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KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
 of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
 October 2019

All Rise!

By Tanni Anthony

“All rise” is a great maxim of our education expectations and outcomes, as well as a mantra for inclusivity, opportunity, and achievement. Both general education and special education legislation has been founded and nurtured on the principle that all children, every child matters. No matter race, religion, gender, or disability, each child is important and expected to achieve. Everyone’s success in school matters.

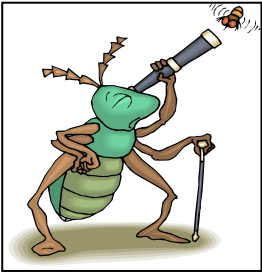
There are many ways to measure success in school. One of the earliest metrics involves the ability to read and write, which is a key focus in the early grades. Colorado’s READ Act was designed to support all children to have high quality and, at times, very customized reading instruction across kindergarten through third grade. The tools used to screen for reading challenges have been expanded to address the accessibility needs of children with disabilities. For children with blindness/visual impairment, we expect the collaboration of general education teachers, reading specialists, and teachers of children who are blind/visually impaired. It truly takes a team of experts to ensure appropriate accessibility of the screening / diagnostic testing tools, their proper administration, and accurate interpretation of the results. The first two tenets are necessary in order for the third tenet to be completed with accuracy. These efforts are essential to ensure that the child is understood for his or her abilities and possible challenges to learn to read.

For all children to rise, we must know (and have evidence of) their current knowledge / skill set in the continuum of learning to read and then what supports and next steps are needed to elevate progress toward reading achievement. There are no exceptions to appropriate assessment and instruction and certainly not because of disability, whether it is physical, sensory, cognitive, or emotional.

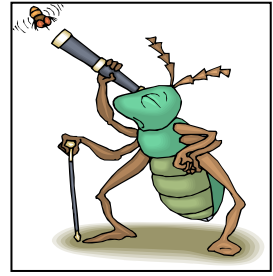
As you make your way through the READ Act requirements this fall, pay heed to the both the process and the results, which must include appropriate instruction in reading for all K-3 children regardless of whether the child is on grade level or significantly behind. Be a part of the high expectations, the solutions, and the outcomes. Make ALL RISE your mantra to ensure this is exactly what happens as the school year progresses, as do our children.

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LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Low Vision Regional Evaluation Clinics for School Year 2019-2020

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator
Northern Region	November 7 –8, 2019 All paperwork due October 24, 2019	Liz Weider
Metro Region	February 19-22, 2020 All paperwork due February 5, 2020	Nancy Knight

Western and Southern Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinics

By Debbie Haberkorn

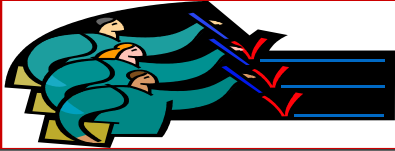


Western Region LVE Clinic: The Western Region Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic was held September 20th at the Hawthorne Building in Grand Junction, Colorado. Six students from three Administrative Units (Colorado River BOCES, Mesa County Valley District 51, and Uncompahgre BOCES) received evaluations. Four parents and four TVIs (Brooke Miller, Erin Noe, Angela, and Meghan Crosby), attended the evaluation with their students.

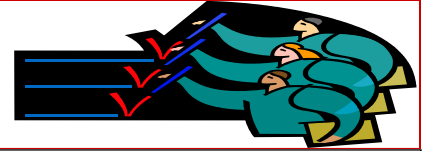
The LVE Clinic team would like to thank Angela Sims, Erin Noe, and the staff of the Hawthorne Building. Angela Sims deserves extra kudos for her efficient coordination of this clinic. Thank you to all of the TVIs and parents who brought students!

Southern Region LVE Clinic: The first Southern Region Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic was held September 27th at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, Jones Hall. Six students from two Administrative Units (El Paso County District 49 and CSDB) received evaluations. Three parents and five TVIs (Erin Warden, Lori Mattick, Julie Vinikoor, Nancy Barron, and Savannah Spicer) attended the evaluation with their students. Thank you to parents and TVIs who took time out of their busy day to support their students. Also thanks to Debbie Haberkorn for organizing the clinic.

Thank you to our fantastic low vision clinic team: Debbie Haberkorn, Jim Olson, Wendy Stoltman, and Dr. Tom Theune. Thanks to CDE for approving the funding for the clinics and to CSDB for housing the equipment, providing the van, and funding the off-work day hours for Jim and Debbie. It takes a team effort and we are grateful for all who make our regional low vision evaluation clinics a success for our students in need of low vision devices.



CHECK IT OUT!



SAVE the DATE

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado—65th Annual State Convention

October 31—November 3, 2019

Fort Collins—Hilton Hotel

The weekend will include activities 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.

The 2019 National Federation of the Blind Convention will be held at the *Fort Collins Hilton*—425 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526. To reserve your room by phone call: (970) 482-2626 and mention that you are with the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado.

For more information, check out: www.nfbco.org

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)

iCanConnect (ICC) is a federal grant that provides free telecommunications equipment and training to those who qualify. There is no minimum or maximum age requirement, just that the person can benefit from this technology that allows for sending an email, texting, chatting on the phone, communicating through online tools, such as Facetime, Skype, Facebook, etc.

iCanConnect provides free equipment including smartphones, tablets, computers, screen readers, braille displays, and more to individuals who meet federal disability and income guidelines.

Each person receives an individual assessment to determine the best equipment solutions. For more information or to receive an application, please contact JoAnne Hirsch, Communications Technology Program Manager, at (303) 866-2097 (voice), (720) 949-7457 (VP) or joanne.hirsch@state.co.us. Or go to the Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind's (CCDHHDB) web site at <https://ccdhhdb.com/index.php/ctprogram/>.

Save the Dates

Winter and Summer Mountain Mobility with the Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte

* Winter Dates: February 13-17, 2020

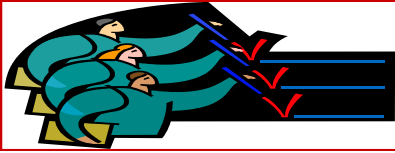
* Summer Dates: June 21-26, 2020

The Adaptive Sports Center (ASC) in Crested Butte will be running winter and summer adventure sports camps specifically designed for youth who are blind or visually impaired. The winter camp will bring youth together for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding and other fun activities in the Rocky Mountains. The summer camp activities have not been determined yet but could include mountain biking, backpacking, rafting, rock climbing, and hiking. These camps will focus on building confidence and making connections with others who share similar experiences.

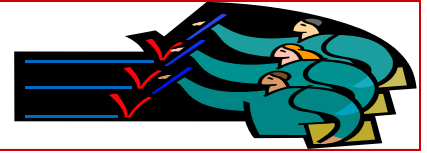
Connecting to the outdoors will be a large aspect of the camp, yet campers will also focus on a variety of invaluable life skills throughout the weekend. Campers will shop for groceries, prepare their own meals, and interact in a team setting. Additionally, campers will advance their orientation and mobility skills as they learn to travel through the bustling town of Crested Butte, Colorado.

These camps are for middle and high schoolers with visual impairments who are independent in their care of activities of daily living and want to experience some adventure. Spots are limited and paperwork should be turned in as soon as possible. Expect to see paperwork for winter camp in the next couple of months.

For more information and questions contact Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org



CHECK IT OUT!



“Tools for Life”

for Colorado Residents

Application Deadline: October 15, 2019

Providing financial assistance to families of visually impaired and blind 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 and community. These tools will help support literacy and the pursuit of higher education.

Application and Information (www.seethefuture.org)

Click on the “Tools for Life Application” link on the Home page.

If you have questions, contact Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund

719.471.3200 t_wtheune@comcast.net

“Education for Life”

for Colorado Residents

Application Deadline: March 1, 2020

Scholarships Awarded for:
Certificate Programs (i.e.. Massage Therapy) Associates (2 year) —Bachelors (4 year)—Masters and Doctorate Degrees
Up to \$42,000 will be awarded to deserving recipients.

Application and Information (www.seethefuture.org)

Click on the “Education for Life Application” link on the Home page.

If you have questions, contact Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund

719.471.3200 twtheune@comcast.net

EdgGuide Micronavigation Technology Launches in Denver, Enabling Greater Autonomy for People who are Blind/Visually Impaired

Blind Institute of Technology, CACI, Denver Museum of Nature & Science collaborated to develop and launch groundbreaking system

Beginning September 16th, 2019 people with blindness/visual impairments have a new way to experience the Denver Museum of Nature & Science thanks to EdgGuide, a micronavigation system that allows near pinpoint accuracy for indoor navigation.

“Widespread adoption of technology like EdgGuide is key to solving the opportunity gap for people with disabilities seeking to participate in the modern world,” said Mike Hess, founder and executive director of the Blind Institute of Technology, who has been blind since he was in first grade. EdgGuide levels the playing field by unlocking a new level of accessibility for physical spaces, offering an unparalleled user experience for people who are blind or visually impaired. Using wall-mounted anchors, a wearable tag and an iOS application, the EdgGuide system allows those with visual impairments to independently navigate through a public space, providing point-of-interest information along the way with an accuracy of 20 centimeters. The feature senses where a user is standing and offers detailed information about exhibition elements and other Museum amenities.

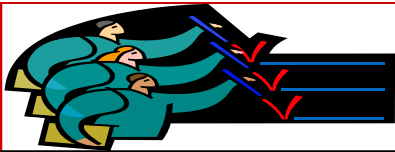
“Every day, the Museum team works to provide meaningful experiences for everyone who comes into contact with us. EdgGuide allows us to take a giant step forward in providing ways for individuals with visual impairments to independently go where their curiosity leads during their visit,” said George Sparks, President and CEO of the Museum.

CONTACTS

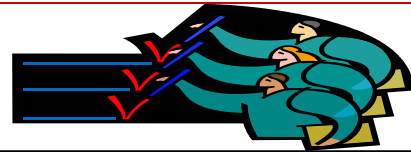
Denver Museum of Nature & Science | Maura O’Neal: 303.370.6407, maura.oneal@dmns.org

Blind Institute of Technology | Mike Hess: 303.995.6453, mike@blindit.org

CACI | Jody Brown: 703-841-7801, media@caci.com



CHECK IT OUT!



PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

BENEFITS OF AUDIO DESCRIPTION IN EDUCATION CONTEST -- "BADIE"

Young People Who Are Blind Write Reviews of Film and Video

The American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project (ACB-ADP) and the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) are continuing their co-sponsorship of 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! Movies, videos, and other forms of multimedia are, these days, integral to public, private, and special education curriculum. If you're a young person who can't see or can't see well, audio description provides access to all the visual images of the movies that sighted young people enjoy.

Students choose an audio-described film or video from the more than thousands of 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—Contact: Joel Snyder, PhD

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

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

⇒ DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: **Friday, December 6, 2019**

Contest winners in each category will be chosen by January of 2020, and the grand prize winner will receive an iPad Mini! Each first-place winner will receive a \$100 iTunes gift card. Second-place winners will receive a \$50 iTunes gift card, and third-place winners will receive a \$25 iTunes gift card. Each supporting teacher who has a first-place winning student will be awarded a \$100 Amazon gift card.



TEACHCVI

TEACHCVI is a partnership that aims to create collaborative tools for teachers and health care professionals. It is meant to build a bridge between teachers / educators and health care professionals, so can work together to benefit children with cerebral visual impairment (CVI) (<https://www.teachcvi.net/>)

- CVI screening tools can be found at: <https://www.teachcvi.net/screening-tools>
- CVI teaching tools can be found at: <https://www.teachcvi.net/training-and-teaching-materials>

Resources and Materials

Toolkit for School Nurses

Brain Links' goal is to provide professionals with current, research-based tools and resources needed to:

- Increase identification and awareness
- Enhance patient / family / student education
- Research Summary and References
- * Streamline care for people of all ages with traumatic brain injury
- * Produce the best outcomes

(https://www.tndisability.org/sites/default/files/BL%20Research%20Summary%20and%20References%20Final_0.pdf)

To meet these needs, they have put together a toolkit full of valuable, up-to-date resources to assist healthcare providers in how they treat and care for patients affected by brain injury. Each kit provides information for identification of brain injury, referral, management, and patient education.

Download the School Nurses Toolkit

(<https://www.tndisability.org/webform/download-toolkit-school-nurses>)

Important Technology Resources



Check out the Washington State School for the Blind's webpage on Statewide Technology Services. (<https://wssb.azurewebsites.net/welcome-to-wssb/services/statewide-technology-services/?fbclid=IwAR3lu8DKrO0buByUshc4fCNaGWz7Ip5-0DgffTcu6cR5OJG-DoJFZ31Cf0w>).

Bruce McClanahan has put together some wonderful resource information that is worth checking out! There are many handouts and presentations to download.

On the website are two resources to check out specific to Assistive Technology Videos:

- **American Foundation for the Blind assistive technology videos** (<http://www.afb.org/info/living-with-vision-loss/using-technology/assistive-technology-videos/125>)
- **Florida School for the Blind assistive technology videos** (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF2912AB963E70E53>)
- **Web Accessibility 101** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dod7tF9E3GA>)



The Colorado Chapter for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

CAER Board Members

President:	Nancy Cozart	cozart_n@cde.state.co.us
Past President:	Brent Batron	bbatron@cocenter.org
Treasurer:	Heather Solberg	hwparsons@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Michelle Robinson	blindsign@yahoo.com
Members at Large:	Paula Conroy	paula.conroy@unco.edu
	Stephanie Crosen	Stephanie.crosen@summitk12.org
	Barb Galgano	bgalgano@cherrycreekschools.org
	Jeannie Lei	jlei@cherrycreekschools.org

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.

Ongoing Activities for Members:

Monthly Newsletter- includes professional resources, calendar of board meetings, upcoming trainings & fundraisers, etc.

Check out the opportunity for a mini-grant— Grants are for upcoming conferences, student equipment, etc. Submissions can also be submitted for reimbursement of professional activities. Applications are accepted throughout the year but are **due by November 1st** each year for the board to review.

Reduced rates for ACVREP accredited trainings

The first meeting of the CAER board for the 2019-2020 session was on Thursday August 15th from 5:45-7:15 p.m. at the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) in Littleton. The board meetings are open and can be attended through Zoom if attendees are unable to join in person.

*** Be in touch with the CAER Board on ideas for trainings, other professional support and fund raising activities. You can contact an CAER board member at caerboard@gmail.com



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 Colorado Department of Education. ✓ 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>



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 restricted significantly 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

Orientation & Mobility



SAVE THE DATES
June 22—25, 2020

Challenges for an Inclusive Society

Gothenburg, Sweden 2020

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The International Mobility Conference presents the “Challenges for an Inclusive Society” to focus on identifying the worldwide needs in regard to orientation and mobility in order to achieve an inclusive society, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The conference will build on interdisciplinary professional and academic work. Here we want to bring together researchers, practitioners and people with visual impairment and blindness in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and collaboration across different perspectives on orientation and mobility (O&M).

Topics to include:

- ***Learning, activity and participation***—The conference will highlight individuals of all ages that have to learn to lead a new life due to visual impairment or blindness, and put focus on the meaning of orientation and mobility skills for successful learning, where psychological, perceptual, existential and social aspects will be emphasized. A special focus will also be on children, youths, their families and schools in the process of participation; thereby focusing on the learning individual, the surroundings or the individual’s lifeworld, as well as on the content to be learned.
- ***The relation between the human being and the environment***—Orientation and mobility will be highlighted in their relational aspects, focusing on both the human being and the environment. This interconnection will involve physical, as well as social aspects of the environment. Subtopics to be included will be the public transport system, architecture, inclusive design as well as societal attitudes and participation in various areas of life.
- ***VISION 2020***—“The Right to Sight” is the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness, which is a joint programme of the World Health Organization [WHO] and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness [IAPB]. The general themes of the IMC17 are in agreement with the VISION 2020 “A world in which nobody is needlessly visually impaired, where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential” (WHO). The aim is to enlighten everyday problems due to visual impairment and blindness and to uncover new and potential solutions for living a healthy life.
- ***Theory and development of orientation and mobility***— Learning and education are involved in both O&M rehabilitation practice and theory. We want to expand this knowledge further and will invite scholars and practitioners to contribute to an enhanced theoretical knowledge in the field of O&M relevant for various ages and groups. There is also a need for developed evidence-based methods that can meet the needs and life-situations for children, youths, adults and elderly people with visual impairment and blindness all over the world. Education initiatives to intertwine theory and practice can also be focused within this theme.

For more information, go to: <https://ips.gu.se/english/cooperation/conferences/imc17>



Calendar of Events

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

- October 22** **ECC Parent Workshop -Recreation and Leisure for Parents—** CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-TCAg_xqEpuyn7nG_16R-S5UckHsd5FBpNk7lv87qfacLpQ/viewform
- October 29** **ECC Parent Workshop - Recreation and Leisure for Parents of Older Children -** CSDB
 Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrPPCvft2Et4J0w-LfFtkidziHkJyPp9GqjmhXqVKjFa8TkQ/viewform>
- November 2** **CAER Training on IEP's—**NFB Convention in Fort Collins
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- November 7** **CAER Board meeting—**Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- November 7** **Metro Region TVI/COMS meeting—**Littleton
 Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
- November 13** **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting -** CSDB campus
 Contact: Jim Olson - jolson@csdb.org
- November 14** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting -** CSDB campus
 Contact: Jackie Skinner - jskinner@csdb.org
- November 16** **FAST: Cooking a Thanksgiving Meal! –** CCB in Littleton
 Contact: Martin Becerra-Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
- December 3** **ECC Parent Workshop - Social Skills for Parents of Younger Children -** CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKodSOVqKQF7vhGKUI8_Hf6PIPMrz_xR3SK_Qb-BFpnm7aVUA/viewform
- December 5** **CAER Board meeting—**Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- December 10** **ECC Parent Workshop - Social Skills for Parents of Older Children -** CSDB
 Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqILWq-YAjcwqJ8r6TiQWNPczRG53s5WN9cakmBRPCg4QGw/viewform>
- December 12** **Vision Coalition—**Anchor Center for Blind Children
 Contact: Tanni Anthony @ Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us





Calendar of Events



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

December 14, 2019 **FAST: NFB of Colorado Denver Chapter's Holiday Party** – CCB in Littleton
 Contact: Martin Becerra-Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org

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

January 15, 2020 **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting** - CSDB campus
 Contact: Jim Olson - jolson@csdb.org

January 16 **Braille Challenge**—CSDB
 Contact: Diane Taylor at dtaylor@csdb.org

January 16 **CAER Board meeting**—Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us

January 23 **Braille Challenge**—CSDB
 Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org

January 23-25 **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference**—Colorado Springs, CO
 Contact: Joyce Thiessen-Barret at Barrett_J@cde.state.co.us

January 28 **ECC Parent Workshop - Sensory Efficiency for Parents of Children with Low Vision** - CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXqpEaBz820KFHsK61bDiuhhEechSjBX_mdvRtCJOaw3AQZQ/viewform

January 30 **Metro Region TVI / COMS Meeting**—Aurora Public Schools
 Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org

February 4 **ECC Parent Workshop - Sensory Efficiency for Parents of Children who are Blind** - CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuNQSIICKwlr-6WDdeuDfozBzwZDE83v8H5W-RyIM0p_CJQ/viewform

February 6 **CAER Board meeting**—Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us

February 10 **Washington DC Seminar Great Gathering**—Washington D.C.
 Contact: www.nfb.org

February 13 **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB campus
 Contact: Jackie Skinner - jskinner@csdb.org

February 13-17 **Winter Mountain Mobility** —Crested Butte, CO
 Contact: Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org



Calendar of Events



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

March 1	See the Future Scholarship Applications Due For more information: www.seethefuture.org
March 3	ECC Parent Workshop - Self Determination for Parents of Children with Low Vision Vision - CSDB Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvseEmJV3aspjjaZophyN1VbAZT_RQLQg1fq4mN9XwX1HBA/viewform
March 5	CAER Board meeting —Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
March 10	ECC Parent Workshop - Assistive Technology Parents of Children with Low Vision - CSDB Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe9NcOc1X5uPj0QW_xd1awBljAsySS5w89u4NsMV26eve--A/viewform
March 11	Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting - CSDB campus Contact: Jim Olson - jolson@csdb.org
March 12	CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB campus Contact: Jackie Skinner - jskinner@csdb.org
April 2	CAER Board meeting —Colorado Center for the Blind or ZOOM Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
April 2-4	Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference —Grand Junction, CO Contact: Joyce Thiessen-Barret at Barrett_J@cde.state.co.us
April 7	ECC Parent Workshop - Independent Living Skills for Parent of Younger Children - CSDB Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6MTOhW0Ylfr7hceoC6EhxiSzdRcC4woF8hFD50naXVyf3ng/viewform
April 9	CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB campus Contact: Jackie Skinner - jskinner@csdb.org
April 14	ECC Parent Workshop - Independent Living Skills for Parents of Older Children - CSDB Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5u7y8bFS1Oq1tuzT8DzzyWg7la5QEaUoqam8UzG7SD33CGQ/viewform
April 16	Metro Region TVI / COMS Meeting —Denver Public Schools Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
April 23	Vision Coalition —Colorado Talking Library Contact: Tanni Anthony @ Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us



Calendar of Events



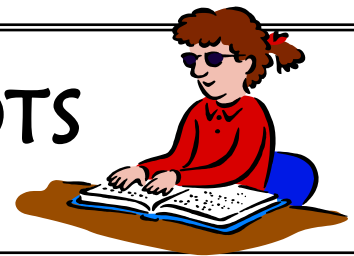
2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020

- May 1** **Cane Quest**— CSDB campus
 Contact: Lisa VanDam at lvandam@csdb.org
- May 12** **ECC Parent Workshop - Assistive Technology Parents of Children with Low Vision** - CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe9NcOc1X5uPj0QW_xd1awBljAsySS5w89u4NsMV26eve--A/viewform
- May 13** **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting** - CSDB campus
 Contact: Jim Olson - jolson@csdb.org
- May 14** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB campus
 Contact: Jackie Skinner - jskinner@csdb.org
- May 19** **ECC Parent Workshop - Assistive Technology Parents of Children who are Blind** - CSDB
 Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNPv5IFo7X2G1kXg2-NSThVfEk2P4SenH642BRi4INe2ZnQ/viewform>
- June 2** **ECC Parent Workshop - Orientation and Mobility for Everyone** - CSDB
 Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwFb-3HlsRo46J5zBwbk6P2uQgPNk2updFSI9H5trALI9v5Q/viewform>
- June 9** **ECC Parent Workshop - Closing Party for Everyone** - CSDB
 Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKfclpZhl19nEbmqvK08kvHOqqF_SG6IDA9q7k0ywXt670g/viewform
- June 21-26** **Summer Mountain Mobility** —Crested Butte, CO
 Contact: Mike Plansker at mike.e.plansker@adams12.org
- June 22-25** **International Mobility Conference (IMC) 17** – Gothenburg, Sweden
 For more information: <http://ips.gu.se/english/cooperation/conferences/imc17>
- June 30—July 5** **National Federation of the Blind Convention**—Houston, Texas
 Contact: www.nfbco.org





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	Cozart_N@cde.state.co.us
Christine Maynard	(719) 229-4981	Maynard_C@cde.state.co.us
Brenda Shepard	(303) 995-7913	Shepard_B@cde.state.co.us
Sarah Sonnier	(970) 245-5228	Sonnier_S@cde.state.co.us
Julie Wetzstein	(303) 819-7887	Wetzstein_J@cde.state.co.us

As far as regional representation for initial testing and renewal modules, Christine Maynard is our southern region proctor / mentor and Sarah Sonnier is the western region proctor/mentor. 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 greater metro 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

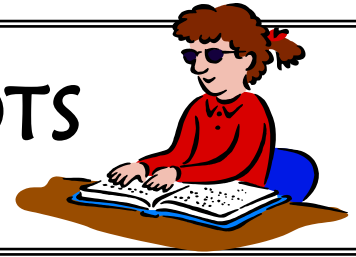
Braillewriter Repair

Mark Carpenter is available for braillewriter repair. His contact information is: Phone: 719-634-8720 and

Email: carpdiane@yahoo.com



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Braille Authority of North America

BANA Launches Podcast Series

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) is introducing a new Podcast called BANA Braille Bits. The podcasts are designed to keep the braille reading and writing public informed regarding the activities of the Braille Authority of North America including updates to codes and guidelines. The debut episode provides background that explains what BANA is and how the organization operates.

It is available immediately and can be accessed at <http://Brailleauthority.libsyn.com> or by searching for BANA Braille Bits with your favorite podcatcher. New episodes will be released and announced periodically

UNO in Braille



Mattel announced recently that fans of the game can now buy UNO Braille. With more than 7 million people who are blind or have low-vision in the USA, Mattel worked with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) to make the game more inclusive.

Mark Riccobono, President of the NFB said, “The fact that a blind person is now able to play a classic game of UNO straight out of the box with both blind and sighted friends, is a meaningful moment for our community.”

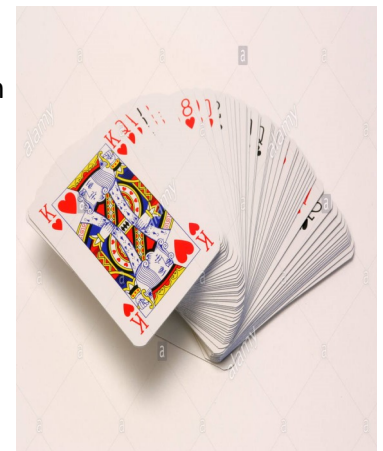
The deck will feature braille dots on the corner of each card and all players call out the play. The packaging of the deck also features braille on the front and back.

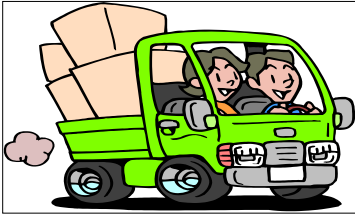
How to Braille Playing Cards

Check out this article on adapting a regular deck of cards to have braille, which was written by Dr. Penny Rosenblum on this topic. Easy to do with a lot of possibilities of card games with family and friends.

Check it out at:

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/strategies/how-braille-playing-cards>





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Transition into Adulthood

Life is full of transitions, and one of the more remarkable ones occurs when we get ready to leave high school and go out in the world as young adults. When the student has a disability, it's especially helpful to plan ahead for that transition. In fact, IDEA requires it. Check out a variety of resources on Center for Parent Information and Resources website - <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/transitionadult/>

Transition Goals in the IEP - <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/transition-goals/>

TRANSITION RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS

Career planning begins with assessment

The best decisions and choices made by transitioning youth are based on sound information including appropriate assessments that focus on the talents, knowledge, skills, interests, values, and aptitudes of each individual. This guide serves as a resource for multiple audiences within the workforce development system. <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/issues/professional-development/competency-area-3-assessment-and-individualized-planning>

Age-appropriate transition assessment toolkit

What is age-appropriate transition assessment, and why is it important? What informal and formal assessments are available? From NTACTION, the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition. https://transitionta.org/system/files/toolkitassessment/AgeAppropriateTransitionAssessmentToolkit2016_COMPLETE_11_21_16.pdf

Transition resource guide

The *Transition Resource Guide* contains frequently used low-cost/no-cost web-based transition resources available to professionals, students with disabilities, and their families. The guide contains resources for professional development, teacher use, student use, and parent/family use. Updated on a yearly basis. <https://tinyurl.com/ydbfe3xv>

Student-centered transition planning

This module from the IRIS Center will help users to better understand the benefits of student-centered transition planning, identify ways to involve students in collecting assessment information and developing goals, and be able to prepare students to actively participate in their own IEP meetings (est. completion time: 2 hours). <https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/tran-scp/>

Secondary transition: Helping students with disabilities plan for post-high school settings

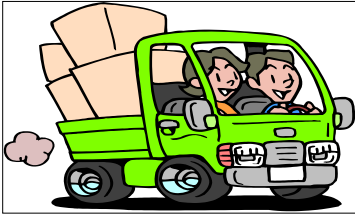
This module, also from the IRIS Center, focuses on the transition process from high school to post-secondary settings. Among other topics, it discusses IEP planning, engaging students in the process so as to become better advocates for their own needs, and the importance of outside agencies such as vocational rehabilitation. <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/tran/#content>

School counselors: Facilitating transitions for students with disabilities from high school to post-school settings

This IRIS Center module provides information for counselors and other education professionals to assist high school students with disabilities in the transition from the school environment to a post-school setting (est. completion time: 1.5 hours). <https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/cou2/>

Visit the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)

This is OSEP's funded center to support transition planning for youth with disabilities. <https://transitionta.org/>



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Transition to Postsecondary Education: A Guide for High School Educators

From the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html>

Transition Tips: A Database

Come search, browse, or add your own tip to the tips database. Tips are available in the major areas of transition planning and are submitted by practitioners describing transition practices and resources they have found helpful. <http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/tips/>

Youths Can Work and Still Receive SSI

Did you know that youth with visual impairments can often reap the benefits of working while retaining some or all their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments? Check out these **SSI and Work Fact Sheets**, written for youth with visual impairments who receive SSI benefits and their parents, that provide general information about several SSI work incentives, examples of calculations, and links to more detailed information. The sheets are available in two formats on the Mississippi State University National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision website. Check it out at: <https://www.blind.msstate.edu/our-products/transitionresources/>

Human Resources Guide for Working with Employees Experiencing Vision Loss

Working with an employee who experiences vision loss can initially be challenging for human resources (HR) managers and supervisors unfamiliar with blindness or low vision, especially if unaware of the various accommodations available to assist persons with vision loss in completing job duties. This guide provides useful information and guidance for HR staff who are helping employees who experience vision loss maintain employment. Check out several guidance documents at: <https://www.blind.msstate.edu/our-products/employment-resources/>

Blind People Can't Perform This Job...Or Can They?

This brief article describes findings from our research on the attitudes of hiring managers towards individuals who are blind or visually impaired (B/VI) and how these attitudes are impacted by knowledge of how B/VI individuals can complete workplace tasks. Written with employers in mind, it provides an overview of the services provided by vocational rehabilitation agencies to employers and makes the case for why hiring an individual with B/VI can be an asset for any organization. It also contains a brief quiz where employers can test their own knowledge of how B/VI individuals complete job tasks. For a document on this topic, go to: <https://www.blind.msstate.edu/our-products/employment-resources/>

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Highlights People with Disabilities' Contributions to Economy

To highlight the current and potential contributions of Coloradans with disabilities to the state's economy, Governor Jared Polis has issued a proclamation declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year's theme is "The Right Talent, Right Now," chosen to emphasize the essential role of people with disabilities in the workforce.

During Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Division of Vocational Rehab will present the third annual Shining Stars of VR Awards, honoring the achievements of workers with disabilities as well as celebrating businesses and advocates who are committed to increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities. These remarkable individuals will be recognized in a ceremony at the State Capital later in October. The Governor's proclamation is meant to highlight the employment contributions from the 21 percent of Coloradans who have some type of disability.



WHEREAS, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is a time to raise public awareness about promoting increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. It is a time to celebrate the value, talent and many contributions they add to the workplace; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "The Right Talent, Right Now." It conveys the important message that people with disabilities play an essential role in our economic success, that enhancing and building the diversity of Colorado's workforce is critical; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is about one thing above all else: empowering people with disabilities to be successful in employment and live independently. Key to that is how this division collaborates with other government and nonprofit organizations to integrate Coloradans living with disabilities into the workforce. In 2019, staff from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation took great strides in implementing Employment First Initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Employment First is a model for services that strives toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities through prioritizing community-based employment in an integrated setting as the first choice of services for people with all ranges of disabilities. This national approach was developed to facilitate the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workplace and the community. With its partners, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has made significant strides in transforming lives; and

WHEREAS, employers who have hired people with disabilities should also be recognized during Disability Employment Awareness Month. These employers know that hiring from this talent pool is more than doing the right thing, it is doing the smart thing. When employers create a culture of belonging for all of their talent, the dividends that are paid back to the company -- and to Colorado -- are significant.

Therefore, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

NATIONAL EMPLOYEE DISABILITY MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of October, 2019



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis
Governor*

just for PARENTS

Center for Parent Information and Resources

Produce under U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs No. 328R130014, the Center for Parent Information and Resources website has information, resources and Parent Technical Assistance Centers (<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/visualimpairment/>)



IEP Resources for Parents!

- **Online Training in Writing an IEP:** This online training is available via California Services for Technical Assistance and Training (CalSTAT) and is specific to benchmarks related to CA content standards. But it's also conveniently based on IDEA 2004 and deals with writing measurable goals and objectives, a skill quite central to writing effective IEPs. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/sr/ieptraining.asp>
- **Parent Involvement:** Take a look at *Developing Your Child's IEP* and learn how to effectively work with schools to meet the needs of your child. <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/pa12/>
- **Training materials for Parent Centers and others | In English and Spanish.:** In 2016, CPIR updated the Building the Legacy training modules on the IEP and presented a webinar on the new content. Three training modules are available in English and in Spanish; all are designed for Parent Centers to use in training families and others on the ins-and-outs of IEPs. Download them all from: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/webinar-training-modules-on-iep-idea/>

- **Off to a Good Start! Back to School Checklist** From Wrightslaw, this checklist includes action items organized by: things to do, smart IEPs, your child's evaluation, and more. There are 2 columns for each item where parents can mark their own progress in preparing ("not yet" and "done"), as well as room for comments and notes. (<https://www.wrightslaw.com/info/back.to.school.chklist.htm>)
- **What to Do the First Day, Week and Month Back to School When Your Kid Has an IEP** (<https://themighty.com/2018/08/what-to-do-back-to-school-iep/>)

Using Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to Attend IEP Meetings This August 2019 letter from the U.S. Department of Labor discusses the general legal principles of the FMLA, the specifics of the inquiry to which US Labor is responding (care of children with special health care needs), relevant precedents, and Labor's opinion based on those facts. This is not a tool that fits all family circumstances, but it's a very good approach to keep in mind.

(https://www.dol.gov/whd/opinion/FMLA/2019/2019_08_08_2A_FMLA.pdf)

- **Need to Share Info on Early Childhood Development in Other Languages?** It doesn't matter what language you speak, the science of early childhood development—of brain architecture, serve and return, and toxic stress—is universal. The Center on the Developing Child offers a library of videos and materials translated into several languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Urdu, Bulgarian, Arabic, and Japanese. (https://developingchild.harvard.edu/translation/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=august_2019)

just for PARENTS

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.



**NATIONAL FAMILY
ASSOCIATION
FOR DEAF-BLIND**
Empowering Families with
Individuals who are Deaf-Blind



National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

Founded in 1983, the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a membership organization of parents, educators, and friends of blind children reaching out to give each other vital support, encouragement, and information. They have thousands of members in all fifty states plus Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

The NOPBC offers hope, encouragement, information, and resources for parents of blind or low-vision children. NOPBC provides emotional support and a network for families. They also provide information, training, and resources to empower families to take an active role in guiding their child's development and education.



Their status is as a division of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), an important organization of blind people in the world, provides many benefits. NFB provides its members information about the societal, legislative, and technological issues that affect blind people. One of their most exciting activities is our annual conference. Every year since it was established, the NOPBC has conducted an annual conference for parents and teachers of blind children as part of the national convention of the NFB. The program has grown to include five exciting days of workshops, training sessions, activities for all family members, including sighted siblings, and countless opportunities to meet blind adults and other families and children from around the country.

Most states have an NOPBC affiliate chapter. Colorado has one! For more information, call the Colorado Center for the Blind at (303) 778-1130.

just for PARENTS

TRANSITION RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Parents' guide to the transition of their adult child to college, career, and community

An online module from the HEATH Resource Center, now part of the [National Youth Transitions Center](http://nationalyouthtransitionscenter.org) (<http://heath.gwu.edu/parents-guide-transition>)

Getting ready for when your teen reaches the age of majority:

[A parent's guide](https://www.parentcenterhub.org/age-of-majority-parentguide/) (<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/age-of-majority-parentguide/>)

Age of majority is the age when children legally become adults. In most states the age of majority is age 18. This tip sheet for parents discusses what's important to consider in preparing and is part of a series of briefs that includes stand-alone tip sheets on getting ready for healthcare, for managing financial matters, and for independent living. There is also a [companion webinar](https://www.parentcenterhub.org/webinar-getting-ready-for-age-of-majority/) (<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/webinar-getting-ready-for-age-of-majority/>)

Wondering what path your child will take after high school?

This brochure was created to help families understand the basics of transition planning, including its purpose, who is involved, and the process as a whole. The [Transition Planning](http://transitioncoalition.org/blog/tc-materials/transition-planning/) tool can be edited to fit your needs. AND it's available in English and Spanish (<http://transitioncoalition.org/blog/tc-materials/transition-planning/>).

Planning for success: Supporting transitions through high school to college and career

This [40-page booklet](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/9FDD0841-D54D-4D16-ADAA-9F116B79F645/0/ParentGuide_forCCL_updated080712.pdf) is written by parents for other parents, to share their experiences in preparing their children for college and career. They discuss why preparing is so important, describe the academic and personal behaviors young people need, take a look at the Common Core State Standards and testing, and much more. A publication of the NYC Board of Education. (http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/9FDD0841-D54D-4D16-ADAA-9F116B79F645/0/ParentGuide_forCCL_updated080712.pdf)

[Resources to assist youth with the transition to a successful adulthood](https://www.parentcenterhub.org/resources-for-successful-transition-to-adulthood/)

This collection of helpful resources from the Social Security Administration provides information on and links to a wide variety of employment supports and national and community resources. (<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/resources-for-successful-transition-to-adulthood/>)

Developing [financial capability](https://www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/InfoBrief-42-Developing-Financial-Capability-Among-Youth-How-Families-Can-Help.pdf) among youth: How families can help

This InfoBrief comes from NCWD/Youth and provides families with suggestions and resources on how to talk with youth about money and assist them in learning and practicing financial management skills through their interactions at home. (<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/InfoBrief-42-Developing-Financial-Capability-Among-Youth-How-Families-Can-Help.pdf>)

[Employment 101](http://parentcenterhub.org/employers/) (<http://parentcenterhub.org/employers/>)

There's a wealth of info about jobs and "getting employed" in this resource.

The [411 on disability disclosure](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure): A workbook for youth with disabilities

This workbook is designed for youth and adults working with them to learn about disability disclosure. This workbook helps young people make informed decisions about whether or not to disclose their disability and understand how that decision may impact their education, employment, and social lives. There's also an audio version of the workbook and many accompanying materials. (<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure>)



2019- 2020 Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences

WHO: Colorado families who have a child with a disability. Both parents in a two-parent family are encouraged to attend. Single parents are encouraged to bring a support person who will also participate in the conference. (A support person is someone who is directly involved in the regular care of the child or youth with a disability.)

Directors of special education, principals, special education teachers, general education teachers, related service providers, health care and other Colorado professionals interested in the family and school partnership who work with children or youth with disabilities.

WHAT: Decades of research show that the participation of families in their child's education, through specific coordinating between home and school, results in improved outcomes (Jeynes, 2012). PEP Conferences bring together families and professionals and are designed to promote partnerships that are essential in supporting students with disabilities and their families in schools and the community. PEP is a non-specific disability conference that focuses on commonalities.

WHEN: PEP is held from 5:00 PM Thursday through 3:00 PM Saturday. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU) pays for registration and meals, and pays for lodging **if a participant lives more than 35 miles from the hotel conference center.**

WHERE: In order to enable more families and professionals to participate, PEP Conferences are scheduled throughout Colorado.

Sessions

Parenting a Child with a Disability and Rebuilding Dreams
The Law and the Education of Children with Disabilities
Living with a Disability
Individualized Education Program (IEP)
Early Childhood Supports and Services
Transition IEP and more!

2019-2020 PEP Conferences

October 10-12, 2019
Fort Collins, CO

January 23-25, 2020
Colorado Springs, CO

April 2-4, 2020
Grand Junction, CO

Apply Now!

For more information and to apply online go to:
[The PEP Website](#)

Or contact:

CDE-ESSU-PEP
PEP Hotline: (303) 866-6846

jobs

IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with current vacancies for the current 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 para-educator, 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:

- ✓ **TVI/ COMS** (1 FTE) for Greeley Schools. For more information, please contact Nyla Buffington at nbuffington@greeleyschools.org
- ✓ **TVI/ COMS** (1 FTE) for Thompson School District in Loveland. For more information, please contact Charlie Carter at charlie.carter@thompsonschoos.org

Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** - Please be in touch with Chelle Lutz for possible CSDB Openings in the School for the Blind. She can be reached at (719) 578-2100 or clutz@csdb.org

Metro Region—Jobs

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (2 FTE) opening in Denver Public Schools. For more information, please contact Julie Hemphill at (720) 595-6126 or julie_hemphill@dpsk12.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! We are seeing many retired TVIs and O&M Specialist come back to contribute as subs for maternity leave, do contact work, and work at A Shared Vision. Magic!



VISION COALITION MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2019

Persons in Attendance: Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Martin Becerra, Melinda Carter, Nancy Cozart, Jayme Cusimano, Julie Hutchinson, Julie King, and Jamie Lugo

Absent: Paula Conroy, Paula Landry, Jim Olson, and Michelle Reed

Guest: Stefanie Hamilton, Michelle Quackenbush

MISSION OF THE VISION COALITION: *The purpose of the Vision Coalition is to bring the collective resources of the group together to address state priorities improving services to students who are blind/visually impaired. (April 1998)*

ASV	A Shared Vision	CIMC	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
CAER	CO Chapter of the Association of the Education/Rehabilitation of the Blind/Visually Impaired	COMS	Certified orientation and mobility specialist
CCB	Colorado Center for the Blind	CSDB	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
CDE	Colorado Department of Education	DVR	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
		ESSU	Exceptional Student Services Unit
		TVI/TSVI	Teacher of students with visual impairments

LEGEND OF ACRONYMS

MEMBERS OF VISION COALITION FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

A Shared Vision – Paula Landry	Anchor Center for Blind Children – Melinda Carter
Colorado AER Chapter – Nancy Cozart	Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
Colorado DVR – Michelle Reed	Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson
CSDB School for the Blind – Jamie Lugo	CSDB Outreach – Jayme Cusimano
Colorado Center for the Blind – Dan Burke	Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
Northern TVI / COMS – Julie Hutchinson	Southern TVI / COMS – Deb Andrews
Western TVI / COMS - Julie King	University of Northern Colorado VI Program – Paula Conroy

NORMS OF THE VISION COALITION: Stay present. Verbally identify yourself before you speak. If we get into a serious discussion, please wait for your turn (we will assign someone to take stock of who is next in the discussion). Vision Coalition meetings are a confidential environment. We are here for the common good of students, families, and our profession. In the spirit of improvement, we will bring important issues to the table.

DECISION PROTOCOL: In instances where a vote may be taken to make a decision of the Vision Coalition membership, a fist of 5, 3, or 1 will be used. 5 = agreement / can live with the decision; 3 = need more information to make a decision; and 1 = cannot approve the decision. A majority vote of 5 will indicate that the decision will move forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Martin to the Vision Coalition as our new representative of the Colorado Center for the Blind. We welcome Stefanie Hamilton who is representing A Shared Vision with us today in Paula Landry's absence. We also welcome our guest, Michelle Quackenbush, to our meeting today. She is the new English Learners with Disabilities Specialist with the Exceptional Student Services Unit at CDE.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

TVI meetings are scheduled:

The first meeting is on September 26 in Cherry Creek from 4:00-5:30 pm. Content includes:

- a. Learning Media Plans
- b. Conference Debrief
- c. UEB Math Training and Details

The second meeting on November 7 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Littleton at the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB). The CAER meeting will be held there at 5:45 pm so all are welcome to stay and hear directly of what's happening in this professional organization!) Content to be determined.

Discussion Items:

There have been questions about the "preferred job titles", disability categories (i.e. SPED), etc. What should we call ourselves? There is a question about our professional titles. Over the years, the field has moved away from "vision teacher" and "vision specialist" to teachers of students with visual impairments. We are not ever (unless trained otherwise) vision therapists. The word teacher is critical to identify this distinct professional role. Visual impairment is often thought of the umbrella term for blindness and low vision. It is recommended that we be mindful that we are role models about how people view and discuss terms such as blind, low vision, or visually impaired.

Northern Region (Julie Hutchinson)

Updates: There have been some wonderful hiring/filling successes in the northern region over the summer! St. Vrain Valley School District was sad to see Carol Love retire, but is now very excited to welcome Aryn McNichol and Chris Holmes to their BVI team! Vicki Chinski is now working for Greeley Schools as a TVI. Patti Shannon is contracting for O&M Services in Greeley. Jeanine Holmes is now working in Poudre School District. Thompson Valley School District is looking to hire a full-time TVI with the departure of Teresa O'Brien.

TVIs/COMS have not met yet this year. Their first meeting will be on October 4th. The Northern Region Low Vision Clinic has been scheduled and will be held at the Insights Center in Ft. Collins on November 7 and 8, 2019.

Discussion Topics:

TVI-Specific Rubrics for teacher evaluations. What are your districts using to evaluate your performances? There is not a specific TVI evaluation by the State. There is a metric for special education teachers, but not a state model specific to teachers of students with visual impairments. Douglas County (and maybe one other) District developed a metric specific to TVIs. The O&M metric is designed ONLY for those persons who are O&M Specialists and this may include personnel who are both TVIs and O&M Specialists. Douglas County developed a evaluation rubric for TVIs. The CSDB Outreach Program is finalizing a document that they have put together. Tanni will send both of these documents out to the regional TVIs for discussion purposes at the regional meetings.

Vision Therapy Question - What are our TVI responsibilities specific to recommended vision therapy practices by optometrists? As the new criteria for visual impairment, including blindness is adopted, there will be more opportunities for official guidance. Currently it would be best to work within each administrative unit to determine whether school district personnel have the training to implement recommended practices and utilize recommended materials from an optometry office. It is important to clarify that a TVI is not a trained vision therapist.

Southern Region (Deb Andrews)

We have four new TVIs in the southern region! Jared Walker is now in Pikes Peak BOCES. Nancy Barron and Autumn Odette are new to CSDB. Eric Warden is with Falcon School Districts.

The first of five meetings will be held on October 9 from 12:30 to 3:00 on CSDB's campus.

The final four meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday, November 13, 2019 from 12:30-3:00
- Wednesday, January 15, 2020 from 12:30-3:00
- Wednesday March 11, 2020 from 12:30-3:00
- Wednesday May 13, 2020 from 12:30-3:00

Western Region (Julie King)

The Western Region has remained stable with its staff. The Low Vision Clinic will be held in Grand Junction on September 20th. It will be a one-day clinic for six students who are new to participating in the clinic.

The massive geography of the Western Region makes it difficult to meet in person. The group has met in the past to work together to make CVI materials for students. It was suggested that the group use Zoom to meet. Tanni can easily set up a Zoom meeting, if that would be helpful to the group. If the focus is on something specific to the CIMC or APH products, Jim Olson and his team can also arrange for a ZOOM meeting with the Western Region TVIs / O&M Specialists.

Discussion: *How to qualify a child with deaf-blindness when either VIB or HID may not have educational significance?* A child who meets eligibility criteria, per an IEP's data collection and decision, is a child who cannot be solely served as a child with hearing impairment, including deafness or a child with visual impairment, including blindness. The loss of both senses combined makes for a unique disability called deaf-blindness. The eligibility forms for HID and VIB have a box to check in the event that a child who is Deaf-Blind does not meet the stated requirements for Visual Impairment, Including Blindness and/or Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness, but the combination of an existing vision loss and the documented vision and hearing loss adversely affects the child's educational performance.

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Michelle Reed)

Staff Updates: We have a new Rehabilitation Counselor in the Golden office and her name is Sarah Hill. There is a vacancy for an O&M/VRT instructor in the Pueblo office. We had interviews last week for the Assistive Technology Instructor in Colorado Springs and hope to have a start date soon. The waitlist for Denver Metro Center Personal Adjustment Training (PAT) program is around 5-6 months.

Summer Programs and Workshops: Our two-week C.R.E.D. (Career Readiness Education and Discovery) Program was a great success with many different experiences and activities such as two volunteer activities (Metro Caring and a Business Enterprise program café), "Make and Take" Thursdays. One "Make and Take" was assembling grooming kits in decorated bags and delivering 35 different kits to a homeless shelter. The second "Make and Take" was making dog pull toys out of flannel, then delivering them to the Dumb Friends League (we volunteered 45 minutes to pet the cats up for adoption. We had an acting and movement workshop hosted by Phamaly. We hiked in Roxborough State Park. Our instructor at DVR taught One-Touch Self Defense. Group cooking classes... oh my so much and so much fun!!

In addition to the two-week program, we hosted four one-day workshops: Daily Living Skills - Brownie Bake-Off, RTD Amazing Race Denver, Fix It Academy Manual Skills and S.O.S Strong Organization Skills.

Students are back in school so we are planning to start up our job clubs. Here is the flyer announcing and asking TVI/O&Ms statewide to contact Michele Reed michele.reed@state.co.us or 303-866-3512 if interested in teaming up to create a club in their district.

Blind and Low Vision Services presents:

- DVR Job Club
- Finding a Job and Starting a Career

DVR Job Club is designed as an after school activity that introduces students to Work Readiness Skills. The Personal Adjustment Training Unit at DVR and TVI/O&Ms will co-facilitate the Job Club. Job Club meets once a month for an hour. Our Job Club's modules offer students the opportunity to discuss and engage in activities to develop skills including:

- * Communication
- * Problem solving
- * Professionalism
- * Daily living activities
- * Career exploration activities,
- * Resume building, and
- * Interviewing skills

The objective of Job Club is to prepare students for their first work experience and start the pathway to a meaningful career.

In addition to the modules, during school breaks, students will have opportunities to participate in community and volunteer activities to put the information into practice. DVR Job Club is free to student's ages 15-21 who have been referred to DVR and have been determined eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services. For more information about DVR Job Club or to start a Job Club for your students, contact Michele Reed at call 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us.

"Equal Opportunity is the Law. DVR is an equal opportunity employer and program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities."

DVR/BLVS will also develop workshops and volunteer activities during school breaks like last year. Stay tuned!!! I will be sending announcements and flyers to Tanni to distribute to teacher statewide.

A Shared Vision (Stefanie Hamilton in for Paula Landry)

As their caseload increases, *A Shared Vision* is thrilled to welcome two new Early Intervention Teachers of the Visually Impaired to their team, Wendy Stoltman and Maggie Tutt. Wendy Stoltman, TVI, COMS, not only helps organize and run the low vision clinics across the state, she is a statewide consultant for deaf-blindness with the Colorado Department of Education. Maggie has been a Teacher of Children who are Visually Impaired for 11 years, most recently with the Adams 12 Five Star Schools. She was also a Child Find Coordinator for this district, where she discovered her passion for Early Intervention. If you are a school-based TVI looking for a flexible schedule and love working with babies and toddlers, consider becoming a part-time teacher with *A Shared Vision*. There's no shortage of families who need early intervention vision support!

Paula Landry has worked closely with CDE on updating the *0-5 Vision Screening Guidelines*. There will be a protocol specific to birth through-2 and one specific to three to five in the same manual. *A Shared Vision* is providing vision screening training to the CCBs this fall. The training will be rolled out to all Community Centered Boards and Child Find Teams so they may conduct improved vision screenings to identify previously unidentified very young children with visual impairments or vision concerns. To learn more about this program, or to schedule a training, contact Paula Landry at email: plandry@asharedvision.org

Finally, the 2019 Western Regional Early Intervention Conference is just around the corner! *A Shared Vision* is a co-host and sponsor. Steven Lindauer is the mastermind and talent behind the WREIC website, which is the greatest WREIC website EVER! Learn about the speakers and fun things to do in Denver during the conference by following the [WREIC Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Western-Regional-Early-Intervention-Conference-224831041705376) (<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Regional-Early-Intervention-Conference-224831041705376>)

For more information about [A Shared Vision](https://www.asharedvision.org/), (<https://www.asharedvision.org/>)

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Melinda Carter)

The 2019-20 school year has started off well with many families returning, while we have welcomed several new families as well. After four years, our Executive Director, Heather Cameron, has submitted her resignation. The search has begun for her replacement and the hope is to have the position filled by mid-October. We are excited to have Jennifer (Klyczek) Parker back at Anchor after being away for a couple of years. She is a TSVI, ECSE and our new Home Visit Coordinator. Jen Taylor is also new TVI on board with Anchor Center. Also new to Anchor is Dawn Brown as a lead teacher in the Preschool. Dawn has her BA and MA in Early Childhood and has spent the past three years in a self-contained classroom in the Cherry Creek School District.

Deb Curry, our Family Services Director, has added more respite days and camps to the calendar. This school year there will be over 40 respite days that current and former families can take advantage of.

We are proud of Mindy Doyle-McCall and her work with J.C. Greeley on the completion and publication of their book *Teaching Life Differently: The Expanded Core Curriculum for Babies and Young Children with Visual Impairments*. This book is now available on [Amazon](#) and we are providing it free of charge to all of our preschool families.

Anchor Center will be offering an Open House during the Western Region Early Intervention Conference! Check out [Western Regional Early Intervention Conference \(www.wreic.org\)](http://www.wreic.org) for more details.

Colorado Chapter of AER (Nancy Cozart)

New board for the 2019-20 year met on Thursday August 15th. We are continuing with our mission statement of *Building Bridges Together* to serve those who are blind and visually impaired in Colorado.

Current CAER Board Members:

President- Nancy Cozart Past President- Brent Batron

President Elect- Heather Solberg Secretary- Michelle Robinson

Treasurer- Heather Solberg

At Large Members- Paula Conroy, Stephanie Crosen, Barb Galgano, and Jeannie Lei

The AER national professional organization states *“The purpose of the Association shall be to render all possible assistance in the promotion, development, and improvement of all phases of education and rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired persons of all ages.”* Within this purpose, there are 7 sections.

The Colorado chapter of AER has decided to continue with two of the sections from last year and adding a third for our focus this new board session.

- Encourage an interdisciplinary approach to serve people with vision loss.
- Develop and provide professional training opportunities.

Provide a common body to which all interested persons may look for leadership, knowledge, guidance, and action intended to assist people with vision loss in achieving their individual maximum potential.

We encourage all who are involved in the field of visual impairment to share ideas and questions about CAER with board members to help this organization to thrive.

The Mini Grant applications are due November 1.

CAER Board Meeting Dates: These meetings will be held on Thursdays at the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) in Littleton from 5:45-7:15 pm unless otherwise noted. Guests are welcome to attend in person or through Zoom.

* September 19, 2019

* December 5, 2019

* March 5, 2020

* October 3, 2019

* January 16, 2020

* April 2, 2020

* November 7, 2019

* February 6, 2020

* May- Annual Meeting/Banquet is TBD

Possible Ideas for Trainings and Fundraisers

- King Soopers' Cards as an ongoing fundraiser
- Training for ACVREP credit during the NFB Conference in Fort Collins 10/31-11/3, 2019. (IEP info for parents, learning media plans, etc.)
- Vendor Fairs in January 2020 (possibly in conjunction with braille challenge events)
- Spero Winery fundraiser in winter 2020

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs (Martin Becerra-Miranda)

Youth Programs - 2019 Summer Programs: The Colorado Center for the Blind held our 2019 summer programs beginning on Friday, June 7 and ending on Friday, August 2. We provided services to 20 unduplicated students during our 8-week "No Limits to Learning" program and our Employment, Fitness, and College focused modules, which all varied in length. 6 of the 20 students were Colorado students, the other 14 students came to us from all over the country. The new module format was a huge success; we will be making small changes for the 2020 summer.

The Colorado Center for the Blind in partnership with the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado held 2 NFB BELL (Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) Academy programs. During the day programs that took place in Littleton and Westminster over the course of 3 weeks, our lead teachers and volunteers worked with 14 students ranging from 4 - 10 years old. In addition to Braille crafts, games, and other engaging projects, children learn vital independent living skills, interact with blind adult mentors, and enjoy field trips to many different locations. Through these activities and interactions, the children learn that blindness or low vision does not define them or their future.

Mentoring Program: Our Youth Services team and CSDB have been in close communication over the last several weeks to coordinate a more robust and fulfilling Mentoring Program to a wider range of students this year. Last year CCB visited CSDB and facilitated group discussions on various subjects. Some of these include:

- NFB Newslines and other programs for keeping up-to-date
- The importance of a positive self-image
- Tactile learning inside and outside of the classroom
- Braille, a critical tool for success
- Networking and being part of a community
- Financial Literacy
- Cardinal Direction Scavenger Hunt

FAST Program (Fun Activities and Skills Training): We hold FAST on the second Friday or Saturday of each month during the academic year. In recent years, we have not scheduled FAST Programs during summer, as we understand that many students are away at camps and/or on vacation with their families. We would like feedback on whether there is a need or want for these types of programs during the months of June, July, and August.

September's FAST activity will be a workshop focusing on many aspects of school life for students of all ages as well as parents. "Back to School: Setting goals, seeing progress, and finding success!" will take place at the Colorado Center for the Blind on Friday, September 13 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Bring your appetite, we will be serving pizza!

FAST Calendar:

- October 12, Haunted Scavenger Hunt. Parent presentation: independent Travel techniques.
- November 16, Kickoff the holiday season with us by cooking a Thanksgiving Meal!
- December 14, NFB of Colorado Denver Chapter's Christmas Party.

The Colorado Center for the Blind and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind's Mentoring Program kicked off with enthusiasm and great participation on Wednesday, September 4.

CCB's Director of Youth Services, Martin Becerra-Miranda and 4 CCB mentors (3 current students & 1 graduate) traveled south to Colorado Springs for the first Mentoring Program visit of the school year. While at CSDB, the CCB group worked with a total of twenty-four students in various settings. From joining Elementary and Middle school students in their classes, to facilitating a group discussion with High school age students, to working with a group of four Middle school students during an Independent Living Skills lesson, and wrapping up with a group of High school students in a reading class were categorizing different types of text was on the agenda for the day. The goal of the program is to ensure that our Blind/Visually Impaired students interact and work with positive blind adult role models to help them develop belief in themselves and their abilities. We look forward to continuing this partnership/program throughout the school year.

CCB partnering with Teachers of Blind Students: The Colorado Center for the Blind has begun reaching out to Teachers of Blind Students in the Denver Metro area to schedule visits with teachers and students. The goal of this program is to research what supplemental services or resources we can be providing to students, teachers, and families both inside and outside of the classroom. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit please contact Martin Becerra-Miranda at (303) 778-1130 Ext: 223 or via email at mbecerra@cocenter.org

NFB of Colorado State Convention: The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will be holding the 2019 State Convention at the Fort Collins Hilton at 425 W Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526 beginning on Thursday, October 31 through Sunday, November 3. The Colorado Center for the Blind is working on putting together youth-oriented programming for this convention.

Shared Visions: The Colorado Gallery of the Arts, located on the first floor of the Arapahoe Community College Annex building at the Littleton campus hosts a collaborative Tactile Artwork exhibition. Students from the Colorado Center for the Blind and ACC Ceramics and Painting Students have tactile pieces on display from November 7 – 19 (Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.). You are invited to join us for the opening reception on November 7th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Denver Metro Braille Challenge: In partnership with the Colorado School for the Def and the Blind, the Colorado Center for the Blind will be hosting the 2020 Denver Metro Braille Challenge on Thursday, January 23. We will have door prizes and provide lunch to all participants. Here is to hoping we do not have a repeat of last year's "Braille (Blizzard) Challenge" but even if we do, we will have our Braillewriters and fingertips ready to go. In addition to the Braille Challenge, CCB is collaborating with CAER to host a Vender Fair from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Venders will be here demonstrating an array of different technologies and devices for Blind, Visually Impaired, and Low Vision students. A complete Vender list will become available as the date approaches.

NFB Washington Seminar: The Colorado Center for the Blind will be providing scholarships for two blind students to attend the 2020 NFB Washington Seminar from Sunday February 9 through Wednesday, February 12. "At our Washington Seminar, members of the National Federation of the Blind convene to learn about and advocate for legislative initiatives that will improve the lives of blind Americans. Approximately three legislative initiatives are chosen for priority attention each year."

Details on the application process coming soon.

Special Note: Chloe started as a Confidence Camp participant, then started giving back as a Junior Counselor and most recently found another way of helping out. Some might remember that Chloe was having a big party at Denver's Washington Park on Sunday, August 4. The idea – Chloe's idea – was to raise funds for CCB. Chloe knows a little about CCB. She has been a student in our Confidence/BELL Camp going back a number of years. Going into 6th grade this year, she helped out as a Junior Counselor at the camp in June, which works with 5 to 10-year-olds. So, she was helping out the younger kids with Braille, lunch, traveling on adventures (there were a lot of trips to the swimming pool), and more. Then Chloe joined our Challenge and Adventure group, which involved plenty of sports, fitness and yes, adventure. That's the backdrop for her stop by the Center on Monday. This party, which invited friends and family to come, get a grilled burger or hot dog, and just hang in the park and have some fun, was a big success. On Monday, Chloe presented \$3,000 to Director Julie Deden! "Thank you so much," is what Julie said, with an assurance that we'd be spending this money for more youth programs.

Chloe shared, "My name is Chloe Poston. I am 11 years old and I just started 6th grade at Dunstan Middle School. I spent this past summer rock climbing, camping, swimming, playing all of my many instruments, and attending several summer camps. My favorite camps were Confidence Camp and the Challenge and Adventure Camp. Every summer since Kindergarten my favorite camps have been the ones sponsored by the Colorado Center for the Blind. Because, in addition to being a downhill skier, a climber, a runner, a musician and a girl scout, I have albinism and I am legally blind. The Colorado Center for the Blind has helped me so much in life. I have always leaned on them for vision related advice. I have met really amazing people who are legally blind or fully blind while attending all of their programs for kids and teens. I think one of the main reasons these camps and programs have always meant so much to me is because they allow me to be surrounded by other people with low or no vision. Even though I like school and the friends I've made there, sometimes I need a reminder that I am not the only one who faces the obstacles (and the perks) that come along with being visually impaired. I like to talk with people who get it. I don't have to explain why I'm holding a cane, or why I don't immediately recognize someone who approaches me without talking or announcing themselves. In other words, I appreciate having a short break from constantly answering questions about my vision. I believe that the Colorado Center for the Blind will continue to be a source of support, friendship and mentors throughout my life. They will help provide me with the confidence and resources I need to successfully get through Middle School, High School, and hopefully College and Medical School. That is why I felt it was so important to organize a fundraiser. I wanted to try and give a little bit back to an organization that has given so much to me."

Look out 6th grade, Chloe is coming!

Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)

October 1 marks the first day of the new federal fiscal year, when the Federal funds from the January 7, 2019 Federal Quota Census will be allocated to accounts across the country. The Colorado Department of Education accounts combine their funds to house a repository of instructional materials manufactured by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in Louisville, KY which is managed by the CIMC. The Federal Quota count happens on the first Monday in January annually.

The newly redesigned [APH website](http://www.aph.org) (<http://www.aph.org>) was rolled out in August. The new APH print catalog was also released recently. If you would like to order a print catalog, you may request one from the APH website.

The CIMC has been busy filling book orders for the start of the school year. Relative to the math codes, Colorado has 35 students receiving textbook materials in Nemeth format and 13 students receiving UEB math format.

Check out the CIMC pages of the [CSDB website](http://www.csdb.org) (<http://www.csdb.org>) click on "Programs & Services", select "CIMC". A menu on the right column of the home page shows you links to the various content specific pages available. A new "CIMC Infant Registration (birth through age 2)" page has been added. Several of the CIMC order forms have been revised for the 19-20 school year.

Please use the current version of forms when ordering products from CIMC.

The CIMC would like to remind everybody to continue to ask their districts to add the NIMAS file set language into their book contracts. A sample guidance document is available on the "CIMC Book Orders" page, titled, "Contract Language Your District Needs to Use When Purchasing New Curriculum (NIMAS/MathML)". Please share this document with the Directors of Special Education and curriculum departments in your school districts.

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jamie Lugo)

Student Activities: Students returned on August 12th. Students checked out low vision devices and assistive technology devices, signed anti-bullying contracts, reviewed PRIDE (Positive Behavior, Respect, Independence, Determination, and Excellence), reviewed school rules and reflected on their 2019-2020 goals throughout the first week back. We currently have 61 students in our preschool – 12th grade program, 6 of these students are new to us this school year. Teachers are fired up after participating in a three day training with Dr. Karen Wolffe on Career Education, Socialization, and Skills for Success. Our preschool staff completed required trainings for preschool licensure and procedures the week of August 12th – August 16th and preschool students returned to school on August 19th. Our preschool teacher will be offering toddler classes to families of children birth-preschool age every Friday, beginning in January, 2020.

Campus Activities:

- * August 2nd Early registration
- * August 7th-9th Professional Development Training and Parent Session with Karen Wolffe
- * August 11th Regular registration
- * August 20th Parent Involvement Pot Luck (This pot luck inform parents about the upcoming Expanded Core Curriculum workshops we have planned for the 2019-2020 school year, see dates below)
- * August 24th Climbing at City Rock Climbing Gym * August 26th – 28th Survival Camping Trip

Announcements: We have two new staff members! Nancy Baron is a TVI/O&M from Pennsylvania. Nancy is teaching assistive technology classes. Cara Reimann is a librarian from the Denver area. Cara teaches library classes to both students who are blind and deaf in the elementary programs.

Important Dates to Hold: (Please note: registration links have been removed in the minutes as each event is now posted on the KIT Calendar of Events with these details)

- August 27 , 2019 6:00 p.m., - Career Education for Parents of Younger Children (Preschool – 4th grade).
- September 3-6, 2019—Homecoming Spirit Week
- September 6-7, Homecoming Weekend (see attached flyer)
- September 3, 6:00 p.m.—ECC Parent Involvement Workshop – Career Education for Parents of Older Children (5th-12th grade).
- September 17, 6:00 p.m.—ECC Parent Involvement Workshop – Compensatory Skills for Parents of Children with Low Vision.
- September 18, 2019—Colorado Construction Days
- September 24, 2019 6:00 p.m.— ECC Parent Involvement Workshops – Compensatory Skills for Parents of Children Who are Blind
- October 15, 2019—White Cane Day 12:00-2:00 p.m., Acacia Park
- October 22, 2019—ECC Parent Involvement Workshop - Recreation and Leisure for Parents of Younger Children
- October 29, 2019—Recreation and Leisure for Parents of Older Children
- December 3, 2019—ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Social Skills for Parents of Younger Children
- December 10, 2019—ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Social Skills for Parents of Older Children
- January 16, 2020—Braille Challenge, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CSDB
- January 28, 2020— ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Sensory Efficiency for Parents of Children with Low Vision
- February 4, 2020- ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Sensory Efficiency for Parents of Children who are Blind
- March 3, 2020- ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Self Determination for Parents of Children with Low Vision
- March 10, 2020-ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Self Determination for Parents of Children who are Blind
- April 7, 2020- ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Independent Living Skills for Parent of Younger Children
- April 14, 2020- ECC Parent Involvement Workshop: Independent Living Skills for Parents of Older Children
- May 1, 2020—Cane Quest, 9:00-1:00 p.m., CSDB
- May 12, 2020— Assistive Technology Parents of Children with Low Vision
- May 19, 2020—Assistive Technology Parents of Children who are Blind
- June 2, 2020—Orientation and Mobility for Everyone
- June 9, 2020—Closing Party for Everyone

Discussion: *Need for an Online Statewide calendar:* A recommendation from last year was to build a unified one-stop online calendar of all of the events that students, families, and service provider Tanni will check into the viable of CDE hosting the calendar, in addition to the one posted within the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter.

CSDB Outreach Services (Jayme Cusimano)

We are no longer able to provide grant funding for student activities across the state.

We may have to charge families for student activities that CSDB Outreach offers this year, so we are unsure whether we will be offering activities unless we can plan free activities or offer activities with a fee to cover the costs.

Sara Noel is on the **International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium Planning Committee*. The committee is in the planning stage, currently reaching out to and reviewing applications from possible presenters. They welcome applications from anyone who is interested in doing a presentation. The application deadline is October 1. **The orientation and mobility application can be found at: (<https://www.orientationandmobilitysymposium.com>)* or by requesting through **Kassy Maloney*. Completed applications can be sent to Kassy at kassy@kassymaloney.com. Dates for the Symposium will be January 29-31, 2020

The CSDB Outreach Program did a video on the Colorado Regional Low Vision Clinics. Check it out on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8Hg7lmI3us&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8Hg7lmI3us&feature=youtu.be>)

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: We are almost in year two of the newly funded five year grant cycle. The project's mission is free technical assistance to parents and service providers of children and youth, ages birth through 21, who are deaf-blind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with a multitude of electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel. Tanni Anthony and Gina Herrera are the Project Co-Directors.

PROJECT GOALS: Goal One: To collaborate with State, Local Education, Agencies, and Local Agencies to implement a statewide system to identify Colorado children and youth, 0-21 years, of age, who are deaf-blind, and to heighten awareness of deaf-blindness. Goal Two: To ensure family members of children of are deaf-blind have the training and information needed to maintain and improve productive partnerships with service providers and contribute to the academic and functioning outcomes of their children. Goal Three: To increase awareness, knowledge, and skills of EIS providers, general / special educators, and related service providers regarding evidence-based practices that will promote academic achievement and improve results for children and youth with deaf-blindness.

PROJECT STAFF: Tanni Anthony and Gina Herrera coordinate the grant project. We have two Technical Assistance Specialists. Callie Robinson is hired to do specific work on the topic of interveners. She is building networking opportunities for our existing interveners and informational materials on the role of the interveners. Wendy Stoltman is a Technical Assistance (TA) Specialist for the project. Wendy provides onsite consultation and customized training to the educational teams of the children with deaf-blindness. Shannon Cannizzaro is our Family Specialist. To request FREE technical assistance, please contact Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6681 or Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us

ANNUAL DEAF-BLIND CHILD COUNT: The Child Count Data for December 1, 2018 revealed a total of 147 children and youth in Colorado who are deaf-blind. There are 85 boys and 62 girls on the Child Count. A total of 15 children exited from the previous year's count. We identified 19 new children. There are currently 16 infants and toddlers with deaf-blindness identified across the state. We have 113 children, ages three to 17 and 18 youth who are 18-21 years old. We are seeing an increase in children with cochlear implants, as well as CVI. Also we are seeing an increase in interveners being used in the school districts. The most common conditions identified include CHARGE syndrome, Usher Type 1 and 2, and Down syndrome.

Please note that a child can be registered at any time in the school year. If you work with a learner with both vision and hearing loss, please be sure to work with Tanni to register the child. All learners identified as having combined vision and hearing loss are eligible for free technical assistance. This can be child-specific consultation and customized staff training.

Interveners: We are receiving more requests for information about interveners or assistance with hiring and training interveners. We have work to do to equalize an understanding of this role. Gina Herrera and Wendy Stoltman are currently providing three different district trainings on the use of an intervener for specific school teams. The hired interveners will be commencing an online course beginning in early September and running through the course of the school year.

Project Webpage: [Colorado Deaf-Blind Project](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp) (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>)

SUMMER INSTITUTE / TRAININGS: The 2019 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs was held on June 19-20 at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver. The topic was *Responding to Challenging Behavior: Developing Meaningful and Functional Instructional Strategies*. The featured speaker was Jo Mascorro, a nationally renowned expert on this topic. It was outstanding!

WESTERN REGION EARLY INTERVENTION CONFERENCE: Colorado will be the host site of the WREIC on September 11-13, 2019. This conference is a long standing event sponsored by early childhood agencies / deaf-blind projects in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. There are strands specific to BVI, DHH, and DB. The preconference session on September 11th will feature Dr. Corinna Bauer, who is a neuroscientist whose research focuses on characterizing the visual dysfunctions observed in individuals with cerebral visual impairments and how these relate to brain structure and function. She will be speaking on four subtopics on the broad topic of *Fundamentals in Vision and Brain Development for Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)*. This day will serve as the replacement of the annual CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment. The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss budget will support 68 TVIs to attend this day long training.

Annual CDE O&M Seminar: The 2019 CDE O&M Seminar was held on April 26-27, 2019 at the Ames Facility in Littleton School District. Our featured speaker was Lynn Gautreaux. Lynn is a COMS and a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. The topics were *AMDs and Cane Repair / Modification*. Another outstanding training with great evaluation results. The April or May 2020 O&M Seminar is in the very early planning stages.

Discussion: Topics of interest for the 19-20 CDE O&M Seminar: older kid / street crossings with complex intersections / community travel; DVR focus / Mickey Damelio / Scott Crawford and Wheelchair O&M.

CDE/CSDB Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: Five Low Vision Evaluation Clinics are scheduled for this school year. We thank Angela Sims as the Western Region LVE Clinic Coordinator, Debbie Haberkorn as the Southern Region LVE Clinic Coordinator, Liz Weider as the Northern Region LVE Clinic Coordinators and Nancy Knight as the Metro Region Denver LVE Clinic Coordinator. We thank our Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team of Dr. Tom Theune, Wendy Stoltman, Jim Olson, and Debbie Haberkorn. The team offers a video for teachers to share with parents and students prior to attending a Low Vision Evaluation, entitled "[Introduction to a Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8Hg7lml3us&feature=youtu.be)", (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8Hg7lml3us&feature=youtu.be>).

Recruitment and Retention: We have had some great recruitment results and some revolving chairs! Anchor Center for Blind Children has recently hired Jennifer Taylor. Vicki Chinski has been hired as a TVI and Patti Shannon has been hired as an O&M Specialist with Weld County District. St. Vrain Valley RE-1J in Longmont has hired Ayrn McNicol and Christopher Holmes. Jeanine Holms is now working in Poudre School District. Maggie Tutt is working in Douglas School District. Michael Wright is working with Johnstown Milliken and Keensburg School Districts. Autumn Odette and Nancy Barron are new TVIs / O&M Specialist with CSDB. Erin Warden and Lori Mattick are on board with Falcon School District. Jared Walker is a new TVI in Pikes Peak BOCES.

Currently there are openings in Denver Public School District and Thompson Public School District. If you know of an opening and/or if a position has been filled, please be in touch with Tanni. CDE has an active job posting for Colorado TVI / COMS jobs with AERBVI and specific to COMS jobs with ACVREP.

Listservs: The CDE ESSU maintains three separate listservs specific to personnel working in BVI programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMSs. The second one is specific to Colorado braillists. The third is specific to Colorado TVIs and braillists. It is important to remind all users of these listservs that personally identifiable information (PII) on students and parents should never be posted in any listserv messages. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

Parent Database: We currently have about 226 parents registered on the CDE Parent Database. This is out of over 1,200 families across the state. The database is used only to mail out the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter and, on rare occasion, other mailings. It is important to keep it maintained with accurate addresses AND families of children with visual impairment, including blindness that are currently enrolled in our Colorado early intervention or public school programs. As children graduate or families move out of state, we need to ensure that we remove those families. As new families come into the system, please help Tanni to be proactive with getting families registered on the database. This is a voluntary process – so families need to complete and sign their registration forms.

Braille Competency: Tanni is working with a number of veteran and new TVIs to demonstrate initial braille competency. All TVIs who are new to the field are expected to demonstrate braille competency in their first year of employment in this role. If a TVI extends this date, the administrative unit of employment is at risk for a citation of noncompliance. A Practice Test is now posted on the Visual Impairment, Including Blindness website. It includes practice multiple choice items and braille samples.

BVI Coach/Mentor Project: We have two amazing veteran TVIs/O&M Specialists who can provide free technical assistance to school-based TVIs/Orientation and Mobility Specialists. They are Shelley Moats and Wendy Stoltman. To request a coach / mentor, contact Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDE BVI Budget for 2019-20: Approved activities for the next budget year include:

- * Braille Competency Testing / Mentor Support
- * CIMC (Interagency Agreement with CSDB)
- * Western Region Early Intervention Conference
- Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- * BVI Coach / Mentor Project
- * CDE O&M Seminar
- * Vision Coalition
- * UEB Math Training

English Learners with Blindness/Visual Impairment

Eligibility Issues: There are times when there is a question whether the child's challenges are based more on low vision, as opposed to the impact of being an English learner. There are sometimes challenges with the participation of EL Specialists in the eligibility process.

Instruction Issues: There are times when the instruction that is provided is very picture-based and the instruction is not accessible to the child. There may also be times when the miniatures that are used in bilingual instruction do not translate to the real objects. There are also concerns with what issues are truly linked to blindness/visual impairment (e.g., accessibility needs) and what might be tied to language needs.

Knowing Resources: How to access translation / interpreter services.

Cultural Implications: Child rearing practices, cultural sensitivity, etc.

Michelle shared that CDE has projects specific to Equity. She is happy to share more about this work as it evolves.

Discussion: It might be helpful to have some basic training materials to help build an understanding of the needs of English learners who are blind/visually impaired. We would also want to address building partnerships with families. Visual Impairment, including Blindness Eligibility Criteria Update: : It is anticipated that the proposed new criteria will be posted for public comment this fall. Tanni will keep the field updated with the public comment period, any proposed changes in the criteria per public comment, and the final draft that will be taken to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Parent Need Survey: The 2017-18 Parent Survey revealed key topics of interest for the parents who responded to the survey. Several topics that were highlighted had featured articles in the 2018-19 newsletter. We want to continue to perpetuate information opportunities on these topics for parents.

Discussion: We have many entities who provide parent networking / information dissemination / training opportunities for parents of children with visual impairment, including blindness and deaf-blindness. It will be important to capitalize on advertising these opportunities in the statewide calendar. It was suggested that such opportunities be offered across the state and, perhaps, in specific regions. Many agencies and school districts have struggled to have parent attendance at face-to-face gatherings. It is important to have mechanisms to learn more about not only topics important to parents, but also the format / days of the week / times of the day that are best suited for family attendance. Child care opportunities during face-to-face opportunities may allow for increase parent attendance, though there are challenges with the liability of offering child care for some schools / agencies. Nancy Cozart shared that the CAER Mini Grants are a great opportunity for TVIs to think about how to fund an AU-specific, agency-specific, or regional opportunity for parents to gather.

CDE Braille Competency: The process of ensuring that school-based TVIs in Colorado are braille competent is going very well. Since the 2016 Braille Refresher Course, over 39 TVIs and braillists have demonstrated competency in the Unified Braille Code using the CDE testing materials. Mentors have been provided to support TVIs in this process.

Discussion: *The goal is to provide as much support to our new TVIs in their efforts to demonstrate braille competency.* One suggestion is to ensure CO TVIs in training have a brailewriter on hand to practice using this tool. Tanni will confirm that TVIs in training can receive a loaner brailewriter to practice for the CDE Braille Competency Test.

Tanni shared a new excerpt to the CDE Braille Competency Guidelines:

"..If the licensed teacher endorsed in the area of visual impairment, including those on Temporary or Emergency Authorizations, does not demonstrate braille competency before the first semester of the second school year of employment (consecutive or not) with one or more Colorado administrative units, the CDE will require written documentation of the following assurances from the Special Education Director(s) who employs this individual:

- *Assurance that the individual is being supervised and supported in his or her work with students with visual impairment, including blindness.*
- *Assurance that another licensed teacher endorsed in the area of visual impairment and who has demonstrated braille competency, will oversee this individual's completion of Learning Media Assessments and development of the state-required Learning Media Assessment Plan, which are designed to determine and document whether a student will be a braille reader.*

Assurance that another licensed teacher endorsed in the area of visual impairment and who has demonstrated braille competency will oversee the individual's instruction to a student(s) who is an identified braille reader."

If braille competency is not demonstrated by the end of the first semester of the second year of employment, a citation of noncompliance will be issued to the AD of hire that will require a Corrective Action Plan.

Braille Math: There are funds to do training on UEB (math). This can be done in a variety of formats and across different content. **Discussion:** There is an interest in a two-day training on UEB math, knowing that not all TVIs will be interested in such a training. Based on space and interest, this training would also be open to Colorado braillists. Tanni will do more investigation on a presenter, dates, and a location. There is also interest in Paula Conroy providing a webinar on code switching between UEB and Nemeth.

READ Act: Tanni provided an overview of the READ Act, including its recent changes. The August-September KIT newsletter also provided information about the current READ Act. It is important for parents and teachers to understand that a child who is determined to have a significant reading deficiency (SRD) is benchmarking at the bottom third of grade level expectations. This is a serious concern for the child's reading status and why a SRD requires a READ Plan.

The READ Act requires the creation and implementation of an individual intervention plan (called a READ Plan) for students identified with a significant reading deficiency. Each READ Plan must: (a) be tailored to meet the individual needs of the student; (b) Include assessment information and evidence-based instruction and intervention; (c) Include parental involvement. The READ Plan promotes strategies to address the underlining cause for the child’s reading problems. The READ Plan may include, for example, a child’s need for systematic phonological awareness instruction. If a child needs more time to learn braille, this is not a reason for a READ Plan.

Tanni shared information about how our K-3 learners with visual impairment, including blindness are faring on the screening process. Blindness/visual impairment, by itself, does not typically impact a child’s ability to read. Of the 84 children with visual impairments, including blindness who were screened during school year 18-19, 43.1% or 31 children were found to have a significant reading deficiency. This is an alarming statistic. It can mean many things, including: (a) poor screening tool accessibility and/or lack of proper interpretation of the screening results with the input of a TVI; (b) language complications for those who may also have English learner status; (c) language complications due to other variables such as additional disabilities and/or influences of poverty; and (d) limited emergent literacy exposure and poor instruction.

Children with visual impairment, including blindness are faring the highest of any other eligibility category on the state assessment for English Language Arts. The current READ Act data are cause for deeper evaluation of the annual screening process to ensure that a TVI is involved with ensuring that the selected screening tool is accessible to the child and that results are interpreted correctly to ensure there is not a false positive. For example, when the screening tool is based on timed results, there is not an opportunity to increase the time for the child (e.g., time and a half or double time). As such, a child who is a braille reader may not “pass” a subtest that is timed, but, in fact, not be a child with a significant reading deficiency. He or she may be a child who is learning braille and has a slower reading speed, but is still within expectations for a young braille reader. With this information, the TVI can work with the general education teacher to override the results as indicative of a SRD. This is why the TVI’s interpretation and consultation with the general education teacher is so critical. It is also important to consider whether the primary eligibility label of “visual impairment, including blindness” is appropriate for a child, if there are other disabilities involved such as intellectual disability or a suspected learning disability. If the child is an English Learner, it will be imperative for personnel trained in bilingual education to be involved. Teamwork with the family and the general educators is essential. Early reading challenges are important to detect and address for all students. If a child with visual impairment, including blindness does have a SRD, careful teamwork is imperative to ensure that reading expertise complements the accessibility needs of a child.

Next Meeting Dates for School Year 2019-20

1. December 12, 2019 at the Anchor Center for Blind Children
2. Thursday April 23, 2020 at the Talking Book Library





colorado connections

- ◆ Thank you, thank you, and thank you to so many people and agencies who contributed to the success of the Colorado hosted Western Region Early Intervention Conference.
 - First to the hard working Colorado host team of the Western Region Conference: **Tanni Anthony** (CDE), **Dinah Beams**, **Heather Cameron** (Anchor Center), **Gina Herrera** (CDE), **Sara Kennedy** (Hands and Voices), **Annette Landes** (CSDB), and **Steve Lindauer** (A Shared Vision)! Dinah Beams was our leader and Steve Lindauer did yo-mans work on the WREIC website.
 - Also thank you to **Melinda Carter**, **Roberta Curtis**, and **Katie Lindauer** for their onsite work at the conference.
 - The following presentations were sponsored by Colorado folks: **Dr. Cathy Smyth** by the Anchor Center for Blind Children and **Dr. Linda Lawrence** by the Colorado Services to Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project and the Anchor Center for Blind Children.
 - The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project funded 75 Colorado TVIs to attend the preconference session with Dr. Corinna Bauer.
 - **CSDB** funded the sign language interpreters and CART services, the **CDE BVI** budget funded partial costs of the AV services onsite, the **Anchor Center for Blind Children** sponsored a reception and hosted a visit of conference participants to the Anchor Center.
 - In addition to all of the Colorado contributions, the other presentations were sponsored by the State Deaf-Blind Projects from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind, and New Mexico Preschool for the Visually Impaired. All in all, a regional effort with Colorado's host work!
 - Finally, thank you to so many of you who took the time to attend one, two, or all three of the conference days.

- ◆ We are so thankful to and for **Jim Olson**, our American Printing House for the Blind ex officio trustee! Jim just attended the APH Annual Meeting on our behalf. Stay tuned for his updates. Also a shout out to **Nancy Benham** and **Jamie Lugo** who attended the Council of Schools and Services for the Blind meeting in Louisville ahead of the APH meeting.

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 COMs:** If you have any changes in program contact information, please Tanni these changes. Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up-to-date! Send changes to: anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or to Tanni Anthony, CDE 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!

MAIL TO:

25-43E-3401

Katy Anthes
Commissioner of Education



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