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KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness
March—April 2021

Springtime in the Rockies

By Tanni L. Anthony

It is spring in Colorado with the telltale signs of the color green returning to the earth. Flowers are starting to poke their heads out of the ground and that glorious emerald lace is visible on the trees. Tree blossoms are not far away. The warmer temperatures are already inviting us to pack away sweaters and coats and dig for short sleeved tops, shorts, and sandals. Our urge is to throw off the weight of winter and start anew. As Lilly Pulitzer notes, *“Despite the forecast, live like it is spring!”* I also love this quote to bring on the spring spirit, *“I stuck my head out the window this morning and spring kissed me bang in the face”* (Langston Hughes). Time to get some fresh air and fresh perspective!

There are many lessons to be learned in this new season. Don Larson described it very well, *“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush!”* Sounds like a spring symphony of the senses!



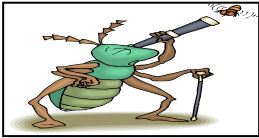
As the snow melts and spring rain (and still some Colorado snow) come, new puddles form. We can stay inside, be sad about the gray skies, or find our rain boots and find the wonder of a great splash! Watch any small child who confronts a rain puddle. Does he go around the puddle? Not on your life! Does she ask to be carried over the puddle? No way! That puddle is not a barrier—but something to be truly experienced! Splish, splash, stomp!

The puddle on the sidewalk is to be stomped, splashed, and enjoyed for the fun of the wet, the sounds of the stomp, and the spray of the splash. So find your spring puddle and stomp away! Happy spring to each of you!

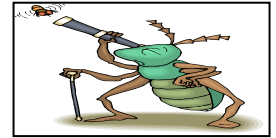
Table of Contents

Spring Time in the Rockies	1	Calendar of Events	24
Low Vision	2	Connecting the Dots	28
CAER News	3	Transition Information	31
Check It Out	5	Just for Parents	36
Colorado Deaf-Blind Project	13	Jobs in Colorado	39
Resources and Materials	15	Colorado Connections	40
CDE Happenings	17		
Orientation and Mobility	23		





LOW VISION EVALUATION



Low Vision Regional Evaluation Clinics for School Year 2021-2022

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator(s)
Western	TBD for SY 2021-22	Angela Sims
Southern	TBD for SY 2021-22	Debbie Haberkorn
Northern	TBD for SY 2021-22	Liz Wieder
Metro	TBD for SY 2021-22	Morgan Fitzpatrick and Karin Hensel

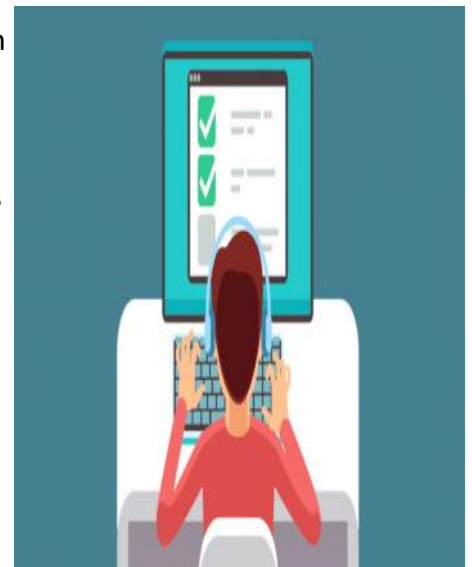
We Are Working on a Game Plan for School Year 2020-21

Stay Calm and Use Magnification!

A STUDY ON SCREEN READERS

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Sevgi Kirboyun. I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student, studying in the Teaching for Students with Visual Impairments Program at the University of Arizona. I am conducting a research study to examine the experiences of teachers of students with visual impairments in teaching the use of screen readers. Teachers of students with visual impairments in the United States are invited to complete about 15 minutes on-line questionnaire. The purpose of this study is to explore the perspectives of TVIs on teaching screen readers and to summarize their experiences with screen reader instructions. This study will investigate teachers' competencies and attitudes toward the instructional strategies for the use of screen readers for students with visual impairments in both public and residential schools in the United States. There is no risk for participation in this study, nor will you directly benefit from participating.



“An Institutional Review Board responsible for human subjects research at The University of Arizona reviewed this research project and found it to be acceptable, according to applicable state and federal regulations and University policies designed to protect the rights and welfare of participants in research.”

Four participants will be randomly selected to receive a gift card of \$20.

To participate in this study, please go to: https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IR2czT6GwG2oHr.

If you have any questions, please email me at kirboyun@email.arizona.edu.



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

CAER Works for You!

Are you a member of the Association of the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired? CAER, our State Chapter, hopes so! Check out the many good things our Colorado State chapter is doing for you and for us! They maintain the [CAER website](https://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/colorado/), that includes updated information regarding Colorado AER.

(<https://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/colorado/>)

To get there from the [national AER website](https://aerbvi.org/) (<https://aerbvi.org/>)

- Go to **About** at the top and pull down to AER Chapters.
- Then find **Colorado** on the left side and click on it.

This will take you to the [Colorado Chapter for the Association of Education and Rehabilitation webpage](https://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/colorado/).

Update News

The International AER Conference has been rescheduled for July 20-24, 2022 in St, Louis, MO.

Building Bridges Together

Join Us for the 2021 CAER Virtual BOB: Banquet Over Breakfast

This virtual breakfast banquet will be held on May 7, 2021 at 7:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unco.zoom.us/j/93020342919>

Meeting ID: 930 2034 2919

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,93020342919# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,93020342919# US (Houston)

Zoom starts at 7:30 a.m., but meeting and awards begin at 7:45 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

There is no cost to attend AND there is a surprise for all attendees!



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



CAER Annual Awards

By CAER President Heather Solberg

These awards are given annually to professionals working with those people who are blind or visually impaired. Each of you gives above and beyond what is required, and you all deserve recognition. Please nominate someone who is providing dedicated service to our profession in one of the categories below. A brief narrative describing this person's achievements, as well as letters of support may be emailed to Heather Solberg at caerboard@gmail.com.

Here are the awards and the criteria to be considered:

President's Award: This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities. True to its name, the current President will select and present this award.

Gary Schmidt Award: This award honors an AER member who works directly with students/clients. Nomination criteria include; ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board review the nominations for this award.

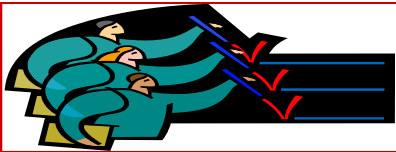
Connections Award: This award recognizes cooperative efforts that cross organizational lines, perhaps even groups working collaboratively to benefit our field. The CAER Board considers the nominations.

Lifetime Achievement Award: This award is presented to professionals who have given of themselves to students/clients throughout their career and are preparing for retirement.

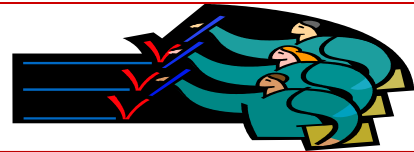
Ken Neve Award: This award is to recognize an AER professional in the area specific to orientation and mobility. The CAER Board considers the nominations.

Nominations for the awards will be gathered and then more information will be given about presenting the awards in at the spring breakfast banquet.

*The CAER Board thanks you for your membership
and dedication to our field.*



CHECK IT OUT!



CDE COVID—19 Resources

- [CDE Website](#)
- [CDE COVID Resources](#)
- [CDE Office of Special Education COVID resources:](#)

The CDE Office of Special Education COVID resource webpage has many topics specific to federal/state guidance, topics for instruction, disability-specific resources, and parent support resources. There are also a series of Q and A topics.

Also the [CDE Visual Impairment, Including Blindness webpage](#) has been built out.

[Google Drive with BVI COVID Resources:](#) thanks to Nancy Cozart, Elsa D'Angelo, Karin Hensel, Julie Hutchinson, Jamie Lugo, and Tanni Anthony. This link does not require that you have a Google account.

Tactile Act Club

This group is going strong thanks to the organizational efforts by Rishika Kartik. Check out her [blogpost of our December TAC meeting](#) as well as her [2020 Year in Review blog](#) with her favorite highlights of 2020 and how current events have shifted her perspective about accessibility, tactile art, and inclusivity.

The Tactile Art Club meetings for 2021 will continue on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. MST**. Please mark the dates on your calendar and stay tuned for more details about the remaining TAC meetings on March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November and 16, December 21, 2021.

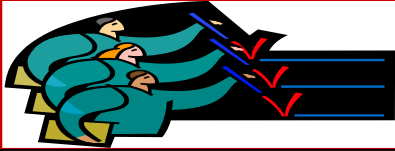
For more information, please reach out to Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com.



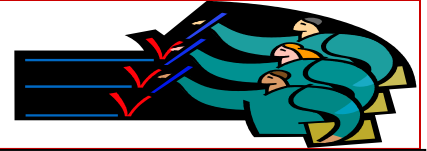
COVID-19 Impact and an Opportunity to Share

Dr. Penny Rosenblum has asked to share her blog post, [Share Your Photos: Let's Show What Education Looks Like in 2021](#). With proper permission, you may want to consider sharing your experiences and inviting your students and families to share theirs by submitting photos. At the bottom of the blog is the release form in English and Spanish. Those submitting photos will be entered into a drawing for an Amazon \$25 gift card.

Check out the [Access and Engagement report](#). Take a moment to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on education in the spring. Dr. Rosenblum shares, "not a lot has not changed and a lot is different!"



CHECK IT OUT!



American Printing House for the Blind InSights Art Competition

It has been a long, hard winter on top of an already difficult year! For this reason, the American Printing House for the Blind has decided to extend the APH InSights Art Competition submission deadline to **Friday, April 16, 2021**. Take this extra time to polish up those masterpieces. They can't wait to see them!

This year, all artists can email a digital photograph of their artwork with a completed entry form to insights@aph.org. Download an entry form from the [APH InSights Art Enter the Contest](#) page. Selected artwork will be shipped to APH at a later date.

2021 National Coding Symposium

Hosted by APH ConnectCenter and California School for the Blind.

Together, the APH ConnectCenter and California School for the Blind (CSB) will cohost the free, virtual National Coding Symposium from Tuesday, May 11, 2021 through Friday, May 14, 2021, to demonstrate how the world of coding, programming, and related careers are available and accessible to students who are blind and visually impaired. Read our [Coding Symposium blog](#) to learn more, and [register for the Symposium today!](#)

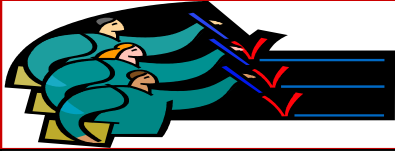


Pilot Study for "APH Visual Interpreter"

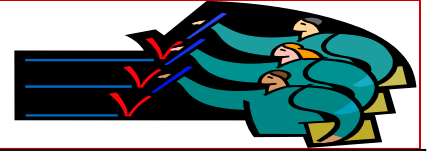
The American Printing House for the Blind is exploring the possibility of offering a Visual Interpretation Service on Federal Quota as they seek possible solutions to address the unique challenges posed by remote learning. They are in need of students who are blind or visually impaired (age 18 years or older) to participate in a pilot study for this service. Learn more and find contact information regarding this opportunity on our [Get Involved](#) page.

Physical Education Experiences Study

A research team from Old Dominion University is looking for students ages 12-17 who are blind/visually impaired to participate in a year-long study about physical education. Students who complete the study will receive a gift card of up to \$250. More information and contact details are available on our [Get Involved](#) page.



CHECK IT OUT!



Conference for Assistive Technology and Education 2021

June 7, 2021—June 8, 2021

9:00 AM-3:30 p.m. MST

Contact: [Registration Website](#)

OVERVIEW

Conference for Assistive Technology and Education - A Virtual Event!

The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) and the Colorado Department of Education are proud to announce open registration for the Conference for Assistive Technology and Education. This 2-day conference features virtual short courses and breakout sessions with nationally renowned trainers addressing a wide variety of topics related to the academic support needs of students with disabilities. For more information visit www.swaaac.org.

Intended Audience: Assistive Technology Specialists, Special Educators, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Reading Resource Teachers, Instructional Technology Teachers, UDL/RtI Coordinators, Administrators, Education Para-Professionals, Parents, and Caregivers.

FEATURED SHORT COURSES

Access to Math will Help Solve the Problem

- o Presented by Tiffany Zaugg

Assistive Technology to Support Workplace Performance and Independence

- o Presented by Jim Sandstrum, MA

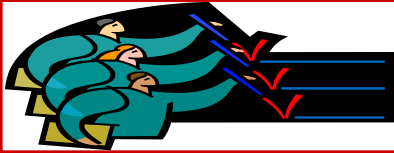
Assistive Technology Tools for Infants and Toddlers: Why, What, and When to Introduce

- o Presented by Debbie Drennan, MSW

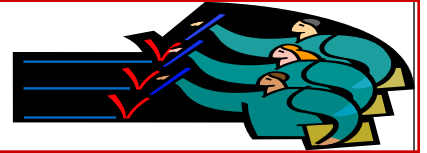
Executive Functioning in Today's Classroom

- o Presented by Cassie Frost, M.Ed





CHECK IT OUT!



Book Lovers: Enter the 2021 Typhlo & Tactus Contest

Do you have a story you've written that can be turned into a tactile illustrated book? Have you read a story or have a favorite children's book that can be adapted for a child between the ages of 3 and 12 who would enjoy tactile illustrations? Then don't miss your chance to submit your tactile book in the Typhlo & Tactus Competition.

This popular international contest encourages creators to make a tactile book prototype for young children with visual impairments. Tactile books provide a child's first, fun introduction to tactile illustrations and provides their first pleasant experiences refining their tactile skills, fine motor abilities, and exploratory skills. Children learn symbolic representations from tactile books and become acquainted with the basic conventions of tactile displays, which they will use in textbooks and other accessible, tactile resources later in life. And they learn all these things from fun books that anyone can enjoy!

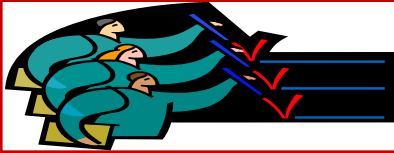
Everyone is invited to enter the contest. Book prototypes must include large type, bright and contrasting color design, and engaging tactile elements that would make your book come alive for exploring fingers. The inclusion of braille is strongly recommended, and we can help you do that. We especially invite scrapbookers, illustrators, authors, all who love the book arts, and all creatives who care for young readers with vision loss.

As the sponsor of the contest in the United States, the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) will award \$300 for First Place, \$200 for Second Place, and \$100 for Third Place. The entries will be selected by a local panel of judges. The winners of the U.S. competition will go on to the international competition.

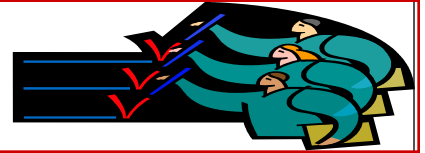
Entries are due on August 10, 2021.

For more information, contact Rob Guillen rguillen@aph.org or 1-800-223-1839, extension 242. We look forward to all the wonderful entries.





CHECK IT OUT!



APH Virtual ExCEL Academy

The American Printing House for the Blind will continue to provide the APH Virtual ExCEL Academy for students in the new year. They will be offering FREE engaging lessons for students with a variety of abilities and hope to model ways that online learning may be used to supplement services. The staff of APH understands that children's needs are unique and that lessons may not apply to all kids, but they are dedicated to working out a plan to provide as much as they can. Beginning January 12, 2021, the APH Virtual ExCEL Academy will be held at 3:00 eastern time (1:00 p.m. mountain standard time) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The days will be grouped by age; therefore, APH will work hard to provide classes as follows:

Tuesday: Focus from birth to 6th grade.

Wednesday: Focus from 7th to 12th grade.

Thursday: Focus on students with multiple impairments.

Once a student is registered, the link remains active from October 13, 2020 until May 27, 2021. Because APH knows students are not always able to attend during the scheduled hour, they will be recording these sessions so all have the opportunity to learn. Many educational professionals as well as college students preparing to enter the field will be participating in the webinars to watch teachers at work. Remember, professionals are able to observe but please stay in the background just as if you were in a physical classroom. APH will not be able to provide you with ACVREP credit for this type of activity.

[APH Virtual ExCEL Academy Registration](#)

Virtual ExCEL Academy and Summer Camp Archives

Missed a chance to attend one of the American Printing House for the Blind webinars or just looking for more resources? Check out their ExCEL Academy and ExCEL Camp webinars on the APH YouTube Channel.

It has been suggested that these webinars may be a good way to spend an administrative unit inservice day, as approved by your administrator. The content is relevant to personnel working with students who are blind/visually impaired. [Check out the many archived webinars.](#)

APH Access Academy

Access Academy (formerly [#AtHomeWithAPH](#)) is a one-stop resource for the meaningful education and training webinars you need to get the most out of APH products and services. From tutorials on new products and hacks on how to get the most from your technology, to information on resources, services, and programs: the goal is to give the information needed for home, the classroom, and the workplace.

The majority of Access Academy webinars also provide [Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals](#) (ACVREP) credit. Credit is only available for the live presentation at this time. To collect ACVREP credit, please listen for the opening and closing codes during the live session and submit these on the ACVREP Certificate Request form linked from our [Education Training](#) page. Following submission, a certificate will be emailed to you within a week.

[Check out the upcoming Access Academy upcoming and archived offerings.](#)



AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE



NLS Publishes New Regulations: Medical Doctor Certification No Longer Required for Reading Disabilities

Greetings from the National AEM Center! We're pleased to inform you of important regulatory changes that should ease access to accessible formats of materials for students with reading disabilities, including dyslexia.

Background

In March of 2020, we sent a notification about changes to U.S. copyright law that have an impact on students served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and may also qualify to receive accessible formats of materials derived from the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). At that time, the Library of Congress Technical Corrections Act of 2019 had amended terminology for persons eligible to receive accessible materials consistent with the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (MTIA).

Please see the following section of our website for details about that March 2020 notification: [NIMAS Terms Clarified Post Marrakesh](#). You may also recall that in January of 2020 the U.S. Department of Education included information and language about the impact of changes made by the MTIA within [procedures for receiving a FFY 2020 Part B grant award](#).

Update

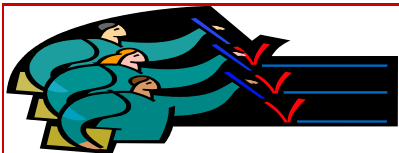
On February 12, 2021, the National Library Service (NLS) published the regulations that go along with the Library of Congress Technical Corrections Act of 2019. In addition to expanding the list of persons who may certify a student's eligibility for accessible formats, **the Library of Congress removed the requirement for certification by a medical doctor for those with reading disabilities. Educators, school psychologists, and certified reading specialists are now among the professionals authorized to certify students with reading disabilities.**

Read the Library of Congress's final rule: [Loans of Library Materials for Blind and Other Print-Disabled Persons: A Rule by the Library of Congress on 02/12/2021](#).

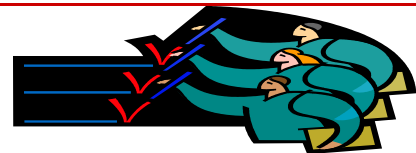
The National AEM Center will be providing technical assistance to states and districts to support the implementation of these changes. Our team welcomes any immediate questions or concerns. Please contact us at aem@cast.org.

In these otherwise challenging times, we're relieved to celebrate this advancement in access with you, your students, and their families.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Curry
Director of Technical Assistance, CAST



CHECK IT OUT!



Hello all:

The Colorado Department of Education's Significant Support Needs Network is announcing Office Hours for the remainder of the school year. Office hours will take place on the 1st Wednesday of each month beginning February 3, 2021 from 3:00 – 4:30 in the afternoon.

We have extended the hours to allow time for a short and focused presentation and questions and answers. There will also be time to discuss other topics at the end of the session.



The remaining topic for this School Year's Office Hours is as follows:

May 5 Collaboration – General Educators and Special Educators with Focus on Students with SSN

Please use the [SSN Registration Form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fa6c3780757a4fb395c41b8a5b68e760) (<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fa6c3780757a4fb395c41b8a5b68e760>)

We look forward to seeing you!

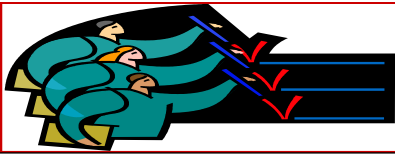
Gina Herrera and SSN Team



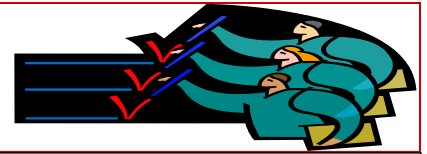
The Buzz: News from the APH Hive

Excited for more professional development opportunities? The APH Hive is welcoming a new course to its catalog, *Developing Self-Awareness*, which falls under the Self-Determination category of the Expanded Core Curriculum. Learn how to skillfully and successfully offer students practice opportunities of "knowing themselves" within the platform of remote instruction lessons all while earning two ACVREP credit hours. Check out all of their professional development opportunities!

[Sign up for the APH Hive today!](#)



CHECK IT OUT!



OSEP-Funded TA Centers

OSERS' technical assistance centers are ready to address your questions regarding the IDEA and best practices and alternate models for providing special education and related services, including through distance instruction. The National Center for Systemic Improvement is the primary source for technical assistance resources during the COVID-19 national emergency for IDEA Part B programs. The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center is the primary source for IDEA Part C programs. For questions pertaining to Part C of IDEA, States should contact their Early [Childhood Technical Assistance Center State Contact](#). For Part B of IDEA, States should contact the [National Center for Systemic Improvement](#).

** Early Childhood



The [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) is providing State Part C and Part B, Section 619 programs with the [latest information](#) on funding and guidance.

** NCSI

The [National Center for Systemic Improvement's](#) has a wealth of information to support educators outcomes for children with disabilities.



** Proficient Communicators Who Are Deaf-Blind

The [National Center on Deaf-Blindness](#) has compiled and organized [Resources for Providing Technical Assistance During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). It covers OSEP guidance, distance TA, resources for families and service providers, and online learning for proficient communicators who are deaf-blind. The page is being regularly updated with input from state deaf-blind projects and national partners.



** Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

[TIES Center](#) has launched a distance-learning series that provides a framework for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to get through these new transitions, engage fully in academics online, and interact with their teachers and peers, a critical component of well-being. TIES Center is regularly adding resources to the distance learning series that offer the following recommendations to support the inclusion and engagement of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Current resources include:

- [TIES Distance Learning #1: Morning Meetings](#)
- [TIES Distance Learning #2: A Collaborative Start to Behavioral Supports](#)
- [TIES Distance Learning #3: Effective Specially Designed Instruction \(SDI\) Within the Distance Learning Environment: What in the World Does That Look Like?](#)



** Accessible Materials and Technologies

The [National AEM Center at CAST](#) has developed resources to support students who need accessible materials and technologies while learning remotely during the COVID-19 crisis.



** eBooks

[Bookshare](#) provides accessible eBooks for eligible individuals with barriers to reading. The resources linked here will help students with dyslexia, blindness/ visual impairment, cerebral palsy, and other print reading barriers to continue learning during school closures.



Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Colorado Intervener Support

A huge shout out to Gina Herrera and Jessica Meisel for growing and supporting the field. We have four interveners enrolled in the San Francisco State University training program and another with the Utah State University Program. Others are being supported by Colorado Deaf-Blind Project training. Jessica is working diligently to organize a network of our interveners and to provide coaching support to the interveners and school-based teams supporting students with deaf-blindness. It takes a team to support the role of an intervener with a student who is deaf-blind. Be in touch with your training and support needs.

The project's advisory met in November and offered input on how best to recruit personnel into this profession. We currently have positions open in more than one school district. If you know someone who would be interested in training and support to become an intervener, please be in touch with Gina at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us. We have children who are depending on these positions.



Child Find Count

We are in the process of reviewing the Child Count Forms that have been returned to CDE. Thank you to everyone who was on time with these data. It is so important that we have information on each and every child birth through 21 years with deaf-blindness. Children on the Child Count are eligible for free technical assistance from the project. We have two part-time technical assistance specialists to support the service providers working with the child. Thanks to Wendy Stoltman and Shelley Moats. To request a free technical assistance consultation, please be in touch with Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us.



Virtual Helen Keller National Center Summer Programs

In a time when distance learning ensures the safety of consumers, HKNC has adapted their New York programs to online so that deaf-blind transition-age youth may still have the opportunity to learn from other deaf-blind individuals and our experienced professionals. They are offering three virtual summer programs.

Prior to the beginning of the program, HKNC staff will assess technology available to the participant to determine the best instruction modality that would insure full access to information and instruction. Instruction may be provided by telephone, iPhone, iPad, e-mail, computer, videophone, FaceTime, Zoom meetings, and/or Google Classroom.

The Virtual Summer Assessment is an eight-week program designed to offer information and practical experience to expand participant's awareness, knowledge, skill and confidence. The assessment includes the topics of Career and Job Exploration, Virtual Worksite Tours, Workplace Readiness Skills, Counseling on Post-Secondary Education, Adaptive Technology, Self-advocacy- Facilitate IEP, Orientation & Mobility, Low Vision and Audiology, and Communication.

Program Cost: \$625.00 / week

Offered June, July, and August 2021

Along with the assessment areas, participants may choose to join peer-learning groups such as Emergency Preparedness, Living on Your Own, Savvy Shopper, Coping with COVID-19 Support Group, and Advocacy in the Deaf-Blind World.

Virtual Summer Assessment Outcomes:

- √ Participate in a variety of experiences and opportunities to gain information, assess strengths and challenges.
- √ Identify resources and supports that will help prepare for work in the future.
- √ Learn from competitively employed deaf-blind mentors and peer experiences.
- √ Develop an understanding of work through virtual worksite tours and informational interviews.



COLORADO
Department of Education

2020-2021 SY DEAF-BLINDNESS WEBINAR SERIES

SESSION SIX: April 29, 2021 at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Why Aren't You Paying Attention? Influences and Outcomes with Dr. Robin Greenfield

This presentation will discuss the topic of attention and the role it plays in the education of children, particularly children who are deaf-blind. Participants will learn what attention might look like for a child who is deaf-blind, what sustains a child's attention, and what impact a distraction or interruption has on attention. They will also learn about the myths of multitasking and have the opportunity to engage in activities that look at their own attention.

SESSION SEVEN: May 13, 2021 at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Seventeen Rants about Communication with Maurice Belote

Communication is at the core of everything we do with children and youth who are deafblind. Supporting students who are deafblind to become proficient communicators can challenge family members and even the most skilled and experienced educators. The session will review features of communication that are unique to children who are deafblind and/or who have significant support needs, including the impact of stress and anxiety on communication, using authentic assessment data to drive decision making, managing large transdisciplinary teams, and debunking the myth that it is ever too late to become a competent communicator.

Participants: Colorado parents of and professionals working with children birth through 21 years with significant supports needs, including deaf-blindness.

Training Expectations: Full attendance of either session is a requirement. Please do not sign up for any of these training events if you cannot commit to the two full-hours of each training.

[Webinar series registration link](#)

Please share this registration link with appropriate families and colleagues. Each person must register separately. You can register for one or both posted trainings. When registering, please indicate if you will require accommodations at least two weeks ahead of each training event. Once registered, the link and handouts will be sent two days ahead of the training. The registration will be closed two weeks ahead of each event.

Questions? Contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Colorado Department of Education

Exceptional Student Services Unit | 1560 Broadway, #1100, Denver, CO 80202



Presenter: [Dr. Robin Greenfield](#)

Robin G. Greenfield, Ph.D. is the Associate Director of the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho. She is also the Director of the Idaho Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness. Dr. Greenfield has conducted national and international presentations on education strategies for children who are deaf-blind. She has written a series of booklets and video fact sheets on topics related to deaf-blindness and produced a video series on the inclusion of a child who is deaf-blind in a general education classroom.

Presenter: [Maurice Belote](#)

Maurice Belote has worked exclusively in the field of deafblindness for 39 years. He has served as Project Coordinator for California Deafblind Services since 1992. Maurice is a frequent presenter at state, national, and international conferences and has written extensively on educational issues specific to children and youth with deafblindness. He represents students with deafblindness on numerous state and national groups and organizations, including as the specialist in deafblindness for the California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired. He also serves as Co-Chair of the National Coalition on Deafblindness, which has advocated for federal recognition of interveners in IDEA.

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Virtual Helen Keller National Center Summer Programs (continued)

Prior to the beginning of the program, HKNC staff will assess technology available to the participant to determine the best instruction modality that would insure full access to information and instruction. Instruction may be provided by telephone, iPhone, iPad, e-mail, computer, videophone, FaceTime, Zoom meetings, and/or Google Classroom.

The Virtual Summer Youth Vocational Program is a six-week program offering opportunities to gain knowledge and experience in areas of Vocational Exploration, Self-Determination, Advocacy, Communication Methods, Worksite Orientation & Mobility, Assistive Aids & Devices, and Interviewing & Employment Skills. They will explore the “world of work” through the distribution of information of a variety of career options and associated criteria. As a result of their discoveries through self-awareness and “world of work”, participants will narrow potential career options supported by informed decision-making.

Program Cost: \$625.00 / week

Session I: June 7, 2021 – July 16, 2021

Session II: July 19, 2021 – August 27, 2021

Virtual SYVP Outcomes:

- √ Learn from competitively employed deaf-blind mentors and peer experiences.
- √ Develop an understanding of work through virtual worksite tours and informational interviews.
- √ Increase self-awareness of personal strengths/interests through the SYVP seven focus areas.
- √ Identify future skill building goals and develop an action plan to meet those goals.
- √ Prepare for interview-readiness through development of a work portfolio and practice interviews.
- √ Learn about universal precautions for work safety during COVID-19.

Participants will virtually join peers ages 16-22 from around the country for this innovative six-week experience. Prior to the beginning of the program, HKNC staff will assess technology available to the participant to determine the best instruction modality that would ensure full access to information and instruction. Instruction may be provided by telephone, iPhone, iPad, e-mail, computer, videophone, FaceTime, Zoom meetings, and/or Google Classroom.

The Virtual M~POWER is a two-week program offering an introduction to the world of work and emphasizes the five areas of Pre-ETS: job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on post-secondary educational opportunities, workplace readiness training, and self-advocacy.

July 26, 2021 – August 6, 2021

Program Cost: \$625.00 / week

Virtual M~POWER Outcomes:

- √ Explore and learn skills in the core areas of Orientation and Mobility, Communication, Independent Living, and Adaptive Technology - essential for successful employment.
- √ Learn from competitively employed deaf-blind mentors and peer experiences.
- √ Learn how to apply for a dog guide and the skills needed to maintain the working team.
- √ Identify job interests and what a typical day on the job is like through virtual job shadowing.
- √ Learn what skills are needed to be successful at work, for interviews, resume writing.
- √ Interview a successful employee who started as a volunteer and worked her way up to employment.
- √ Learn from students who are deaf-blind about successful college experiences.
- √ Learn how to develop self-advocacy skills to make informed choices in school, at work and for future plans while using an interpreter or SSP.

Participants will virtually join peers ages 16 - 22 from around the country for this innovative two-week program. Prior to the beginning of the program, HKNC staff will assess technology available to the participant to determine the best instructional modality that would ensure full access to information and instruction. Instruction may be provided by telephone, iPhone, iPad, e-mail, computer, videophone, FaceTime, Zoom meetings, and/or Google Classroom.

For more information, contact Dora Carney, Admissions Coordinator: Dora.Carney@hknc.org.

Or your regional representative: <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/nationwide-service>.

Resources and Materials

Math Resource

The Updated Practice Guide, “Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics: Intervention in the Elementary Grades,” was released just released. This guide is not specific to students who are blind/visually impaired but is a helpful math resource. Check it out at:

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/26?fbclid=IwAR2qzdNmKZOTAHzaGoK6rG9e4ltfi-IGb-2_wWQs9GH8ChoLs_YGD-vjaeE#tab-summary

American Printing House for the Blind Resource Information

APH Information & Referral 800 Number provides free information on virtually any topic related to visual impairment and blindness. Call toll-free 1-800-232-5463 (U.S. and Canada) or email connectcenter@aph.org.

- [Directory of Services](#) lets anyone find services in his or her local area with a simple search. Lists over 2,000 agencies in the U.S. and Canada.
- [FamilyConnect.org](#) gives parents of children who are visually impaired a place to find resources and support.
- [APHCareerConnect.org](#) provides career exploration tools and job-seeking guidance for individuals with vision loss and professionals who work with them.
- [VisionAware.org](#) helps adults who are losing their sight continue to live full, independent lives by providing daily living techniques and a supportive online community. Preserving vital content, building for the future, APH is honored to preserve and refresh these vital resources.

INSTRUCT
ENCOURAGE
PRAISE
INFLUENCE
SHARE
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Resources and Materials



In partnership with the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR), the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has developed and published a set of high-leverage practices (HLPs) for teachers of students with disabilities. The HLPs are organized around four aspects of practice: Collaboration, assessment, social/emotional/behavioral and instruction.

Check out their newest HLP Resources! These resources are intended to be used as professional learning activities for educators to increase their knowledge, understanding, and use of the HLPs for students with disabilities.



Explore the newly designed HLP website and gain access to hundreds of HLP tools and resources.

Learn more at: highleveragepractices.org

Resources and Materials



Teachers can learn to use high-leverage practices (HLPs) when they have effective opportunities to practice using the HLPs in thoughtful ways. To support teacher educators' use of HLPs, the CEEDAR Center, in collaboration with Educator Preparation Program faculty across the country, has collected a set of effective practice opportunities that we refer to as practice-based learning opportunities or PLOs.

Learn more at: cedar.education.ufl.edu/plos/



Having a hard time keeping students focused and engaged in distance learning environments? Are students overwhelmed and struggling with managing their workload? Watch this recorded webinar to learn how teachers can use the high-leverage practices to meet the needs of all students with different backgrounds and abilities in distance learning environments! Based on the brief: [Removing Barriers to Effective Distance Learning by Applying the High-Leverage Practices](#).

Watch here: cedar.education.ufl.edu/portfolio/webinar-removing-barriers-to-effective-distance-learning-by-applying-the-high-leverage-practices/



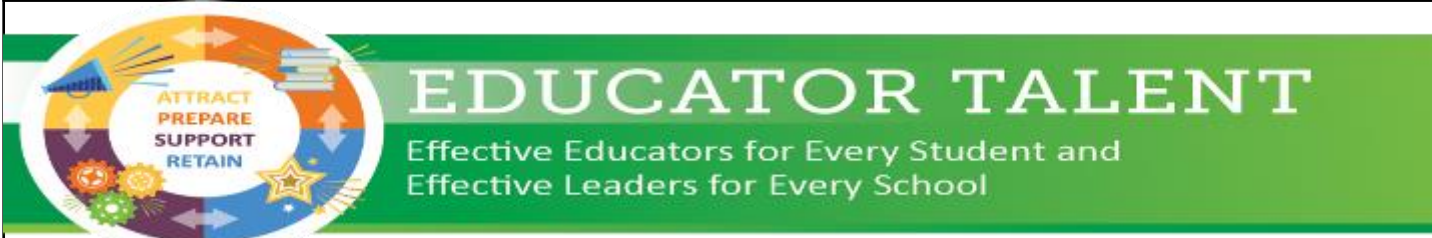
Licensure and Endorsement Specific to Visual Impairment

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>



Educator Licensing

CDE is launching a new eLicensing system - Colorado Online Licensing, or COOL - that will streamline processes for educators applying for and renewing their Colorado educator credentials, reduce processing time and include more automated notifications for users. The new system will offer each educator a streamlined application experience and process. It will also include increased options for district human resources personnel and improved features for Colorado's educator preparation programs. Visit the [New Licensing System Launch webpage](#) for details, including tutorial videos and resources for district/BOCES users.

CMAS and CoAlt Assessment Waiver Update

CDE requested a partial [waiver](#) of federal assessment requirements for this spring's assessments to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on March 17th due to COVID conditions in Colorado. The partial waiver solely addressed CMAS/CoAlt English language arts (ELA), Math and Science assessments. We did not seek any changes regarding PSAT/SAT and their associated CoAlt assessments. We received official notification from USED late this afternoon granting most of our request (see attached letter).

The USED approved assessing alternating grades for CMAS/CoAlt ELA and Math. Under the spring 2021 waiver, districts and schools must administer CMAS/CoAlt ELA assessments to all students (except those with a parent excusal) in third, fifth, and seventh grades, and CMAS/CoAlt Math to all students (except those with a parent excusal) in fourth, sixth, and eighth grades. Parents may also choose to have their children take both the ELA and math assessments. Parents of third, fifth, and seventh graders may opt their students in to CMAS/CoAlt Math and parents of fourth, sixth, and eighth graders may opt their students in to CMAS/CoAlt ELA (see table below). Districts and schools must administer these assessments to students whose parents opt them in. All grades and content areas will be publicly reported as long as minimum n size and student data privacy requirements are met.

	Required ELA/Math Test	Required Opportunity ELA/Math Test
Students in Grades 3, 5, and 7	English language arts	Math
Students in Grades 4, 6, and 8	Math	English language arts

USED did not grant a blanket waiver for CMAS/CoAlt Science. While USED did not waive grade 8 CMAS/CoAlt Science, the grade 5 CMAS/CoAlt Science assessment requirement was waived, and a one-year replacement of grade 11 CMAS Science with SAT was granted. The currently provided SAT *Analysis in Science* cross-test score will be publicly reported. CoAlt will continue to be the alternate science assessment in 11th grade (see the table at the end of this message for the spring 2021 testing schedule).

For any questions about how assessments are being administered in your administrative unit, please talk to your District Assessment Coordinator.



CDE Happenings

At a district’s discretion, the attached sample template can be incorporated into your parent communications regarding the opt-in assessment opportunity. The template is also available on CDE’s website in both English and Spanish along with other [communication resources](#). We understand that communication will vary based on the status of testing in schools (e.g., some schools have started testing while others have not) as well as community needs and preferences. Whatever the strategy for planning and communication, districts should make parents aware of their right to have their children take both ELA and math assessments and ensure that opt-in assessments are administered under standardized and reasonable assessment conditions. All assessment administrations must, of course, reflect appropriate health and safety protocols.

CDE recommends that districts continue to prioritize administration of the CMAS/CoAlt ELA and Math and PSAT/SAT assessments over CMAS/CoAlt Science. As you make any needed schedule adjustments, please keep in mind that we have extended the CMAS/CoAlt ELA, Math, and Science window to May 14th.

If you have any CMAS implementation questions, please contact Sara Loerzel: Loerzel_s@cde.state.co.us

Spring 2021 Testing Schedule		
GRADE	REQUIRED ADMINISTRATION to <u>all</u> students, except for students with parent excuse	REQUIRED ADMINISTRATION to students whose parents opt them in
3	CMAS/CoAlt: English Language Arts (ELA)	CMAS/CoAlt: Math
4*	CMAS/CoAlt: Math	CMAS/CoAlt: ELA
5**	CMAS/CoAlt: ELA	CMAS/CoAlt: Math
6	CMAS/CoAlt: Math	CMAS/CoAlt: ELA
7*	CMAS/CoAlt: ELA	CMAS/CoAlt: Math
8	CMAS/CoAlt: Math CMAS/CoAlt: Science	CMAS/CoAlt: ELA
9	PSAT and CoAlt: ELA and Math	
10	PSAT and CoAlt: ELA and Math	
11***	SAT and CoAlt: ELA, Math and Science SAT will replace grade 11 CMAS Science as the state’s science test <u>for this year only</u> . The SAT <i>Analysis in Science</i> cross-test score will serve as the state’s high school general science measure.	

*Grades 4 and 7 CMAS/CoAlt Social Studies will not be administered in spring 2021.

**Grade 5 CMAS/CoAlt Science will not be administered in spring 2021.

***Grade 11 CMAS Science will not be administered in spring 2021. Grade 11 CoAlt Science will be administered, providing the alternate assessment science score to the SAT Analysis in Science cross-test score.



Licensure Requirements for TVIs and Orientation and Mobility Specialists 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 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 Specialist, 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&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.

New State IEP Vendor

The CDE is in process with a new state IEP vendor. Please take a moment to visit the new [Ascend Colorado website](https://co.ascendsuites.com/):
<https://co.ascendsuites.com/>.

This webpage will have the most up-to-date information regarding the development of Ascend Colorado. If you would like, you can sign up for the newsletter to keep up with progress on the development of Ascend at <https://co.ascendsuites.com/announcements/>.

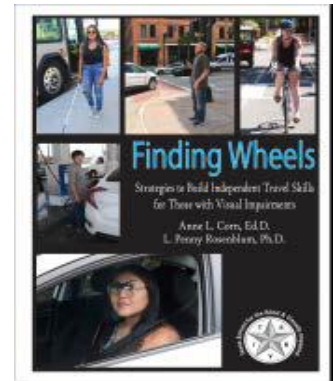


Orientation & Mobility

2021 CDE Orientation and Mobility Seminar

[Colorado Youths Finding Their Wheels Using a New Tool for Travelers May 6th and 7th, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day in virtual format](#)

Presenter: Dr. Rosenblum is the owner of Vision for Independence, LLC. Since January 2020, she has served as the Director of Research at the American Foundation for the Blind. For 20 years, she was a career track faculty member in the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies at the University of Arizona. From 1999 to 2016, Dr. Rosenblum prepared teachers to work with children with visual impairments. During that time, she coordinated teacher preparation programs in Arizona and Nevada. She is the co-author of the first Finding Wheels with Dr. Anne Corn. This curriculum is designed to assist adolescents with blindness/visual impairments, including deaf-blindness, to explore their options as nondrivers. As a person with low vision, Dr. Rosenblum is able to share first-hand information with professionals and families about the impact of a blindness/visual impairment on the lives of children and adults.



Training Content: The training will address how travelers with blindness/visual impairments, who are in high school or their early 20s, can develop a complex set of skills to manage travel. During these sessions, the presenter will focus on the wide array of skills needed, such as using technology during travel, bicycling with low vision, safety during travel, and using rideshare services. She will share a recently published book, Finding Wheels, that has been heavily revised by Drs. Anne Corn and L. Penny Rosenblum. The book differs in many ways from the original 2000 version. Throughout the session the presenter will share scenarios of travelers, content, activities, and vignettes. Videos and discussion will be used to increase participation and understanding of the material.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will describe the components of the new Finding Wheels book.
2. Participants will list three considerations for travelers for each of these topics: (a) safety, (b) rideshare services, (c) low vision driving, (d) bicycling with low vision, and (e) working with drivers.
3. Participants will explain how they can use Finding Wheels with teens and adults in their 20s with whom they work.

Audience: This training is only for Colorado O&M Specialists. Priority will be participants who can fully attend both morning sessions on May 6th and 7th. Colorado-based O&M Specialists in training are welcome to attend.

Costs: There are no costs for this training.

Course Credit: Full attendance of this training is valued at six (6) CDE / ACVEP Clock Hours. University credit will not be offered since the class will not be offered for the required 15 clock hours for one university credit.

[2021 Orientation and Mobility Registration](#)

Registration will close on Friday, April 16th. Confirmation emails will be sent by April 26th.

Questions? Please contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us.




Calendar of Events

2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021

- April 15** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward—[Registration for Virtual Training for Students](#)**
Contact: Michelle Reed at michele.reed@state.co.us
- April 16** **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting** - 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@cldb.org
- April 19-22** **Statewide Virtual Career Fair for Youth!** - 4:00 pm—6:30 pm
Registration: www.youthcareerfair.org
- April 20** **Tactile Art Club—**5:00 p.m. - Guest Artist [Erin Schalk](#), (Art Instructor at Braille Institute)
Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- April 21** **CSDB Parent Workshop** —Assistive Technology—11: 30a.m.
Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@cldb.org
- April 21** **BVI Office Hours** —Topic: Independent Living with Jamie Lugo and Marti Rahn
Registration: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7fe265f3864a434b8cf075d1862a98fa>
- April 22** **Metro Region TVI/COMS Meeting** - 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.—Aurora Public School District
Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
- April 22** **CAER Training** - O&M virtual instruction by Karin Hensel, TVI & Rebecca Gardom
Contact: Heather Solberg at Heather.solberg@va.gov
- April 25** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward—[Registration for Virtual Training for Students](#)**
Contact: Michelle Reed at michele.reed@state.co.us
- April 28** **Colorado Center for the Blind Fun Activities and Skills Training** - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Martin Becerra- Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
- April 29** **WRIEC —Through Native Eyes: Serving Native American Families and Tribal Communities**
Registration: <https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour>—a month out of training
- May 12** **BVI Office Hours** —Topic: Literacy Instruction with Julie Swegle and Amy Gunning
Registration: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7fe265f3864a434b8cf075d1862a98fa>
- May 5** **SSN Office Hours** —Topic: Collaboration—General/Special Educators w/focus on students w/SSN
Registration: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fa6c3780757a4fb395c41b8a5b68e760>
- May 6** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward** —[Registration for Virtual Training for Students](#)
Contact: Michelle Reed at michele.reed@state.co.us




Calendar of Events

2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021

- May 6-7** **CDE O&M Virtual Seminar with Dr. Penny Rosenblum on Finding Wheels**
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us
- May 7** **CAER Annual Meeting—Virtual Breakfast**
Contact: Heather Solberg at Heather.solberg@va.gov
- May 7** **CIMC First Friday Training Session—9:00—10:00 a.m. and 2:30—3:30 p.m.- Zoom**
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 13** **WRIEC —Early Intervention Face to Face and Virtual: EI Experiences from New Mexico and Utah**
Registration: <https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour>—a month out of training
- May 13** **CAER Chapter Meetings—5:45 to 7:15 p.m. – Google Meet - meet.google.com/mnx-zkdz-juu**
Contact: Nancy Cozart – ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
- May 18** **Tactile Art Club—5:00 p.m. - Guest Artist [Valerie Alcaraz](#)**
Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- May 19** **BVI Office Hours —Topic: ECC Brainstorm**
Registration: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7fe265f3864a434b8cf075d1862a98fa>
- May 19** **CSDB Parent Workshop—Recreation and Leisure—11:30 a.m.**
Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
- May 20** **CSDB Parent Workshop—Recreation and Leisure—5:30 p.m.**
Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
- May 20** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward—[Registration for Virtual Training for Students](#)**
Contact: Michelle Reed at michele.reed@state.co.us
- May 21** **Southern Region TVI/DVR Meeting - 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 26** **Colorado Center for the Blind Fun Activities and Skills Training - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**
Contact: Martin Becerra- Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
- May 27** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward—[Registration for Virtual Training for Students](#)**
Contact: Michelle Reed at michele.reed@state.co.us
- June 2** **CSDB Parent Workshop—Orientation and Mobility—11:30 a.m.**
Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org




Calendar of Events

2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021

June 3	CSDB Parent Workshop —Orientation and Mobility—5:30 p.m. Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
June 3	WRIEC —Unilateral Hearing Loss in Children: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go? Registration: https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour —a month out of training
June 4	CIMC First Friday Training Session —9:00—10:00 a.m. and 2:30—3:30 p.m. - Zoom Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
June 7-8	Conference for Assistive Technology and Education (CATE) Contact: Chelene at chelane.garcia-herrada@ucdenver.edu Registration: https://swaaac.squarespace.com/swaaac-conference
June 7 - 17	Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Program – World of Work Contact: Martin Becerra- Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
June 7-18	Bell Academy—Session 1 Contact: nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-bell-academy
June 10	CAER Chapter Meetings —5:45 to 7:15 p.m. – Google Meet - meet.google.com/mnx-zkdz-juu Contact: Nancy Cozart – ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
June 15	Tactile Art Club —5:00 p.m. - Guest Artist Elizabeth Sheeler Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
June 21- July 1	Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Program – Cracking the College Code Contact: Martin Becerra- Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
June 30	CIMC book returns due — more info on returning materials at https://csdb.colorado.gov/cimc Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@CSDB.ORG
June 21- July 1	Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Program – Mo Limits to Learning Contact: Martin Becerra- Miranda at mbecerra@cocenter.org
July 19-30	Bell Academy—Session 2 Contact: nfb.org/bell
July 20	Tactile Art Club —5:00 p.m. Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
August 9-20	Bell Academy—Session 3 Contact: nfb.org/bell
August 10	2021 Typhlo & Tactus Contest DUE Contact: Rob Guillen rguillen@aph.org Registration: https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour






Calendar of Events

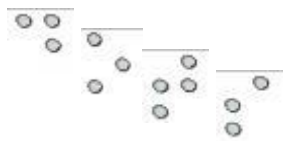
2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021 2021

- August 17** **Tactile Art Club**—5:00 p.m.
 Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- August 19** **WRIEC —Assessment, Intervention and Outcomes of Young Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss: A Multi-State Perspective**
 Registration: <https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour>
- August 19** **WRIEC —Academic Outcomes and Predictors of Performance in School-Age Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss**
 Registration: <https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour>
- September 17** **WRIEC —Closing Keynote (more information to come)**
 Registration: <https://www.tsbvi.edu/coffeehour>
- September 21** **Tactile Art Club**—5:00 p.m.
 Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- September 22** **Vision Coalition**
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- October 19** **Tactile Art Club**—5:00 p.m.
 Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- November 16** **Tactile Art Club**—5:00 p.m.
 Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- December 1-4** **Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference**—in person St/ Pete Beach, FL
 For more information: <http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>
- December 21** **Tactile Art Club**—5:00 p.m.
 Contact: Rishika at rishikakartik@gmail.com



2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022

- January 26-28** **Orientation and Mobility Online Seminar**
 For more information: <https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>
- January 31** **End Date of READ Act Teacher Training Requirement**
 For training options, go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/teacher-training>



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

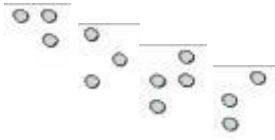
As far as regional representation for initial testing and renewal modules, Christine Maynard is our southern region proctor/mentor and Sarah Sonnier is the western region proctor/mentor. Nancy Cozart, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein are metro proctors for the renewal modules. Brenda Shepard is our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

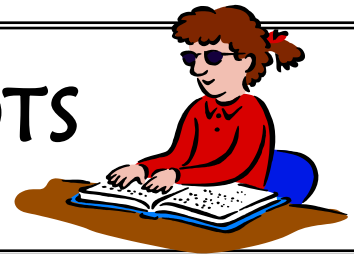
Braillewriter Repair

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





CONNECTING THE DOTS



Attend 2021 NFB BELL® Academy In-Home Edition *Enhance your Braille and nonvisual skills with us!*

The National Federation of the Blind is offering three virtual programs of the NFB BELL Academy this summer to prepare blind and low-vision children to grow into confident and independent blind people by enhancing their education. Options are available for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students.



Receive Braille and other fun materials for lessons



Connect with experienced teachers



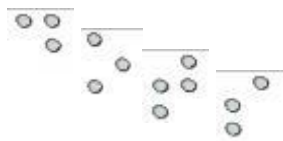
Build relationships with other blind students and mentors.

Take advantage of this opportunity for your child to connect with blind role models and more by applying for one of the following sessions:

- Session 1 - June 7-18, 2021
- Session 2 - July 19-30, 2021
- Session 3 - August 9-20, 2021

Limited space available. Learn more and apply now at nfb.org/bell





CONNECTING THE DOTS



New Products



APH is excited to announce the release of the following new product(s):

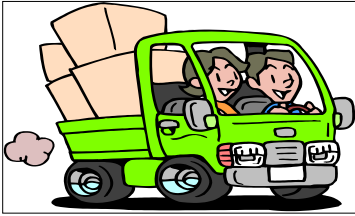
Math Symbol Reference Booklets – [Large Print Version](#) and [Braille Version](#).

The Math Symbol Reference Booklets are a resource for students and teachers who are using Nemeth and UEB math. Each booklet contains a list of Nemeth or UEB math symbols, along with an explanation for what each symbol represents.



Blind Braille Refresher questions bring your braille knowledge back to life! Each question is delivered via SurveyMonkey and takes about three minutes to complete. If you sign up, you will receive a weekly email with a link to a Braille Refresher question for at least a year. You can opt out at any time. There are a few types of Braille Refresher questions. The question of the week might ask you to choose the correct braille for a printed word or phrase, or it might ask you to identify a braille symbol; other questions ask about a very brief reading passage; and others give a silly joke in braille with the punchline in print. Your answers will be anonymous.

These Braille Refresher questions are not meant to measure your braille knowledge, but rather to give it a fun and *refresh*ing jolt of energy. Great for teachers, students, and parents! For each question, after submitting your answer, you will get immediate feedback, and often a link to a related resource as well. You can sign up today for a year's worth of weekly Braille Refresher questions by sending your name and email address to deadens@aph.org.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Announcing the Inaugural Colorado Virtual Career Fair for Youth!

- Date:** April 19-22, 2021
- Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each evening (4-5 p.m. Career Panel, 5-6pm Career Panel & 6:00 -6:30 p.m. Special Topic Presentation)
- Format:** via Zoom
- Fee:** No-cost

This explorative and informative fair for youth will feature career panels representing a wide variety of industries throughout the state. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for youth attendees, parents, educators, and potential career panelists via the website: www.youthcareerfair.org!

The Colorado Virtual Career Fair is a collaboration between the Colorado State Youth Council, Colorado Workforce Development Council, Colorado Association of Career & Technical Education, other Colorado professional education agencies & organizations, and many Colorado school districts.

The design of this fair has an intention of facilitating access and awareness of career path opportunities to students who may or may not have been able to access the options before. Beyond the barriers of geographic location, beyond zip code, beyond regional location and beyond school district - students & families, youth & individuals of any age or grade level are welcome to attend. Explore more: www.youthcareerfair.org

Panelists will represent diversity of backgrounds, ethnicities and races and are intentionally recruited to help our students 'see themselves' in that future career.** If you are interested or know of others (*think of your own friend, family and contacts*) who would be a perfect fit, please see the attached Panelist Flier AND extend the 'application' here: <https://forms.gle/6Gf1mFtZ1N64jvfm8>

Equity and Mental Health within our youth communities is an investment the design committee wanted to focus on and the Attendee Registration form reflects this.

Educator/Adult/Family Registration form: <https://forms.gle/dmFeLaFnG41YqWHy8>

Youth Registration form: <https://forms.gle/Ud9BMuHqtCcfg7GB6>

Visit: www.youthcareerfair.org



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

2021 Summer Programs for Colorado Youth Who are Blind/Visually Impaired

World of Work: The Colorado Center for the Blind is offering a two week-long virtual program to students ages 13 - 21 from across the country. Before the first day of the program, students will receive a materials box that will include a slate, stylus, Braille instructional book, long white cane, sleep shades, tactile graphics, and more. Students will receive instruction in our four core subject areas of braille, technology, home management, and cane travel. In addition to this, we will hold workshops and activities that focus on career exploration and developing strong employment skills. These workshops include an employer panel, career interest assessment, mock interviews, and one-on-one informational interviews with professionals in your field of interest. The program will be held Monday through Thursday June 7 - June 17, 2021; we will meet on the Zoom Meeting platform from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. The cost of the program is \$1,500 and includes tuition and the materials that will be shipped to students.

Cracking the College Code: This two week-long virtual program is being offered to students ages 13 - 21 from across the country. Before the first day of the program, students will receive a materials box that will include a slate, stylus, braille instructional book, long white cane, sleep shades, tactile graphics, and much more. Students will receive instruction in our four core subject areas of braille, technology, home management, & cane travel. In addition to this, we will hold workshops that focus on preparing for college, student life, and participating in hands-on STEM activities. These workshops include a college student panel, hands-on chemistry project, ADA workshop, conversation with a Disability Resource Office counselor, introductory robotics lesson, and more! The program will be held Monday through Thursday June 21 - July 1, 2021; we will meet on the Zoom Meeting platform from 9:00 to 11:00 AM and from 1:30 to 3:30 PM Mountain Standard Time. The cost of the program is \$1,500 and includes tuition and the materials that will be shipped to students.

No Limits to Learning: The Colorado Center for the Blind is offering a two week-long day program to students in the Denver Metro Area between ages 13 - 21. Space is limited to 12 students and we will take applicants on a first-come first-serve basis. In this program, students will receive instruction in our four core subject areas of Braille, Technology, Home Management, & Cane Travel in a maximum of 3-to-1 student/staff ratio. On the first day of classes, students will receive a slate, stylus, Braille instructional book, long white cane, and a pair of sleep shades. We know that using non-visual skills is the most effective and efficient way for a blind person to live a successful and independent life. This is why our blind staff fully implement the Structured Discovery teaching method, which allows our students to learn through their own experiences and problem-solving techniques. In addition to the classes mentioned above, we will hold a daily philosophy class in which staff and students will discuss a variety of topics that focus on developing a positive attitude on blindness. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in challenge recreation activities that will establish and grow their self-confidence. Local health department guidelines permitting, the program will be held Monday through Friday July 19 - July 30, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. The cost of this program is \$2,000 and includes tuition, materials, local bus fare, and participation in all program activities.

For information on any of these Programs, please contact Martin Becerra-Miranda by emailing mbecerra@cocenter.org or by calling (303) 778-1130 Extension 253.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

ObjectiveEd Wins Federal Grant to Help BVI Students Transition to Work

ObjectiveEd has been awarded a grant from NIDLIRR (National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research) to build a system to teach pre-employment skills to students with blindness/vision impairment. They are building an Interactive Fiction game to teach critical skills such as problem solving, self-advocacy, using transportation and appropriate workplace behavior. An Interaction Fiction game is a “choose-your-own-adventure” where at each step of the game, the teen must decide amongst several choices on how to respond to each situation, as the story progresses. The multi-chapter audio story starts with the BVI teen finding about an opportunity to get a job, and goes through the steps of arranging a job interview, preparing for the interview, having an in-person interview, and succeeding on their first day at the job.

As part of the grant, they are researching how effectively this audio adventure game will help teen students practice and master their pre-employment transition skills. They are working with the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and The Carroll Center for the Blind, outside of Boston. The AFB is coordinating the research, and the system will be tested by teens from the Carroll Center. Not only will the teen be able to practice their skills as they play the game, but their teacher can view their progress in acquiring key skills on the ObjectiveEd web-dashboard.

They have assembled a great team to create this amazing system. In addition to ObjectiveEd’s Software Engineers, Product Managers, and Interactive Fiction Writers, our team includes Dr. Karla Antonelli, (Research Scientist at National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision at Mississippi State University), Kim Charlson (Director of the Library at the Perkins School), Brian Charlson (former Director of Technology at the Carroll Center) and Ashley Colburn (Vision Rehabilitation Therapist at the Carroll Center).

If you have any questions, you can contact them at info@objectiveEd.com.

Contact Information:

ObjectiveEd

177 Huntington Avenue, Suite 1700 (3035)

Boston, MA 02115





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!



1385 S. Colorado Blvd. Bldg. A, Ste. 610
Denver, Colorado 80222
303.839.1775
www.ccdonline.org

Caitlin Brady Scholarship Announcement

Application deadline April 30, 2021

Caitlin Brady was a disability rights advocate who died too young in 2017 before turning 18 and right before she was to graduate high school. Caitlin lived with multiple disabilities including a physical disability (she was a wheelchair user), a severe learning disability that affected her writing even though her reading and cognitive capacity were exceptional, and psychiatric disabilities. Caitlin became involved with disability advocacy as a young child being the first child in her rural school district to use a service dog and then become involved in the disability community when she was 15. She loved policy work and spent a lot of time at the Capitol. Her death rocked the disability community. Donations were made in her memory for a scholarship. Her family has asked CCDC to manage this scholarship and wants it to be for a student with a disability studying social work with a social justice focus.

We will make contributing to this scholarship fund a permanent part of our giving opportunities. Initially, we will award 2 scholarships of \$500 each while we continue to build the fund, hopefully increasing the awards and amounts annually. The funds can go to tuition and we can pay the school directly if desired or can go for supplemental expenses (transportation, books, etc.) or can be used to get trained on something you need to get to school such as testing prep, training a service dog, tutoring on a specific topic, etc.

Application [click here for the form](#).

Criteria:

- Must be a student with a disability or a close relative of someone with a disability (like a sibling, particularly a twin of someone with a disability).
- Career goals focused on social justice and disability.
- While not required, we would love to have our recipients keep in touch and share your progress throughout your educational journey. We also will want to put your name and photo on our website.

Selection: A team of people that Caitlin knew will make the selection. The selection will be made each year and announced on or near May 31 which was identified as Caitlin Brady Day by then-Governor John Hickenlooper.

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). [Check out the NFADB website](#)

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.



Center for Parent Information and Resource Library

Find webinars, articles, stand-alone pages, publications. **Share** with families, professional support providers, staff. **Focus** searches with multiple filters on the results pages.

[Search the Parent Resource library for important resources.](#)



CSDB is offering Parent ECC Workshops

Hello Parents of Children/Students Who are Blind / Visually Impaired,

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) is offering Parent Expanded Core Curriculum Workshops beginning in February and continuing through June. We would love to see you on Zoom! [Please click to sign up for one or more of the workshops.](#) **A Zoom link will be emailed to you the week of the workshop!**

Summary of Workshops:

- Assistive Technology—Wednesday, April 21st 11:30am-12:30pm and Thursday, April 22nd 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Recreation and Leisure—Wednesday, May 19th 11:30am-12:30pm and Thursday, May 20th 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Orientation and Mobility—Wednesday, June 2nd 11:30am-12:30pm and Thursday, June 3rd 5:30pm-6:30pm

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

What ABOUT COLORADO?

Let's read and explore tactile facts about Colorado!

Learning Box 4

BY

National Federation of the Blind, Project Literacy

Colorado Center for the Blind

American Action Fund

Come and join us to read a short story. The story will be in large print (18 font) and braille. There will be five tactile pictures for the students to explore. Four of the five will have magnetic packing on them and they will need to be inserted into the book by the students as they read the story. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their creativity by creating Colorado Flag Art using air dry clay techniques.

This book is designed for elementary, middle and high school students who are blind or low vision.

When will this Learning Box activity occur? April 25, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.

Please register your student here: [April Learning Box Registration](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Amira Lucas

President, Colorado Parents of Blind Children

coloradoparentsofblindchildren@gmail.com

Martin Becerra-Miranda

Director of Youth Services

Colorado Center for the Blind

Mbecerra@cocenter.org

just for PARENTS

Rare Disorders Fact Sheet Updated!

The Center for Parent Information Resources has updated its *Rare Disorders* fact sheet, where to help people investigate the over 7,000 known rare disorders/diseases, find genetics information, learn about relevant laws and orphan drugs, and more.

Go to: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/raredisorders/>

How to Grandparent a Child With Special Needs



Being the grandparent of a child with special needs can bring incredible joy but is also complicated, say grandparents like Oricchio, as well as advocates and other experts. About 17% of children are diagnosed with some kind of disability, which is one reason grandparents are so important. Find out more in this article, which features the voices of many grandparents.

Check it out at: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/info-2021/special-needs-grandchildren.html>

(Also available in Spanish)

Considering Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities

This page was first produced as part of the [Building the Legacy](#) training curriculum on IDEA 2004. It's a tool for IEP teams to use when they are considering whether a student with disabilities could benefit from assistive technology. In addition to updating the tool, the Parent Center has added PDF and Word versions for easy printing and sharing.

[Training Curriculum on Part B of IDEA 2004 | Center for Parent Information and Resources \(parentcenterhub.org\)](#)

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 O&M Specialist = orientation and mobility specialist.

Southern Region —Jobs

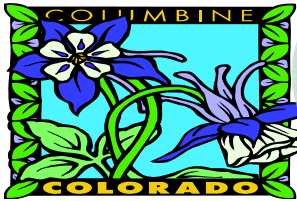
- ◆ **TVI / O&M Specialist (1 FTE))** Academy 20 School District. Please contact Belinda Lujan-Lindsey at Belinda.lujan@asd20.org or (719) 234-1328
- ◆ **TVI (1FTE)** El Paso 11 School District. Please contact Nancy Maresh Melo at Nancy.Mareshmelo@d11.org for more information.

TVIs and O&M Specialists—If you are getting ready to retire, please do not let your CDE teaching and/or 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 Specialists come back to contribute as subs for maternity leave, do contract work, and/or work at A Shared Vision. If you are interested in working with A Shared Vision on a part time basis, please reach out to Steven Lindauer at slindauer@asharedvision.org. You can work at your pace and needs! Magic!

If you want to be added to CDE's contract list, please be in touch with Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

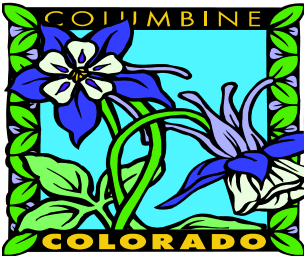




colorado connections

- A big hats off and a happy dance to **Amber Rundle Kahn** who successfully defended her dissertation in her UNC doctoral program on March 8th. Amber’s dissertation topic was *Exploring Families’ Experiences Raising a Child with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia*. Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (ONH) is a leading cause of childhood visual impairment. Children with optic nerve hypoplasia are at increased risks for a number of concomitant neurological and behavioral problems. This study applied phenomenological qualitative research methods to investigate the experiences that parents of children with ONH have with raising their child. Twelve parents of children with ONH were interviewed. Three major categories emerged from the data: (a) resiliency of parents who have children with ONH; (b) strategies that families of children with ONH use; and (c) connections that support families of children with ONH. The categories and associated themes are discussed, as well as implications for future research efforts and recommendations for practitioners. When Amber is ready, we would love to have her share at a BVI Office Hours or another opportunity. Congrats to Dr. Rundle Kahn – we are so proud of you!
- Hats off to **Marie Islom**, a brailist from Aurora School District, for earning her initial CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Also a big shout out to **Jeanine Holmes** and **Melissa French**, for earning CDE Braille Renewal Hours. Thanks to CDE braille proctors **Brenda Shepard** and **Chris Maynard** for their recent braille proctoring and mentoring work!
- Welcome to **Samantha Thuis**, a new TVI in St. Vrain School and Centennial School Districts. Sam provided the following great introduction: “I just graduated from University of Northern Colorado in December 2020 with my M.A. in Special Education: Visual Impairment and I just recently got my TVI license. I've worked in special education for a few years now, first as a paraprofessional in the Poudre School District and now as a TVI for St. Vrain School District and Centennial BOCES! I started both on January 4th. I am currently doing my practicum with Aryn McNichol to become licensed as an O&M Specialist as well. I am loving it all. My undergraduate degree was in Health and Exercise Science so I'm interested in recreation of all kinds and how it can be adapted for people with visual impairments. I have some experience with goalball from a summer camp where I worked with campers who had visual impairments. I am super interested in movement and dance, specifically. I hope to become more involved in extracurricular activities like that in the future. I have dreams of someday teaching group exercise classes for those with disabilities! I am really excited to be starting my career for right now!”





colorado connections

Remembering Nancy Foster

Nancy Foster passed away on Thursday, February 25th. Nancy was born to Glenn and Anna Jacquat on June 2 in Peoria, IL and was the first of their three children. A graduate of Pontiac High School in Pontiac, Illinois in 1962, she went on to earn a B.A. degree from St. Olaf College and a M.A. Degree from the University of Minnesota. After teaching for one year at The School for the Blind in Faribault, Minnesota. Nancy moved to Fort Collins where she started a program for the students with blindness/visual impairments in the Poudre School District system. This program integrated students with blindness/visual impairments into the general education classrooms. She taught in that program for 32 years and retired in 1999. Nancy was a dedicated educator and teaching was her passion. Helping her students cope with the world was her mission. She maintained relationships with her peers, her students and their parents throughout her life.

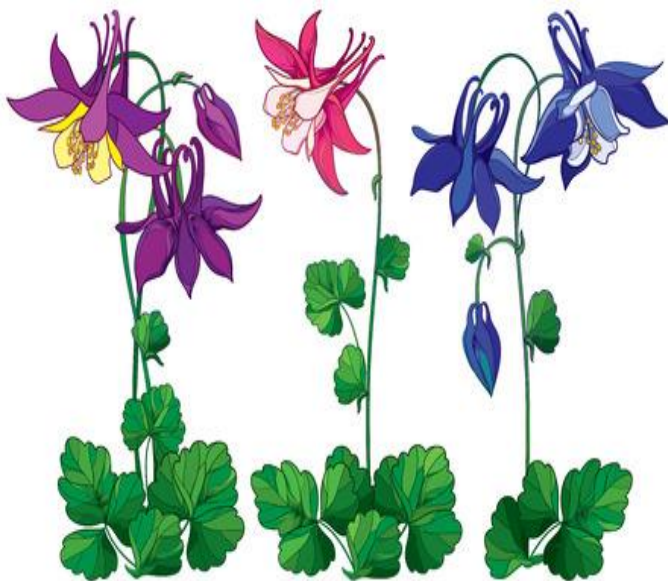


In her retirement, Nancy developed a myriad of hobbies and interests. These included woodworking in her own shop where she would spend hours making crafts and small projects out of walnut (her dad's favorite wood). During the last several years she opened her shop to friends and family to make their own crafts while she stood by with instructions and assistance when needed. She also became a master counted cross stitcher turning out beautiful works which she mostly gave away as gifts to family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our thanks to Nancy for her many contributions to her students, building the program with Poudre School District, and being a true mentor to so many TVIs during her tenure.

<https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Nancy-Foster-16/>

<https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Nancy-Foster-16/>



MAIL TO:

25-43E-3401

Katy Anthes
Commissioner of Education



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Exceptional Student Services
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the United States Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

State of Colorado Department of Education

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