & orders
 - cimcbrailers@csdb.org: “braille request” & “braille repair” form submissions & questions
- (719) 578-2195, Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.org
- (719) 578-2196, pilot phone number (rings all computer-based Skype for Business #s simultaneously, but you cannot leave a voicemail at this number)
- (719) 578-2197, Debbie Haberkorn, dhaberkorn@csdb.org (braille transcriber, textbook status)
- (719) 578-2198, Teresa Kilbury, tkilbury@csdb.org (shipping/receiving related ?s, APH orders)
- (719) 578-2199, Lori Wilson, lwilson@csdb.org (student registrations/exits; Federal Quota Census)
- Address faxes to “CIMC staff” and send to CSDB Admin Office; FAX number: (719) 578-2239.
- Mailing Address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559



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

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

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

- CSDB School and Community Liaison
- Braille Challenge – Denver Site



Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



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

- Colorado AER Chapter President
- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor
- Metro TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- Metro TVI / COMS Regional Meetings

Jayne Cusimano at (719) 640-4869 or jcusimano@csdb.org

- CSDB BVI Outreach Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

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

- Interim Director of CSDB Outreach (BVI / DHH) Program and Services
- Regional Student Activity Mini-Grants

Kathy Emter at (719) 578-2177 or kemter@csdb.org

- CSDB Director of Special Education
- CSDB and Enrollment Questions

Debbie Haberkorn at (719) 578-2197 or dhhaberkorn@csdb.org

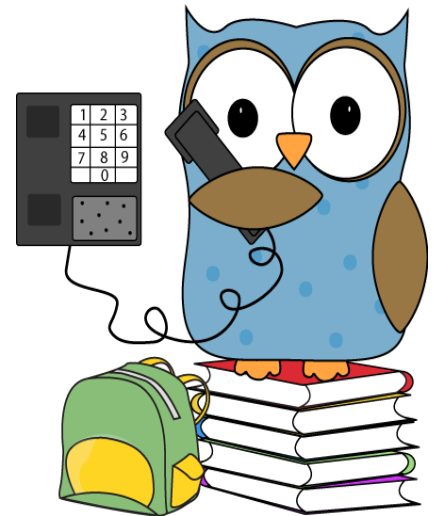
- Site Coordinator for Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- Statewide Low Vision Clinic Coordinator

Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6605 or herrera_g@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project
- Free TA Support for Learners with Deaf-Blindness, Their Families, and Service Providers

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

- CSDB Superintendent
- CSDB Intern Placement





Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



Julia Hutchinson at 386-562-6594 or hutchinson_julia@svvsd.org

- Northern Region TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

- CSDB Strategic Plan – Outreach Co-Facilitator
- CSDB Sensory Safari
- CSDB Summer Enrichment Program

Julie King at 970-389-5929 or julie.king@eagleschools.net

- Western Slope TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Nancy Knight at (303) 909-3291 or nknight@lps.k12.co.us

- Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Site Coordinator

Paula Landry at (303)-335-6554 or plandry@ASharedVision.org

- A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment
- A Shared Vision Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Jeannie Lei at (720) 810-1363 or jlei@cherrycreekschools.org

- Metro TVI / COMS Regional Meetings

Carol Love at (970) 590-3464 or Love_Carol@svvsd.org

- Co-Site Coordinator for Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Northern Region TVI / COMS Meetings

Jamie Lugo at (719) 578-2108 or jlugo@csdb.org

- Braille Challenge – CSDB
- CSDB School for the Blind Principal
- CSDB School for the Blind representative at Vision Coalition Meetings

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

- Colorado Talking Book Library

Christine Maynard at (719) 229-4981 or christine.maynard@asd20.org

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor



Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



Shelley Moats at (720) 272-8308 or spmoats@gmail.com

- CDE TVI / COMS coach

Terrie Noland at (325) 260-3911 or tnoland@learningally.org

- Learning Ally – authorized CO NIMAS file user

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

- CIMC year-round registration of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired
- Federal Quota Census registration (first Monday in January annually)
- Ex Officio Trustee for the Colorado Department of Education Federal Quota Accounts
- CIMC braille & large print book orders and APH loan materials
- Authorized NIMAS file user for CO
- CIMC National Braille Association Conference stipend Scholarships for Brailleists
- CIMC Professional Lending Library
- CIMC representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- Colorado Regional Low Vision Clinic Therapist

Michelle Reed at (720) 883-7154 or michele.reed@state.co.us

- DVR Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Tim Richard at (719) 229-8000 or timrichard@isightrehab.com

- CAER Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Callie Robinson at (303)-377-9732 or crobinson@anchorcenter.org

- Anchor Center for Blind Children Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

- Site Coordinator for Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Jacky Skinner at (719) 578-2102 or jskinner@cldb.org

- Executive Assistant to the CSDB Superintendent and the CSDB Board of Trustees





Who Ya Gonna Call?

School Year 2018-19



Joyce Smith at (719) 327-4076 or jsmith@csdb.org

- ◆ CSDB Library and Media Specialist

Sarah Sonnier at (970) 245-5228 or Sonnier.Sarah5@gmail.com

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Wendy Stoltman at (303) 885-3030 or wastoltman@aol.com

- CDE TVI / COMS Coach
- Colorado Regional Low Vision Clinic Therapist
- TA Specialist for CO Services to Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project

Dr. Tom Theune

- Optometrist specializing in Low vision at Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- See the Future Fund (see contact information in newsletter)
- Tools for Life (see contact information in newsletter)

Liz Wieder at (970) 303-502-4309 or wieder_elizabeth@svvdsd.org

- Co-Site Coordinator for Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Northern Region TVI / COMS Meetings

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

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child will or 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, please notify Tanni of 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 ESSU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80202. Or you can leave a voice message for Tanni at (303) 866-6681. Thank you so much!

State of Colorado Department of Education

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MAIL TO: