

Editor:

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

CO Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202

(303) 866-6681 (voice)

(303) 866-6918 (fax)

E-mail:

anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

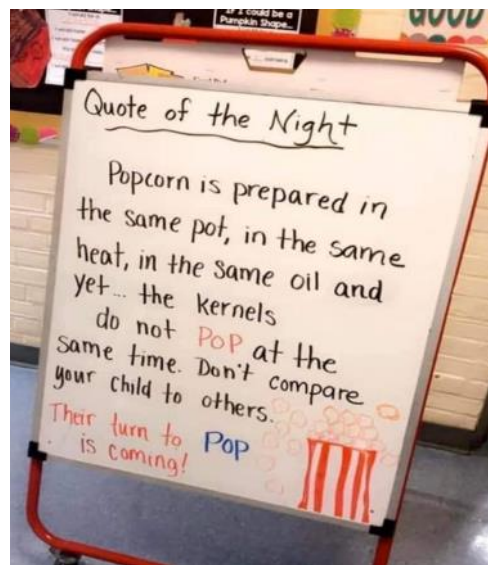
A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness
August—September 2022

Popping Popcorn

All Kernels Together and one Kernel At a Time

By Tanni L. Anthony

Welcome back to a new school year! Time for that new slate, new chapter, and, well maybe, a new popcorn pot. As the quote in the photo reads, “Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, in the same oil, and yet - the kernels do not pop at the same time. Don’t compare your child to others. Their turn to pop is coming.”



Sometimes we forget that all developmental milestones have a range. So does all learning, especially learning new things. The goal is to have all the kernels in the same pot—being with peers is essential for social emotional growth, friendships, and true belonging. Being together, however, is just part of the learning experience. Then comes instruction and specialized instruction that is attentive to individual needs. The proverbial kernel may pop with the routine amount of heat and oil—and some may need a little more heat and/or a little more oil. This describes reading interventions, for example, we know that when we differentiate learning, we target a specific need of the child to support their unique learning needs. A little more heat / oil may mean additional reading instruction and practice opportunities across the day.

Believe—“their turn to pop is coming” - get ready for that glorious sound of POP as the child “gets it / does it / repeats it. “POP, POP, POP POP!” —the sound of new learning when we tend to all the kernels in the pot, each and every one!

Table of Contents for August—September 2022

Popping Popcorn	1	EDI	26
BVI Resources	2	Calendar of Events	28
Low Vision Evaluation Clinics	12	Connecting the Dots	34
Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News	13	Just for Parents	36
Check it Out	16	We are Seeking you Voice	37
Resources and Materials	21	Colorado Connections	42
CDE Happenings	22	Who Ya Gonna Call	45

**Colorado Definitions, Resources, Professional Learning, and Support Activities
Specific to Children and Youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired or Deaf-Blind, Their Families and Service
Providers for School Year 2022-23**

**Compiled by Tanni Anthony
State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment
Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services Unit**

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

A Shared Vision: A Shared Vision: This 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is Colorado's leading provider of early intervention vision services for children who are blind or visually impaired. Their goal is that all families of children with visual impairments have access to and receive essential early intervention services from a community of highly skilled and collaborative professionals.

A Shared Vision supports three programs. Through the Early Intervention Vision Services Program, the team of 15 EI-TVIs provide direct early intervention home-based vision services to families and young children, birth to age three, in 55 counties across Colorado. The services are defined by the families' Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) developed in conjunction with A Shared Vision, Community Center Board service coordinators, and other early intervention providers. This program supports the key principles and evidence-based best practices of early intervention in Colorado by providing education and empowerment to families with young children who are blind or visually impaired in their homes and in community settings. Through their Family Support Program, A Shared Vision provides education, community connections, and support for families of children with visual impairments through group activities, the newsletter, and other communications.

Their Education Program builds the community of highly skilled and collaborative professionals who serve infants and toddlers with blindness/visual impairments. This year, we were awarded the contract from Early Intervention Colorado to update the state's vision screening protocol as we return to in-person evaluations. The updated protocol supports evaluations conducted in person, via telehealth, as well as a hybrid approach. Training for EI Evaluators, as well as CCB professionals and providers, is now available! To review modules and upcoming dates, go to <https://www.asharedvision.org/vision-screening-trainings.html>.

During the pandemic, A Shared Vision staff increased the awareness of the number of children with unidentified visual impairments. From 2019 through 2021, the occurrence of vision services for children in early intervention increased 49%! This compares to a 1% decline in the occurrence of all other services during the same period including developmental intervention, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology. For more information about A Shared Vision, contact Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org.

Anchor Center for Blind Children: Anchor Center for Blind Children: Headquartered in Denver for 40 years, Anchor Center for Blind Children specializes in serving children with visual impairments or combined vision and hearing loss during their most formative years of development, ages birth to five years. Staffed by a transdisciplinary team of highly trained teachers of students with visual impairments, early childhood special educators, therapists, and a pediatric ophthalmologist, Anchor Center's vision services are customized to meet each child's unique needs and strengths. Families also receive support, guidance, practical knowledge, and connections to other important resources. Anchor

Center’s primary programming includes: vision assessments and pediatric ophthalmology exams; early intervention home-based services (for children, ages birth to 3 years); center-based programming for infants (newborn – 18 months), toddlers (18 months – 3 years), and preschoolers (3 – 5 years); occupational, physical, and speech/language therapies; recreational, music, and horticultural therapies; summer camps and family respite care; and family support, including programs for caregivers and siblings. Anchor Center charges a nominal tuition fee for toddler and preschool programs but does not charge for infant services. No child is ever denied access to services based on the family’s inability to pay.

In the 2021-22 school year, Anchor Center served 380 children, caregivers and siblings in home and community-based settings, and at their state-of-the-art facility in the Central Park neighborhood, located at: 2550 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO 80238. For more information, please visit the Anchor Center website at www.anchorcenter.org or call (303) 377-9732.

Audio Information Network of Colorado: Audio Information Network of Colorado (AINC), a non-profit (501) (c) (3), offers informational audio content for individuals who have vision loss or other barriers to reading standard print. AINC continues to provide audio editions of newspapers, magazines, other print publications. However, there are many new things in store for AINC listeners as we expand our AINC Originals podcasts. The Aftersight podcast begun in 2021 continues to be extremely popular. Interviews have included younger individuals and people like gamer Blind Warrior Sven. Our podcasts are now available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify as well as our Amazon Alexa skill and website.

Our Programming Advisory Committee (PAC) began meeting this past January. The committee consists primarily of individuals with vision loss or a combination of hearing and vision loss. Acting on their recommendations, AINC is planning to launch a Topic of the Month series this fall. Each month will have original podcasts, volunteer read audio editions, and resource links related to that month’s topics. Planned topics included mental health, self-advocacy, personal and career development, independent living, and recreation, among others.

AINC is also working to provide experiences for our listeners through the Audio Trekkers team. This August, we will have our second annual Bringing Print to Life fundraising hike with 15 visually impaired hikers and their sighted guides. Others are welcome to join us on August 28th. Click here for more information on the hike. Last March, AINC partnered with Foresight Ski Guides taking the Audio Trekkers to Vail for a day of skiing. For more information about AINC or how to access our podcasts, go to www.aincolorado.org or call (303) 786-7777 or (877) 443-2001.

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

Colorado Administrative Units: The term “administrative Unit” (AU) means a school district, board of cooperative services, or the State Charter School Institute, which is providing educational services to exceptional children and is responsible for the local administration of the Exceptional Children Education Act. For purposes of the education of school age (ages three through 21 years) children with visual impairment, including blindness, an administrative unit can be the family’s local school district, as well as the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. The vast majority (well over 90%) of school-age students with visual impairments, including blindness are served in their neighborhood school district with a locally hired TVI and/or COMS. Some administrative units may use contract services for their TVI and/or Orientation and Mobility services. For questions about main contact personnel for students with visual

impairments, including blindness or deaf-blindness in each administrative unit, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CAER - Colorado Chapter of AER: As professionals who serve the community of individuals who are blind/visually impaired, we have an active Colorado chapter of our national Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CAER for short!) professional organization. CAER provides continuing education units (free currently online), request of items from our adaptive equipment aid program, as well as opportunities for gathering within our specialized field. The current CAER board is comprised of members from all forms of education, including child and adult. Please consider joining the board for the opportunity to receive ACVREP credit, as well as the wonderful opportunity to meet new friends in the field. For more information about scheduled meetings and activities, for member benefits, or joining the board, please contact Heather Solberg at caerboard@gmail.com or (303) 505-2758.

CAER Online Presence with a Website and a Facebook Page: Please go to the following website for updated information regarding Colorado AER: <https://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/colorado/>. They are continually working with national to restore links and add content. If you are on Facebook, you might get an invite to join the group. Michelle Robinson posts equipment that can be given away through our adaptive equipment aid program.

CAER Annual Awards Banquet and Business Meeting: This event occurs in conjunction with the annual CDE O&M Seminar. The banquet is a time to celebrate colleagues and friends and to announce the recipients of the following awards: the Gary Schmidt Award, Connections Award, President's Award, Ken Neve Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award. CAER just celebrated their 2022 banquet in May, so look for future information in emails about the upcoming banquet in 2023. Nominations for the awards will be due 8 weeks prior to the event and should be submitted to caerboard@gmail.com.

CAER Mini Grants: CAER provides mini grants to current AER members or those sponsored by an AER member. The maximum amount of the funds available will vary, but the allotted amount per grant must not exceed \$300. Recipients are only eligible to receive a mini grant once every two years. Recipients need to fulfill their obligation to provide CAER with an agreed-upon presentation of how the mini-grant funds were used within 90 days of check issue. Applications are accepted throughout the year and are due November 1st for review.

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

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Braille Competency Certification: Funds have been reserved for five braille proctors (Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) to provide opportunities for TVIs / braillists to take the Colorado Braille Competency Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE established renewal modules. Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the modules over the five-year-renewal period so that competency can be truly demonstrated across a period of five years. For information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please go to http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

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

CDE Braille Mentors: Our amazing CDE Braille Committee personnel (Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) are available to provide mentoring to TVIs who need support in preparing for a minimum of a second round of the Colorado Braille Competency Test. Mentoring is not available to other professionals or TVIs who are taking the test for the first time. Please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681 for more information.

CDE Keeping in Touch (KIT) Newsletter: This newsletter started a long time ago when personnel across the state talked about a lack of communication continuity. It has mostly been a labor of love internal to CDE, but there are some great folks who actively contribute from time-to-time. Please consider being one of them – there is always room to boast about the accomplishments of a colleague, post an announcement, or to share an article. The now e-newsletter is sent out to CO parents of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired, TVIs, COMS, braillists, and BVI paraeducators. It is posted on the CDE Blindness/ Low Vision website for others to download.

The following e-editions are planned for this school year: August / September 2022, October 2022, November / December 2022, January / February 2023, March / April 2023, and May 2023. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. The newsletter is posted on: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_activities

CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: This is the 26th anniversary of the inception of the Low Vision Evaluation Clinics! The Low Vision Evaluation Team is once again funded for five regional clinics. The regional clinics are a collaborative partnership with CSDB. The clinic team consists of an optometrist specializing in low vision services (Dr. Tom Theune), certified low vision therapists / TVIs (Jim Olson and Wendy Stoltman), and a Clinic Coordinator (Debbie Haberkorn). The dates of the 2022-23 clinics are posted in the newsletter, along with the amazing volunteer local site coordinators. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE O&M Seminar: The topic(s) and dates for this training are under discussion. The goal will be an in-person April 2023 training. If in-person training is not feasible, we will offer a virtual training. The contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: This in-person conference will be held on October 13-14, 2022, on the Lowry Campus. The featured speaker will be Dr. Derrick Smith and the topic will be the Mathematical Strategies Learners with Blindness/Visual Impairment. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.

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

CDE TVI / COMS Mentor Project: The goal is to provide mentoring and coaching support to Colorado school based TVIs and/or Orientation and Mobility Specialists. The topics are wide open! We are thrilled to offer the support services of veteran TVIs/ COMS with incredible teaching experience. If interested, reach out to Tanni. For more information or to ask for mentor assistance, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE BVI Sound Bites: We will move away from the BVI Office Hours that started in 2020 to support personnel during the pandemic and transition to a monthly training / conversation opportunity. Sounds Bites will be offered one time a month via a zoom platform and will run the third Wednesday of the month, beginning in October from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Preregistration will be required through a sign-up process. The dates, topics (as they are established), and the registration link will be posted in the *Keeping in Touch* Calendar of Events section. For more information, please be in touch with Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE Vision Screening: The 3-5 Vision Screening Protocol will be updated shortly for Child Find Teams. The Vision Screening protocol that covers K-12 can be found at:

https://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/snh_healthservices

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

- ◆ Deaf-Blindness – <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-db>
- ◆ NIMAS / NIMC - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/nimas>
- ◆ Orientation and Mobility - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/rs-om>
- ◆ Visual Impairment, Including Blindness - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision>

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs: The Colorado Center for the Blind has brought high-quality, welcoming, and yet challenging programs and training for youth ages 4 to college since 1990. Whether it's CCB's year-round Fun Activities and Skills Training (FAST) program, mentoring for students attending the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), Confidence BELL Academy, residential summer programs for teens, or collaborating with partners such as Arapahoe Community College for the annual shark dissection, CCB is committed to creating opportunities that raise expectations for blind students and help them build the confidence to pursue their dreams as successful adults. Youth programs have been in-person since the summer of 2021. Even so, programs like Learning Box and Study Buddies, which were first conceived in response to the unique strains of virtual school for blind youth in 2020-2021, continue to offer high interest and high-value content virtually, such as making tactile measurements and learning about weather from Channel 7's Mike Nelson or simply receiving weekly tutoring in Study Buddies

For more information on youth programs in Colorado visit CCB's youth Programs page at <https://cocenter.org/our-programs/summer-youth/>, or contact Director of Youth Services Anahit LaBarre at (303) 778-1130, x223 or alabarre@cocenter.org.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille and large print textbooks and serve as a repository for APH educational materials for all Colorado students ages birth through twelfth grade who are blind/visually impaired. The CIMC also houses a lending library of professional materials for access by TVIs. The CIMC hosts an email distribution list for all braillists in Colorado, contact Debbie Haberkorn at dhaberkorn@csdb.org, to be added to the group. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact CIMC staff at (719) 579-2196 or Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org. CIMC webpage: www.csdb.colorado.gov; click on the Outreach tab and select CIMC from the drop-down menu.

CIMC First Friday Meetings: This online meeting is held on the first Friday of each month, except for October (Third Friday) and November (Second Friday). The morning session is from 9:00-10:00 A.M. and an afternoon session runs from 2:30-3:30 P.M. There is no set agenda for this meeting, it is simply an opportunity to ask CIMC staff, and your colleagues around the state, any questions you may have in an informal setting. We try to feature information on new APH products as they are announced. Meeting dates for the 2022-23 school year: August 5, September 2, October 21 (Third Friday), November 11 (Second Friday), December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5. The CIMC will email the link to the video conference platform ahead of the meeting. Check the CIMC webpage for more information: www.csdb.colorado.gov click on the Outreach tab and select CIMC from the drop-down menu.

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB): The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind is a state funded school within the Colorado Department of Education. The school was established for the purpose of providing comprehensive educational services for children, birth to age 21, who are blind/visually impaired and/or deaf/hard of hearing. Services are provided directly to students enrolled at the school, and outreach programs service students, staff, and families in communities throughout Colorado. There is no tuition charge for students to attend CSDB, which is located in Colorado Springs. CSDB is required to follow all state-education laws that apply to other public-school programs. Parents may choose to enroll their child with blindness/visual impairment after conversation about placement with their school district Special Education Director or Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. For more information about CSDB, contact Kathy Emter, CSDB Special Education Director at (719) 578-2177 or kemter@csdb.org.

CSDB Lending Library: The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and service providers. Most items may be borrowed using the library's community use form. The libraries are open Monday—Friday during the school year from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please email Jennifer Mathews, jmathews@csdb.org, Instructional Media-Technology Specialist/Librarian, School for the Blind the media specialist before coming in person to either library. For more information, please refer to the CSDB website at www.csdb.org.

CSDB Psychological Assessments and Consultation: Psychological assessments (cognitive and social emotional) provided to school districts, BOCES and charter schools to assist school staff in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service. For more information, contact csdboutreach@csdb.org.

CSDB Role Model Videos: The CSDB Role Model Videos are designed to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents, and teachers the opportunity to understand life experiences of successful adult role models who are blind and visually impaired. The role models speak to their vision conditions, use of adaptive devices, independence as an adult, thoughts for parents, people skills, and why they feel they are successful adults. <http://tinyurl.com/yamlqmag>.

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project): We are currently entering our fourth year of a five-year federally funded cycle. There are currently Over 150 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Key activities include:

- ◆ Annual Child Count of Colorado children and youth with deaf-blindness.
- ◆ Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with deaf-blindness.
- ◆ Fiscal support to early intervention providers.
- ◆ Tuition support for interveners, as well as on-the-job coaching and support.
- ◆ Annual Family Conference just for parents and key caregivers.
- ◆ Annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of and intervention / instructional strategies for children and youth who are deafblind and/or who have significant support needs.
- ◆ Website with over 100 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deaf-blindness.
- ◆ Lending library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 100 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloadable book-loan order form.

For more information about the CO Deaf-Blind Project's free technical assistance services, contact Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6605. Also check out the project's continually updated webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>

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

Community Intervener Project: Family Voices Colorado is the host of the project, and it is housed through the Colorado Department of Human Services. The Project, now in its second year has a variety of funding sources, offers Colorado children and youth up to 120 hours over the next year of 1:1 services with a professional intervener in their home and out enjoying their communities in ways they have not been able to participate before. For more information contact Elli Streifer call or text at 303-912-2896 or email elli@familyvoicesco.org.

Eligibility – Deaf-Blindness: The determination of whether a school-age (ages three to 21 years) child meets the eligibility criteria as a “child with deaf-blindness” is the responsibility of the local administrative unit’s Individual Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the child’s parents, and is based on state approved eligibility criteria. For children who are entering the public-school district from an early intervention program or a private early childhood program, eligibility for school-based special education services and supports is not determined by personnel associated with these early-years programs. It is critical that parents are given accurate information about the eligibility process with school district staff. It is the IEP team who will further determine the need for an intervener. If there are questions about the school-age special education eligibility process, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Eligibility – Visual Impairment, Including Blindness: The determination of whether a school-age child meets the eligibility criteria as a “child with visual impairment, including blindness” is the responsibility of the local administrative unit’s Individual Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the child’s parents, and is based on state approved eligibility criteria. For children who are entering the public-school district from an early intervention program or a private early childhood program, eligibility for school-based special education services and supports is not determined by personnel associated with the early intervention / private early childhood programs. It is critical that parents are given accurate information about the eligibility process with school district staff. If there are questions about the school-age special education eligibility process, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Foresight Ski Guides: Foresight provides goal-oriented outdoor adaptive recreation experiences for students with low vision and blindness. Students have two opportunities to participate in Foresight’s fun, safe and transformative programs. The winter skiing and snowboarding program and the *Summer Camp for Blind Youth*. Both programs use outdoor recreation to promote self-confidence, independence, and personal growth for students who are blind or experiencing low vision.

Each winter, students from a half dozen Colorado school districts plus Colorado School for the Blind travel to Vail with teacher chaperones for two days of skiing/snowboarding. Returning students who have mastered basic skiing skills are paired with a Foresight guide and shadow to practice their skills and explore Vail’s varied terrain. Students new to the sport receive professional ski or snowboard instruction from Vail’s Adaptive Ski School. All the students experience the joy and freedom of skiing blind!

Foresight provides the students with lift tickets, ski or snowboard equipment, professional instruction (if needed), two days of lunch, and one-night lodging, for a requested minimum donation of \$50. However, Foresight will not turn any student away if they cannot pay the suggested donation.

Foresight's *Summer Camp for Blind Youth* offers students three days and two nights of fun outdoor experiences in the Vail Valley. Campers participate in stand-up paddle boarding, horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking and more. Team building and leadership activities are also incorporated into the camp. Foresight provides two nights lodging, lunch daily and all activities for a requested minimum donation of \$100. Again, students will not be turned away if they cannot pay. Camps take place in mid-June and mid-July.

Both the ski program and summer camp promote components of the National Federation for the Blind's Expanded Core Curriculum. Foresight's programs reinforce elements such as socialization, orientation and mobility, independent living skills, and of course sports/recreation skills development. Participants also report developing close friendships with people "just like them." Send your students to Vail to learn important life skills all while mastering activities they can safely enjoy with friends and family throughout their lives.

Please contact Christine Holmberg, Foresight Executive Director, at (303) 506-3859, or email her at christine@foresightskiguides.org for more information on the summer camp, and to get on the calendar for the upcoming ski season. You can also follow Foresight Ski Guides on Facebook and Instagram, and visit their website at www.foresightskiguides.org.

Howard Fund: In 1932, Mrs. Ida B. Howard bequeathed \$10,000 to the Colorado Workshop for the Blind. The bequest was made for the sole purpose of helping Coloradans with low vision or blindness increase their independence and ability to participate in all aspects of life. Mrs. Howard's generosity established The Howard Fund. The fund has grown through the years with the inclusion of gifts and bequests, which have been donated to benefit blind and low vision people in Colorado.

The Howard Fund is administered by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Howard Fund board members review applications for grant funding and notice of grant awards are made through the Howard Fund administrator. Board members consist of DVR and CDLE employees as well as non-employee stakeholders from the blind and low vision community. For more information, go to: <https://dvr.colorado.gov/dvr-programs-services/blind-and-low-vision/howard-fund>.

iCanConnect in Colorado: The Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) administers iCanConnect in Colorado. This national program provides qualified deaf-blind individuals, including children and youth, with modern telecommunication tools, granting two-way communication between deaf-blind and the community at large. Such technology includes smartphones, laptops, braille devices, etc. For more information, contact JoAnne Hirsch at JoAnne.Hirsch@state.co.us

Metro TVI / O&M Specialists Meetings: The meetings will be offered periodically throughout the school year and hosted at different locations. For more information, please be in touch with Jeannie Lei (jlei@cherrycreekschoos.org) or Nancy Cozart (ncozart@lps.k12.co.us). Stay tuned for the meetings dates / locations for this school year.

National Braille Challenge: Two separate Colorado regional contests will again be held at CSDB and CCB (if an in-person contest is possible) during the 2022-2023 school year. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. Stay tuned for dates of the Braille Challenge held on the

campus of CSDB and at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Please visit www.brailleinstitute.org and the Braille Challenge page of the CIMC website for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

Northern TVI / O&M Specialists Meetings: The meetings will be offered periodically throughout the school year. For more information, please be in touch with Aryn McNichol at (303) 702-8354 x58354 or mcnichol_aryn@svvsd.org. Stay tuned for the meetings dates / locations for this school year.

Southern Region TVI-DVR Meetings: A combination of morning online meetings and afternoon in-person meetings will be offered throughout the school year. Contact Jim Olson (jolson@csdb.org) for information.

READ Act: The Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act), passed by the Colorado legislature in 2012, focuses on early literacy development for all students and especially for students at risk to not read at grade level by the end of the third grade. The READ Act focuses on literacy development for kindergarteners through third-graders. Students are evaluated for reading skills, and those who are not reading at grade level are given individual READ plans. TVIs should collaborate closely with general educators / literacy specialists on the READ Act screening, and if needed, diagnostic procedures to assure accessibility. This may include preparing materials in braille, utilizing commercial screening tools in braille format, assisting with magnification, and other low vision needs of the visual presentation of the screening / assessment materials. The TVI may provide consultation to assist with the interpretation of results on timed screening / assessment procedures for learners using braille materials where normed testing was based on print readers.

See the Future Fund is pleased to award scholarships to qualified Colorado students who are blindness/visually impaired. This scholarship fund is made possible through generous donations by ophthalmologist, optometrists, opticians, staff, corporation, education, foundations, and many others with an interest in the lives of these learners. All scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, school and community service, and individual needs. Scholarships up to \$42,000 may be awarded. Probable distribution will be one (1) \$12,000 four-year scholarship, one (1) \$10,000 four-year scholarship, one (1) \$8,000 four-year scholarship, and three (3) \$4,000 two-year scholarships. The selection Committee will determine the final number of scholarships awarded and the amount of each scholarship. The application deadline is March 15, 2023. For more information, go to: <https://www.seethefuture.org/efl-app-info.html>.

Tactile Art Club: "Tactile Art Club: The Tactile Art Club (TAC) is a wonderful way for people who are blind/visually impaired to be creative, express themselves, and meet others. The goal is to provide students of all ages who are blind and visually impaired an outlet to learn, create accessible art, find community, and highlight their creativity. It is participant-led, community-oriented, and open to all interested. Most of the sessions use affordable household materials, making the club easy to join and welcoming for everyone. The TAC meets on the third Tuesday of each month between 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. MST.

Check out the blogs to see all the fun art projects they have worked on this year:

<https://www.rishikastudio.com/blog>

<https://www.rishikastudio.com/tac>

To RSVP, get on the club email list, and additional information, contact Rishika Kartik at rishikakartik@gmail.com.

Tools for Life: The mission of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund's Tools for Life program is to provide financial assistance to the families of students who are blind/visually impaired (PreK – Transition) who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is to help purchase necessary adaptive equipment, which students may own and utilize in their home and community. These tools will help support literacy and the pursuit of high education. Since 2007, \$278,000 has been awarded to 148 families. The application deadline is October 15, 2022. Please go to:

<https://www.seethefuture.org/learn-more-tools-for-life.html>.

UEB Technical versus Nemeth Code: The Braille Authority of North America has recognized both UEB Technical and the Nemeth Codes as approved braille math codes. As such, the decision of which code will be used for a child who is a beginner through an advanced braille reader is determined by the local Individual Education Program team. Textbooks can be ordered in both codes, the CMAS State Assessments are offered in both codes, and there are procedures to order College Board tests in either code.

University of Northern Colorado VI Program: The University of Northern Colorado offers an Online Master of Arts Degree Program / Visual Impairment. This program provides teacher candidates with the skills and knowledge to help students with visual impairments meet their potential in academic and social areas of their lives, and prepares teachers-in-training to work with students from birth to age 21 with a special emphasis on the needs of early childhood and elementary-aged students. This program has been a bedrock for filling Colorado TVI positions. Dr. Paula Conroy is the Program Coordinator. For more information, please go to: <https://extended.unco.edu/programs/special-education-visual-impairment-masters/>.

UNC Non-degree Licensure Orientation and Mobility Program: The program provides an endorsement in orientation and mobility. Approved by the national accreditation body, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (AVREP), the Orientation and Mobility endorsement program is for students who have a master's degree in visual impairment or who are in the process of obtaining a Master of Arts in visual impairment. There is one on-campus course requirement for one summer. Dr. Paula Conroy is the Program Coordinator. For more information, contact: <https://extended.unco.edu/current/graduate/sped-om-end-ol-gre/>.

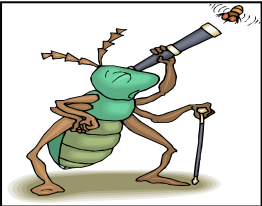
United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA): USABA is a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) organization that provides life-enriching sports opportunities for every individual with a visual impairment. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, USABA provides athletic opportunities in various sports including,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

Vision Coalition: The Vision Coalition is a statewide advisory committee on the educational activities for students who are blind/visually impaired, support activities for their parents, and professional development activities specific to their service providers. Members include Chloann Woolley (Southern Region), Tanni Anthony (CDE ESSU), Anahit LaBarre (Colorado Center for the Blind), Tammy Miller (Anchor Center for Blind Children), Nancy Cozart (Metro region and CAER), Cheryl Austin (CSDB BVI Outreach), Melissa French (Northern region), Erin Noe (Western region), Paula Landry, (A Shared Vision), Jamie Lugo (School for the Blind– CSDB), Michelle Reed (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Jim Olson (CIMC). The VC meets three times a school year. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Western Region TVI / COMS Meetings: This group meets periodically, and it is often a virtual meeting. The contact person is Erin Noe (Erin.Noe@d51schools.org). Stay tuned for the meetings dates / locations for this school year.

White Cane Day: October 15th of each year marks White Cane Day across the country. There may well be celebrations across the state in a variety of school districts. As celebrations are planned, we will work to disseminate information. Time to raise a little or a big cane!

THAT IS A LOT OF GREAT ACTIVITIES HAPPENING OVER THE COURSE OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR! PLEASE TAKE TIME TO SHARE THESE RESOURCES WITH STUDENTS AND FAMILIES. LET'S HAVE A GREAT 22-23 SCHOOL YEAR!



LOW VISION NEWS



Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

Clinic	Clinic Date	Due Date for Paperwork	Site Coordinator
Western LVE Clinic	September 23– 24, 2022	Friday, September 9, 2022	Angela Sims
Southern LVE Clinic	October 18, 2022	Tuesday, October 4, 2022	Debbie Haberkorn
Northern LVE Clinic	November 10-11, 2022	Wednesday, October 26, 2022	Liz Wieder
Metro LVE Clinic	February 22-24, 2023	Tuesday, February 7, 2023	Karin Hensel

Who Should Have a Low Vision Evaluation?

By Wendy Stoltman

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



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

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

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

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

If you have a question about whether a child is appropriate to participate in the clinic, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Regional Low Vision Evaluation Team. We want to make sure that we have a full docket of students scheduled per clinic—your help to ensure we have the students who will most benefit from a low vision evaluation at the clinic is most appreciated!

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Project Purpose and Staff

The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (aka the Colorado Deaf-Blind Grant) is in the fourth year of its federally-funded five-year grant cycle. We started the new grant award on October 15, 2018, and it will be completed on October 14, 2023. The grant project has been housed within the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Services Unit for over 30 years. The purpose of the project, awarded to every state and US territory, is to identify children and youth with deaf-blindness and provide free technical assistance (TA) to the identified children, their families, and service providers.



Key project activities are to maintain an annual Child Count process, host professional learning events, and provide universal and customized technical assistance. The current project has three broad goals: (1) identification, (2) family networking, training, and TA support, and (3) professional training and TA support. Key events have been the annual Summer Institute and Parent Workshop. New projects have recently included a formal intervener training and coaching model, an inventory of online early childhood training modules now posted on the project's website, and an annual webinar series.

The project has an active website, lending library, and Deaf-Blind Advisory Task Force. We have five CDE employees (**Tanni Anthony**, **Gina Herrera**, **Roberta Curtis**, **Jessica Meisel**, and **Wendy Stoltman**) and one specialized Family Specialist contractor (**Cindy Colwell**) on board with the project.

Get ready for a great school year with monthly trainings, intervener support, parent workshops and networking opportunities, and the June 2023 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness! Also, check out our website at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-db>

Child Find Count of Colorado Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness

Get ready—our December 1, 2022 Child Count Forms will be mailed out to key contact personnel in mid-October to identify all learners, ages birth through 21 years with combined vision and hearing loss. Your time, and attention to detail is most appreciated! Children on the Child Count are eligible for free technical assistance from the project. As you identify new with deaf-blindness, please reach out to Tanni Anthony (anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or Gina Herrera (herrera_g@cde.state.co.us) to complete the Child Count Form at any time of the calendar year. We count on you!

2022-23 Webinar Series

We are in the final stages of booking out our once-a-month webinar series. They will be offered from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the following dates: September 28, October 26, November 30, January 24, February 22, and March 29th. Stay tuned for the topics and the registration link!



Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Intervener Training

The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (aka the CO Deaf-Blind Project) offers intervener training and mentoring to provide support throughout the intervener certification process. Our next course begins August 2022 with a 2nd course beginning January 2023!

This program provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals who would like to receive intervener training, and to obtain it free of charge if they are working with a student who is registered on the CO Deaf-Blind Child Count. The program is designed to provide the background knowledge needed for working with students who are deafblind and leads to National Intervener Certification. For more information, please contact Jessica Meisel at Meisel_j@cde.co.state.us



Free Technical Assistance for Learners with Deaf-Blindness

Technical assistance is the term that field uses to mean “support” or “information” for individuals providing support to children and youth (ages 0-21) with deafblindness. This might be families of children and youth who are deaf-blind, school personnel, and agencies providing services to such children and youth.

Technical assistance may also include:

- personalized on-site consultation with family members / early intervention agency staff / school staff
- in-service training customized to the team’s needs
- workshops sponsored by the project across the state
- family support service, such as Parent Retreats, coffee hours, family outings etc.

We are here to support you! **To request a school or home visit**, complete the Technical Assistance Request Form located [here](#):

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/techassistrqst>

Return the form by fax to 303-866-3808 or email Gina Herrera at Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us. You can also call Gina at 303-866-6605. Or fill out our new Google Form for Technical Assistance located at <https://forms.gle/FAWsSVo2itiktLR6>



Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Community Intervener Project Success Stories!

We are grateful for these success stories of the Community Intervener Project. For more information, please contact Elli Streifer at elli.streifer@gmail.com



At VBS camp through Academy Christian Church, Lynna was able to participate in song and dance, outside water games, arts and crafts, learning about her faith and socializing with peers all facilitated by her intervener Zoe. It has been helpful to have our Intervener at camp to facilitate. She helped him do hand under hand signing. It is helping teach him better and in turn is also teaching the other people he is working with at camp. Helping others understand how he communicates and what his signs are will improve his overall experience. -Parent

Last Sunday they were doing an activity about emotions. They were given situations and asked how would that make you feel. His Intervener was able to get him to his feelings page on his communication device and then advocate for him to have enough time for him to respond. He answered 4 out of 4 questions very appropriately while his peers participated too. Through that, his Sunday School teacher and the other kids in his class were able to see how smart he is and how much he is able to understand when given appropriate accommodations.-Parent

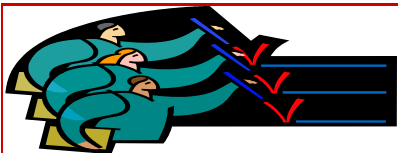
Daisy is an incredibly smart middle schooler with CHARGE syndrome and Dandy Walker syndrome. She is deaf and has only a small window of vision. She uses American Sign Language at school however, there has been very little access to Sign Language at home and no access to Sign Language in the community. Having an intervener in the home and community has given her the opportunity to communicate outside of school. Her parents do not speak English therefore finding Sign Language classes and other resources has been very difficult for them. For the first time in Daisy's life, they have an opportunity to really communicate with their daughter. It has been amazing for her parents to witness Daisy using her signs to ask to swing at the park or ask for her favorite toy without getting frustrated. Her parents have finally been given a way to learn her language and how to communicate with their daughter. Both Daisy and her family are so thankful to have the opportunity to be part of the intervener pilot and hope community interveners will be a service available to more kids like Daisy in the years to come. -Cassandra, Intervener to Daisy, Denver



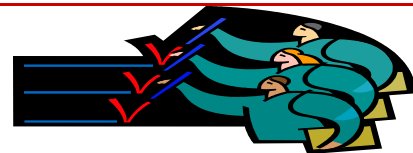
Some weeks ago, Emerie attended a family community day that was held at Anchor Center. When her mom saw the slide, she suggested that I try it with her. She went on to state that the last time Emerie had been on a slide she did not like it: she'd cried. I brought Emerie to the slide, telling her where we were going. We stood next to the slide, and I signed the motion of a slide on her body. I described the slide to her and allowed her to touch it before getting on. Then I brought her to the top of the slide, sat on it and placed her to sit on me. Then I said "ready, set, go!" and slid down. To my surprise, she did not cry, but seemed to have liked the experience (though she did not smile either). When I asked, "should we do it again?" she said "again"! We went down on it a second time. After this, she was comfortable enough to leave my lap and sit on the slide, exploring it on her own.-Shama, Intervener to Emerie, Denver



Lynna and I went out for lunch on one of our weekly outings. Lynna ordered toast and wanted to put jelly on it. I gave her the jelly packet and let her attempt to smear the jelly herself. She was having difficulty initially and asked for my help. I used Hand-Under-Hand to show her how to hold the bread with one hand and then put the right amount of pressure with her other hand to smear the jelly. She attempted this 3 more times with the other pieces of her toast. The second time she needed another partial-physical prompt but the third and fourth attempts, she did completely on her own, with the right amount of pressure AND using both hands to stabilize the toast while she used the knife to smear. -Zoe, Intervener to Lynna, Colorado Springs



CHECK IT OUT!



National Registry for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Launches

Success Beyond Sight, (SBS), a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, has created a FREE National Registry for TSVIs/TVIs (NRTSVI) to empower a national voice for TSVIs/TVIs and to provide a means to reach, on a national level, TSVIs/TVIs with free resources and important professional information.

Success Beyond Sight recognizes the crucial role that Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs/TVIs) play in the long-term success of their students. Strong instruction and mentorship by TSVIs/TVIs are common denominators for many highly accomplished adults who were born without vision or who lost their vision as children.

Because TSVIs/TVIs are licensed/credentialed/certified/endorsed in their state of practice, there has not been a Registry recognizing them as a nationally important profession demonstrating the power of their numbers. SBS formed an Advisory Board to help guide the development of the NRTSVI. Advisory Board members are Dr. Laura Bozeman, Dr. Rona Pogrud, Dr. Amy Parker, Dr. Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Jill Brown and Dr. Nicole Johnson.

SBS is providing FREE access to the *Journal of Vision Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)* for all registrants. *JVIB* is the resource for peer-reviewed research and articles for professionals serving individuals who are blind or have low vision.

TSVIs/TVIs will be able to be directly engaged with, and have a voice in, national discussions regarding:

- The funding needed to train current and future professionals and to secure the survival of this very important profession.
- Efforts to ensure sufficient funding for all students who require specialized services from a TSVI/TVI.
- The sharing of important information and opportunities to be included in relevant surveys and research to benefit the profession.
- Appropriate caseloads.
- Legislative advocacy.

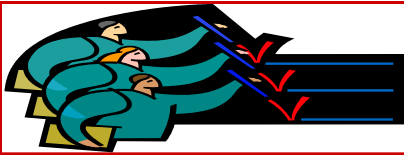
SBS recognizes that there are important professional membership organizations that provide TSVIs/TVIs a voice among other professional voices, but the Registry will provide the forum for TSVIs/TVIs to be highly visible and have their own unique voice on the national stage.

If you are a TSVI/TVI or teacher licensed, credentialed, certified, or endorsed in at least one state to teach children who have visual impairments, go to the [National Registry for TSVIs](#) to learn more and to register.

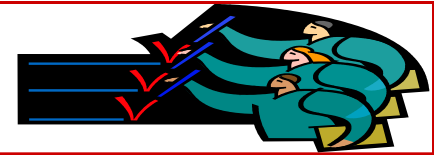
Participating in this Registry is voluntary.

For questions or additional information, please email: NRTSVI@successbeyondsight.org.





CHECK IT OUT!



CDPHE releases 2022-23 COVID-19 School Guidance

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment released the [Practical Guide for Operationalizing CDC's School Guidance for the 2022-2023 school year](#).

CDPHE made minor changes to simplify and clarify the guidance released in February 2022, which encouraged schools to transition to a routine disease control model for COVID-19 and outlined strategies for K-12 schools to implement as they moved away from individual case-investigation response. A routine disease control model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission in schools, and less on individual case investigation, contact tracing, and quarantine following routine classroom exposures. This model is now recommended statewide. There are no new requirements for the 2022-23 school year and the updated guidance outlines how schools will work directly with their local public health partners to make decisions about mitigation strategies in response to increases in cases and absenteeism that align with their local communities and conditions.

To preserve in-person learning and minimize the impacts on families and the greater community, schools are encouraged to continue working with public health to implement a layered approach to controlling the transmission of all communicable diseases among staff and students. Many easily implemented strategies support healthy, uninterrupted school and childcare, including encouraging equitable access to vaccination and testing, improving indoor ventilation, and prioritizing outdoor activities, reminding students and staff to stay home when sick, and following isolation guidance if positive for COVID-19. At this time, quarantine in K-12 settings following routine classroom exposures is no longer recommended unless it is part of a mitigation strategy put in place at the discretion of the school, district, or local public health agency when cases are increasing, outbreaks are detected, or community levels are escalating. [Students, staff, and volunteers who test positive should isolate](#). Schools and child care facilities should continue to alert students, staff, and parents of known classroom cases, outbreaks, and exposures so all individuals are appropriately informed, will monitor closely for symptoms, and may choose to increase personal mitigation measures as necessary.

Additionally, all schools in Colorado are subject to the requirements in the Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado, 6 CCR 1010-6, and child care centers are subject to the requirements of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Health and Sanitation of Child Care Facilities in the State of Colorado, 6 CCR 1010-7.

On-site and take-home testing available for students, staff and volunteers

CDPHE will again provide K-12 Colorado schools (public, private, charter, and tribal) with a free, voluntary, and statewide [COVID-19 screening testing program for the 2022-23 school year](#). Weekly rapid antigen testing is available to all students, staff, and school volunteers. The program will provide all necessary resources, including staff, for schools to implement the weekly screening testing. [School districts and schools can enroll in the screening program today](#). Once CDPHE has received all enrollment materials, testing can be operationalized within two weeks. This program is scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 22.

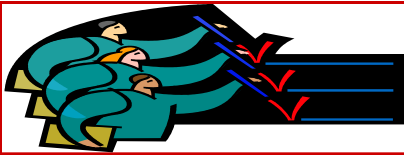
To complement the screening testing program, CDPHE is introducing a free, voluntary, and statewide [COVID-19 Test to Know program](#) for the 2022-23 school year. The program empowers schools to administer point-of-care rapid antigen tests in school and distribute over-the-counter rapid antigen test kits to students, staff, and volunteers to use in non-school settings. Test to Know can help schools slow COVID-19 transmission and reduce disruptions to in-person learning by making it easy for students to test both in school and at home. For more information on the COVID-19 school testing program and additional options for schools, visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/free-testing-schools>. Continue to stay up to date by visiting covid19.colorado.gov.

Masks and sanitizing wipes for schools continue to be available upon request

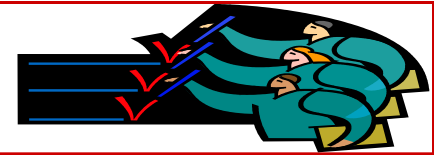
The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is continuing to distribute masks and sanitizing wipes for schools this fall. This is a continuation of the program during the last two school years. It is an opt-in program, so schools must contact DHSEM to participate.

DHSEM will supply KN95 respirators, surgical/procedural masks, child-sized masks and sanitizing wipes to schools that opt in to the program. Schools can opt in by contacting Jeff Lundin, PPE program manager at DHSEM, jeff.lundin@state.co.us.

[For more information, visit CDE's Masks for Colorado Schools webpage.](#)



CHECK IT OUT!



ED, HHS Issue Recommendations to Improve Young Children's Social-Emotional Development, Mental Health

On June 14, 2022, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services issued a [Dear Colleague Letter with four recommendations](#) to equitably support the social-emotional development and mental health of young children. The departments intend for the recommendations and action steps to help early childhood systems work collaboratively to ensure that young children and their caregivers have access to high-quality resources.

The Dear Colleague Letter addresses state, territorial, tribal, and local policymakers and administrators of systems, agencies, and programs responsible for young children's health and well-being, social-emotional development, and early learning.

The letter includes links to resources to support the four recommendations, which are:

1. Implement evidence-based practices that support positive social-emotional development and mental health for all children and wellness for every caregiver.
2. Prioritize workforce wellness and enhance workforce capacity to identify and respond to children's and families' social-emotional and mental health needs.
3. Leverage policy and funding to increase access to social-emotional and mental health support and reduce barriers to access.

Use data to promote equitable implementation and outcomes.

A [series of videos](#), released throughout the summer and hosted on the HHS [Administration for Children and Families](#)' website, spotlights issues for supporting young children's mental health and well-being.

The letter, recommendations, and resources are part of ongoing work across the federal government to address [mental health needs of children and their families](#).

Related Resources:

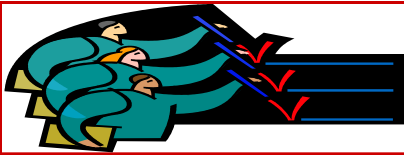
[Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral and Mental Health](#)



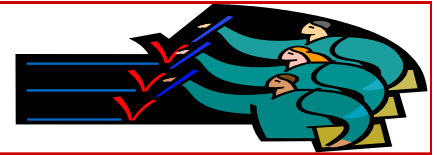
ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Early Childhood Development | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd





CHECK IT OUT!



The Department of Education issued July 2022 guidance documents concerning the rights of students with disabilities in connection with student discipline. The Office for Civil Rights issued *Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, which explains the nondiscrimination requirements that public elementary and secondary schools must follow in regard to the discipline of students with disabilities under Section 504. OCR also issued a fact sheet with a brief overview of the guidance. In addition, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued *Questions and Answers Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and IDEA’s Discipline Provisions*, which explains requirements that state educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools must follow with regard to the discipline of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

OSERS also issued a technical assistance document, *Positive, Proactive Approaches to Supporting Children with Disabilities: A Guide for Stakeholders*.

[Press Release](#)

[Letter from Secretary Cardona](#)

OCR “Dear Colleague” letter and guidance [PDF](#) (1.2M)

OCR Fact Sheet [PDF](#) (299K)

OSERS “Dear Colleague” [PDF](#) (235K)

OSERS Q and A [PDF](#) (998K)

OSERS Guide for Stakeholders [PDF](#) (609K)

Colorado Assistive Technology Expo 2022

The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) is proud to present the Colorado Assistive Technology Expo — a **FREE** one-day event featuring over 30 Assistive Technology (AT) vendors to provide opportunities for networking, collaboration, and hands-on learning. Come experience new tools and design features to increase independence for all. This in-person event will include vendor booths, device demonstrations, breakout sessions and presentations from vendors, clinicians, and researchers. Those who cannot attend in-person have the option to attend select break-out sessions and presentations virtually via Zoom.

Event Details

Friday, October 7, 2022

11 am – 6 pm

The Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star Schools

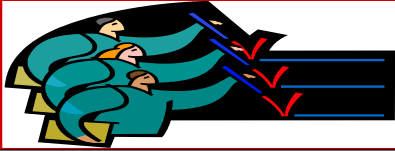
1500 E. 128th Ave.

Thornton, CO 80141

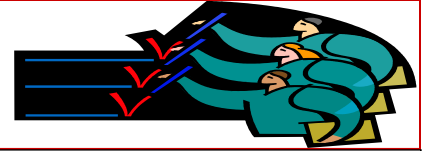


For more information and to register for the event:

<https://www.swaac.org/at-expo-2022?fbclid=IwAR0albOyIQ2aJb-hh4QnldRnTJciIDFkbw0aRWdHvZ1Ur1L0sm3BtevRzgQ>



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](#) website has a wealth of information to support educators and 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 pandemic.



** eBooks

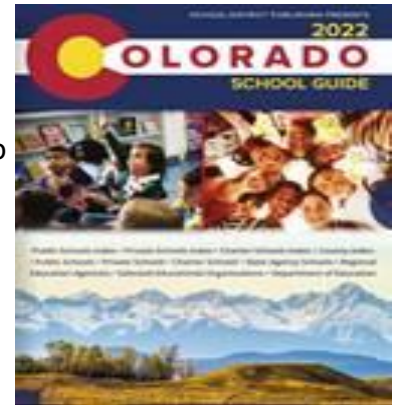
[Book share](#) provides accessible eBooks for eligible individuals with barriers to reading. The resources linked here will help students with dyslexia, blindness/visual impairment, cerebral palsy, and other print reading barriers to continue learning during school closures.



Resources and Materials

2022 Colorado School Guide

School District Publishing is proud to present the 2022 Colorado School Guide. Please find your complimentary copy via the enclosed link. Feel free to forward this link to any and all interested parties. You are also welcome to post this guide on your website and/or social media and share it with your community. <http://co-schools.com/2022-23/>



Laura Peterson

The "I Need" Box

"A few weeks ago, I started the 'I need' box in my class, a way for my students to ask for help without having to come directly to me. They write their needs on a card and leave it in the box. The first week, two boys let me know about a bullying situation. We got it taken care of. The next week, I changed the format a little and started having EVERY student put a card in the box every day. They didn't have to write on it, but every student visits the box daily.

Since then, I've had a plethora of 'needs' submitted. They range from specific supply needs, seat changes, special handshakes when entering class, after-school help, bullying situations, and even hugs. What's even better is students are starting to come to me directly with issues/challenges they are having bypassing the box completely. I've been teaching middle school for 15 years, and I can honestly say this is the best thing I've ever done to reach my kids this early in the school year." ❤️



Credit: Julie Brow



Colorado Tactile Arts Club

Come meet Rishika Kartik, a "creative activist" committed to accessibility, diversity, and inclusion. Rishika is President of the Colorado Tactile Art Club (TAC) where she works to create opportunities for blind/visual impaired students to express themselves and find Community. The TAC meets the third Tuesday of each month.

Upcoming TAC dates:

- October 18
- November 21

Please check out [Rishika's monthly blog](#) for all the fun art projects students have worked on the last two years. Check out her studio [website](#) with all the details and experience the community that is coming together and creating.



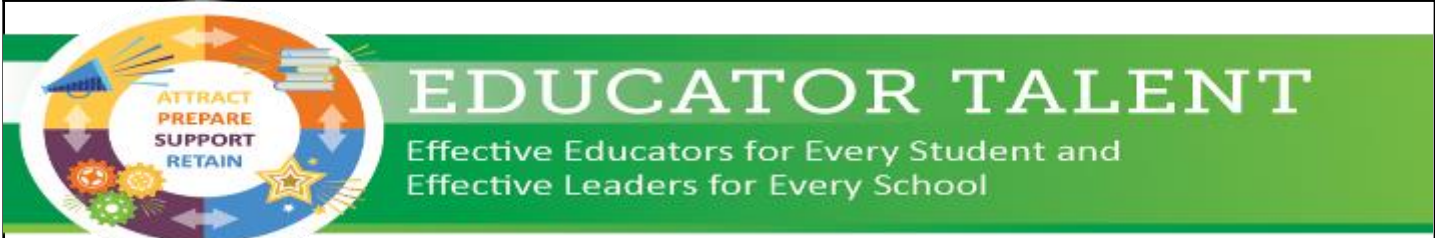
Initial Licensure and Endorsement Specific to Special Education Specialist: VI

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.
---	--

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.
---	--



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>.



READING, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATING

Frequently Asked Questions about READ Plans for Grades 4-12

Please take some time to be in the know about READ Plans for students who continue to have significant reading deficiencies in 4th grade and beyond:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/frequently-asked-question-about-read-plans-for-grades-4-12>

Enrich-related documents posted on CDE's Websites

As of June 30, 2022, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) no longer has a contract with Frontline for the Enrich IEP system. Historically, the Office of Special Education has provided direct support for AU users of the Enrich IEP system. Because CDE does not have a contract with Frontline as of June 30, 2022, it can no longer provide the following types of specific Enrich system support:

- Identifying and correcting errors/tracking help tickets
- Training and technical assistance on using the Enrich system
- Developing/disseminating user guides

[Data Pipeline Town Halls are free webinars provided by the Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) on Data Pipeline topics.](#) Each week's Town Hall will focus on updates to the Pipeline and current and upcoming collections. These webinars also provide a forum for districts, BOCES, and Administrative Units to have questions answered on Data Pipeline.

Be in touch with your administrative units on any IEP needs.

Spring 2022 Assessment and Growth Results Released

The Colorado Department of Education today released the results from last spring's assessments, including the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests in English language arts and math as well as the PSAT and SAT. Results show improvements over the previous year, but there is still more work to be done to fully recover from the lost learning opportunities over the last couple of years. The state also released growth scores. [View the news release on CDE's website.](#)

Standards & Assessments

Communication Toolkit for Assessment Release

[The Colorado Department of Education has created a toolkit of communications resources to help provide information about the assessments and score reports.](#) The communications toolkit includes a FAQ about the assessments, fact sheets that explain the purpose and value of assessments, PSAT/SAT, the Colorado Growth Model and how to understand score reports. Materials will soon be translated into Spanish.

For questions and more information, contact Jeremy Meyer, Director of Communications, at meyer_jeremy@cde.state.co.us.

Changes in the Referral and Evaluation Process for Children Under Age 3

Beginning on May 1, 2022, all referrals and evaluations for children under the age of 3 with developmental concerns or disabilities will be coordinated through Early Intervention Colorado.



This change to Early Intervention referrals and evaluations* is being made to:

- Ensure families and children across Colorado have equitable access to developmental support
- Streamline the program to be easier for families and providers to navigate

*granted by legislation SB21-275

Please note that Child Find (Colorado Department of Education/local school districts) will no longer accept referrals for children under age 3 as of May 1. All referrals and evaluations for children under 3 with disabilities or developmental concerns will be coordinated through Early Intervention Colorado.**

Early Intervention referrals and evaluations will occur within a coordinated, state system.

Families will continue to receive Early Intervention services through local Community Centered Boards, either in person or virtually.

Anyone can make a referral to Early Intervention!

A referral can be made online, by phone or by fax:



Complete the [online referral form](#)



Call 833-733-3734 (833) REFER-EI



Email GetStartedwithEI@state.co.us



Download the [referral form](#) and fax to 303-866-5944



Contact your [local Community Centered Board](#)

If you have questions about this change, please contact Jody Berg, Early Intervention Evaluations Manager at jody.berg@state.co.us or (720) 633-6099

**Early Intervention Colorado is currently part of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). Once the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) is established, Early Intervention Colorado will reside within the CDEC.





Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)



Hello All,

Madalyn Dalley is a 4th-year doctoral student at the University of Colorado Denver studying bilingual school psychology. As part of her research, she is studying potential differences between Spanish-speaking parents' and English-speaking parents' knowledge of special education rights, laws, and perceptions of systems.

Your voices and experiences are needed to help school professionals better understand parents'/caregivers' experiences with special education! Please tell us more by filling out a brief survey here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4wka27ap>

The survey lasts 10-15 minutes and can be taken using your smartphone. Click the link above, scan the Q.R. code from the flyer, or copy and paste the link into your browser to access the survey. Responses will be accepted up until October 31, 2022. All responses are anonymous and participation is voluntary. Participants must be 18 and older and have one child (or more) with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) to participate. Please see the flyer below for more information.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

**TVIS PLEASE SHARE THIS
INFORMATION WITH YOUR SPANISH
SPEAKING FAMILIES!!**

Saludos a todos,

Madalyn Dalley es una estudiante de doctorado de cuarto año en la Universidad de Colorado Denver que estudia psicología escolar bilingüe. Como parte de su investigación, ella está estudiando las diferencias potenciales entre el conocimiento de los padres de habla español y los padres de habla inglés sobre los derechos de educación especial, las leyes y las percepciones de los sistemas.

Sus voces y experiencias son necesarias para ayudar a los profesionales de la escuela a entender mejor las experiencias de los padres/cuidadores con la educación especial. Por favor, díganos más completando una breve encuesta aquí: <https://tinyurl.com/bnxwc6c8>

La encuesta dura entre 10 y 15 minutos y se puede realizar con un smartphone. Haga clic en el enlace anterior, escanee el código Q.R. del folleto o copie y pegue el enlace en su navegador para acceder a la encuesta. Se aceptarán respuestas hasta el 31 de octubre de 2022. Todas las respuestas son anónimas y la participación es voluntaria. Los participantes deben ser mayores de 18 años y tener un hijo (o más) con un IEP (Programa de Educación Individualizada) para participar. Por favor, consulte el folleto de abajo para obtener más información.

¡Gracias por su participación!

Thanks Again,

Madalyn (Mady) Dalley

Doctoral Student of School Psychology

University of Colorado Denver

Pronouns: she, her, hers





Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)



Work to Do

By Jo Pinto

Editor's Note: Jo Pinto is a part-time employee with our CDE Braille Committee. She is also an author of novels and a gifted writer who posts things on her Facebook page, that I ask to share in the newsletter. I thought this was an important story to share. Her story is one of the reasons that role models are so important in the lives of young people who are blind/visually impaired, their families, and colleagues. This is certainly not everyone's experience, but it is a personal story by our colleague and friend Jo.

I had the oddest encounter with a random person today. It was truly wonderful, but I wish it wasn't something that stood out enough to shock me. I had set up an appointment to have my phone and Internet changed from copper to fiberoptic wiring. I didn't really want to switch over, but when there are five customers or less on copper wiring in a given area, the phone company retires the copper wires and forces the stick-in-the-mud customers into the New Millennium. I had no reason for not switching except that I'm used to what I'm used to. Fiberoptic will be faster and cost me less money.

But I digress. The two young men who came to my door were very polite. The younger one was shy and mostly did the work on the outside of my house. But the older of the two came inside and *gasp* interacted with me as if I were a real human being. He spoke to me adult-to-adult, told me exactly what he was doing without dumbing down his language, cracked jokes, and didn't ask me the usual questions about how I'd gone blind or how I dressed myself, navigated around the house, and so on and so forth.

Finally, I had to speak my mind. "You really know how to interact with someone who has a disability. Have you been around a blind person before?"

After an awkward pause, he asked, "Doesn't everybody know how to interact with blind people? I mean, there's nothing different about a blind person than there is about anyone else."

I couldn't help myself. I busted out laughing. "Man, you have no idea! Most people lose their minds!"

"You're joking."

"I'm serious as a heart attack."

"One of my grandparents was deaf, and another was blind. I grew up with it."

"Then it's normal for you." I shook my head. "But for most of the world, well, half of them think it's contagious. The rest of them treat us like kids or burdens, or ignore us completely, or get nasty with us."

"That's unbelievable."

I hope someday the reaction of the technician will be universal across all of society. We have miles to go before we sleep, my friends.

“

Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.

- Verna Myers

”




Calendar of Events

2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022

September 2	First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting) from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
September 20	Tactile Art Club – virtual 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Rishika Kartik at rishikakartik@gmail.com
September 22	Vision Coalition—virtual <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony— Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
September 23-24	Western LVE Clinic— Grand Junction <u>Contact:</u> Angela Sims at angela.sims@d51schools.org
September 29	CO Deaf-Blind Project Webinar Series— 3:30 - 5:30 pm. <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
October (month)	Blind Equality Achievement Month <u>Contact:</u> nfb@nfb.org
October 13-14	CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment— Lowry Conference Center <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
October 15	White Cane Day— Celebrate All Over the State! / Raise a Little Cane!
October 15	Tools for Life Submission Deadline Please go to: https://www.seethefuture.org/learn-more-tools-for-life.html
October 18	Southern LVE Clinic— CSDB in Colorado Springs <u>Contact:</u> Debbie Haberkorn at dhaberkorn@csdb.org
October 18	Tactile Art Club - virtual 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Rishika Kartik at rishikakartik@gmail.com
October 19	Sound Bites— 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
October 21	Third CIMC Friday (virtual meeting) from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
October 27-30	68th Annual State Convention: The NFB of Colorado— DoubleTree by Hilton, Greeley <u>Contact:</u> Jessica Beecham at jbbeecham@gmail.com or Lisa Bonderson at (303) 504-5979





Calendar of Events

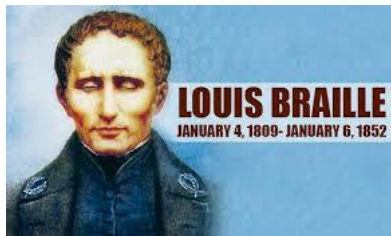


2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022

- November 10-11** **Northern LVE Clinic**— Ensignt Center in Fort Collins
Contact: Liz Wieder at wieder_elizabeth@svvsd.org
- November 11** **Second CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- November 15** **Tactile Art Club** - virtual 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Contact: Rishika Kartik at rishikakartik@gmail.com
- November 16** **Sound Bites**— 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- November 30** **CO Deaf-Blind Project Webinar Series**— 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- December 2** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- December 20** **Tactile Art Club** - virtual 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Contact: Rishika Kartik at

2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023

January 4, 2023 **Happy Birthday to Louis Braille**— Celebrate All Over the State!



- January 6 , 2023** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- January 18, 2023** **Sound Bites**— 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. (Math Strategies)
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- January 25, 2023** **CO Deaf-Blind Project Webinar Series**— 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us




Calendar of Events

2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023 2023

- February 3** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- February 15** **Sound Bites—** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- February 22** **CO Deaf-Blind Project Webinar Series—** 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- February 22-24** **Metro LVE Clinic—** Anchor Center for Blind Children in Denver
Contact: Karin Hensel at khensel@dcsdk12.org
- March 3** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- March 15** **Sound Bites—** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- March 29** **CO Deaf-Blind Project Webinar Series—** 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- April 7** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 19** **Sound Bites—** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- May 5** **First CIMC Friday (virtual meeting)** from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. or 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 17** **Sound Bites—** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- July 1-6** **2023 National Federation of the Blind Convention** - Houston, Texas
Contact: nfb@nfb.org
- Nov 29 - Dec 2** **Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference—** St. Pete’s Beach, FL
Contact: <https://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>

If you have any items to get on the calendar, please be in touch with Tanni so we can keep people in the loop on events locally, statewide, and nationally.

SAVE THE DATE



COLORADO
Department of Education

2022 STATE CONFERENCE ON BLINDNESS/VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

*Tools and Techniques for Teaching Mathematics to Students
with Blindness/Visual Impairment*



Dates: October 13-14, 2022
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM both days

** Priority will be given CO school based TVIs. This training is not open to out of state registrants.

LOCATION: LOWRY CONFERENCE CENTER
1061 AKRON WAY, DENVER, CO 80230



TRAINING DESCRIPTION:

The training will focus on concrete instructional strategies for TVIs to support students in the general education mathematics classroom. Sessions will include exploration and review of:

- tools to support mathematics instruction
- tactile graphics and the implications of teaching tactile graphicacy (tactile graphic literacy) to support their STEM education.
- accessible math instructional strategies
- unique math instruction needs of students with blindness/visual impairments

The workshop will cover the breadth of grades (PK to 12th) and math content that has a highly visual component.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to:

- Describe how to use tools from various vendors to teach essential mathematical concepts;
- Explain the importance of access to high-quality graphics (tactile or print);
- Synthesize the most common general education mathematical practices and convert them to accessible practices for students with VI; and,
- Explore the roles and responsibilities of a TVI to support and/or teach mathematics

PRESENTER: DERRICK W. SMITH



Dr. Derrick Smith is a Professor and Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). UAH is a high research activity university that primarily focuses on science and engineering. The College of Education is considered one of the top educator preparation programs in the state. Dr. Smith earned his B.S. in mathematics from Faulkner University (Montgomery, AL), an M.A.Ed. in special education (visual impairments concentration) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his Ed.D. in Special Education from Texas Tech University. He holds Alabama teaching certifications in Secondary Mathematics (6-12), Visual Impairments (P-12), and Instructional Leadership (P-12). He is a National Library of Congress Certified Braille Transcriber and a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). He has been at UAH since 2008 where he has served as special education faculty, Department Chair, and now Associate Dean. His research focus is on STEM education for students with visual impairments with an emphasis on the interplay of technology with mathematics. He is numerous publications and presentations on STEM education as well as other topics on the field of education of students with visual impairments. Along with his research, he coordinates the UAH Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility programs. He has been the President of the CEC-Division on Visual Impairments and Deafblindness, a board member of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), a National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairments (NCLVI) Fellow, and a Helen DeVitt Scholar (Texas Tech University).

For question regarding registration please contact Roberta Curtis at curtis_r@cde.state.co.us



THE BLIND OF COLORADO LIVING THE LIVES WE WANT!

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO

68th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION October 27 through October 30

The 68th Annual State Convention will kick off with a BANG on Thursday October 27 in Greeley, Colorado with an interactive and inspiring seminar on knowing our history and building our future and your chance to play in a mini goalball tournament.

THE NFBCO CONVENTION HOTEL: Our 2022 convention will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Greeley at Lincoln Park, located at 919 7th St., Greeley, Colorado, 80631.

HOTEL ROOM RATES: The NFBCO room rate is \$109 a night. There is no limit on room occupancy. Reservations MUST be made by Friday, September 23.

To reserve your room, call the hotel reservation line at 844-570-7816 and use group code "NFB". Please contact Lisa Bonderson, at 303-504-5979 if you have any issues making a reservation. [Click here to reserve your room online.](#)

Pre-registration fees: BEFORE October 14

\$20 registration	\$0.00 Friday reception
\$25 Friday luncheon	\$25 Saturday luncheon
\$40 Saturday banquet	\$0.00 Sunday breakfast

Total: \$110.00

Registration fees: AFTER October 14

\$25 registration	\$0.00 Friday reception
\$30 Friday luncheon	\$30 Saturday luncheon
\$50 Saturday banquet	\$0.00 Sunday breakfast

Total: \$135.00. You save \$25 by pre-registering.

FOR MORE CONVENTION INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jessica Beecham via email at jbbeecham@gmail.com or Lisa Bonderson by phone at (303) 504-5979.





Orientation & Mobility

Comprehensive Cane, Tip and AMD Modifications, Design and Refurbishing Book

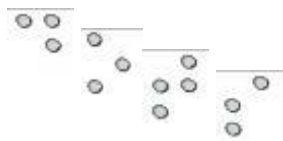
Many of you will remember when we brought Lynn Gautreaux out to Colorado for an Annual O&M Seminar. We had a lot of fun doing cane repair work and making adapted devices. Lynn has put all his knowledge in a new book. Below is the information that is needed to order the book, Comprehensive Cane, Tip and AMD Modifications, Design and Refurbishing, which include 150 pages and 475 photos that covers everything anyone ever wanted to know about tip and AMD design and cane repair plus many more tips and tricks including simple techniques for resizing and restringing folding canes.

It is set-up through PayPal. To order the book, click on the attached book order link and fill out the information. You will receive an invoice and once payment is received, the print and/or digital copy will be shipped out.

For more information, contact Lynn Gautreaux, COMS at (225) 939-2413 or lamapower@aol.com

Here is the book link: <https://forms.gle/V4gfXAqGUd7jZRDg9>





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

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

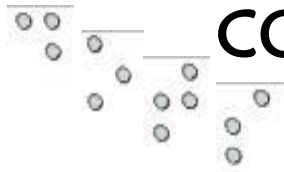
The Practice Test items have been posted on the braille competency webpage—that information and other resources can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs.

For summer 2022 assistance, please be in touch with Tanni first to secure an available proctor / mentor.

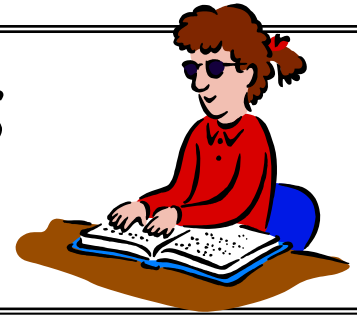
Braillewriter Repair

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





CONNECTING THE DOTS



How to Read Braille With Dottie and Dots

By: Kristie Smith-Armand, M.Ed.
Illustrations of Dottie and Dots
By: Bill Morgan



Learn to read braille with Dottie and Dots! This fun book can be downloaded for free to teach children the dot configurations of the braille alphabet. When a person who is blind reads a letter in braille they feel of the letter. Dots and I help our friends who cannot see to read the braille letters and we would like to teach you, too. However, because you can see, you will learn printed braille.

Are you ready to learn the alphabet in printed braille? Whee! This is going to be fun! To download a copy, go to: <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/how-to-read-braille-with-dots-and-dottie-book.pdf>

UEB Technical Versus Nemeth Braille Codes

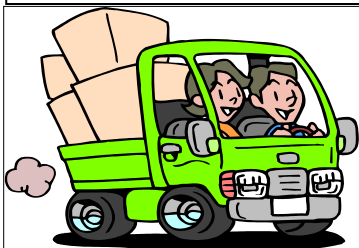
The Colorado Department of Education does not dictate a math code for students with visual impairment, including blindness. Two math codes are approved by the Braille Authority of North America. The decision about the math code is an individual student-by-student or IEP decision.

Both codes are viable for instruction and state testing. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.



Did you know that many braille textbooks for students K-12 are produced in prisons across the United States? Since 2002, APH has taken a lead role in developing the National Prison Braille Network (NPBN). This group of professionals, serving in the fields of vision and corrections, works with prisons across the country to create quality braille textbooks with the goal of increasing quality of life and independence for students and transcribers alike.

Learn more about this Network by reading APH's [NPBN blog](#) and visit the new and enhanced [NPBN website](#) at npbn.org.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Career One Stop

This video collection provides information on careers, industries, skills, abilities, work options, and education levels. Check it out at: <https://www.careeronestop.org/Videos/video-library.aspx>

careeronestop

your source for career exploration, training & jobs

just for PARENTS

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)

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.

PEATC Digital Portfolio for Families

PEATC's *Digital Portfolio* allows parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities the ability to organize personal, educational, medical, and legal information and documentation in a portable, digital format. For more information, go to: <https://peatc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FINAL-PEATC-Portfolio.pdf>

2022 Edition of Promising Partnership Practices

The 2022 collection of Promising Partnership Practices is available online. The purpose of this publication is for schools, districts and other educational organizations in Colorado to highlight how they partner with families and the community for student success.

[Visit the Family Engagement webpage to view the publication and gain new ideas about how to partner with families and the community.](#)

For More Information, Contact:

Darcy Hutchins—Office of Family, School and Community Partnerships

Phone: 303-562-8175

Email: hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us

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 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 their 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.

WE ARE SEEKING YOUR VOICE



BIPOC

BIPOC is an acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

The Members of the Exceptional Student Services Unit want to hear from you! Join us for a virtual listening session to help us gain a better understanding of the needs of our BIPOC parents/families of students with exceptionalities.

The **purpose** of the listening session is to:

- Listen to and gain families' perspectives of what is going well and what needs improvement in special and gifted education.
- Build on what is going well and develop support to address identified needs.
- Better understand the needs of Colorado's BIPOC and bilingual families across the state to empower them to better support their child's individual needs.
- Form a partnership with Colorado's BIPOC and bilingual families to meet their unique needs by providing them with targeted guidance and support.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Educational equity means that every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/or family income.

The **objectives** of the listening session are to:

- Discuss students' and families' equitable, diverse, and inclusive experiences with special and gifted education identification and services.
- Understand families' knowledge regarding equitable, diverse, inclusive, special, and gifted education identification and services.
- Clarify families' needs and solicit input from Colorado's BIPOC and bilingual community.
- Use the information we have gathered to provide support and resources to this community.

SESSION DATES/TIMES (all sessions will be held virtually)

- Session 1: Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022 (10 - 11 AM)
- Session 2: Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022 (5 - 6 PM)
- Session 3: Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022 (Noon - 1 PM)
- Session 4: Friday, Nov. 11, 2022, for **SPANISH** speaking families/parents (1 - 2 PM)

REGISTER HERE

REGISTRATION CLOSING TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT.

Questions regarding listening session content, please reach out to Michael Ramirez at Ramirez_M@cde.state.co.us.

Please reach out to Roberta Curtis with any registration questions at curtis_r@cde.state.co.us.

QUEREMOS ESCUCHARLO

¡Los miembros de la Unidad de Servicios para Estudiantes con Características Excepcionales quieren conocer su opinión! Únase a nosotros en una sesión de escucha virtual para ayudarnos a comprender mejor las necesidades de nuestros padres y familias negras, indígenas y de color (Black, Indigenous and People of Color, BIPOC) de estudiantes con características excepcionales.



COLORADO
Department of Education

BIPOC

BIPOC es un acrónimo que significa negros, indígenas y personas de color (Black, Indigenous and People of Color).

El **propósito** de la sesión de escucha es:

- Escuchar y conocer la opinión de las familias sobre lo que está funcionando bien y lo que hay que mejorar en la educación especial y para niños superdotados.
- Construir sobre los aspectos que funcionan y desarrollar apoyos para abordar las necesidades identificadas.
- Comprender mejor las necesidades de las familias BIPOC y bilingües en todo el estado de Colorado, para que puedan apoyar mejor las necesidades individuales de sus hijos.
- Formar una asociación con las familias BIPOC y bilingües de Colorado para satisfacer sus necesidades únicas, proporcionándoles orientación y apoyo específicos.

EQUIDAD EDUCATIVA

La equidad educativa significa que todos los estudiantes tengan acceso a los recursos educativos y al rigor que necesitan en el momento adecuado de su educación, sin importar su raza, sexo, origen étnico, idioma, discapacidad, orientación sexual, entorno familiar o ingresos familiares.

Los **objetivos** de la sesión de escucha son:

- Conversar sobre las experiencias equitativas, diversas e inclusivas de los estudiantes y las familias, con la identificación y los servicios de educación especial y para superdotados.
- Comprender el conocimiento de las familias sobre la identificación y los servicios de educación equitativa, diversa e inclusiva, especial y para superdotados.
- Definir las necesidades de las familias y solicitar la opinión de la comunidad BIPOC y bilingüe de Colorado.
- Utilizar la información que hemos reunido para proporcionar apoyo y recursos a esta comunidad.

FECHA Y HORA DE LAS SESIONES (todas las sesiones se realizarán de manera virtual)

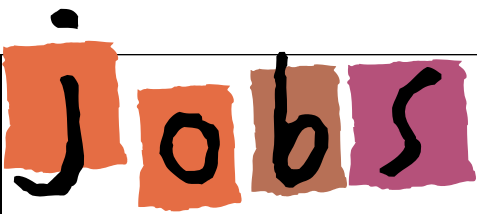
- Sesión 1: Sábado, 10 de septiembre de 2022 (10 - 11 a. m.)
- Sesión 2: Jueves, 29 de septiembre de 2022 (5 - 6 p. m.)
- Sesión 3: Miércoles, 19 de octubre de 2022 (mediodía - 1 p. m.)
- Sesión 4: Viernes, 11 de noviembre de 2022, para familias y padres que hablan ESPAÑOL (1 - 2 p. m.)

**INSCRÍBASE
AQUÍ**

LAS INSCRIPCIONES FINALIZAN DOS SEMANAS ANTES DEL EVENTO.

Si tiene preguntas sobre el contenido de la sesión de escucha, comuníquese con Gina Herrera al correo electrónico Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us.

Comuníquese con Roberta Curtis si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la inscripción en curtis_r@cde.state.co.us.



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with current vacancies for the current school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about our 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. If you are looking for a job, please check out the listings below and also reach out to Tanni, who will have a current list of work across the state, including TVI and O&M Specialist contract work. Together, we can fill in the needed gaps to serve all of our students.

Metro Region

- ◆ **1 FTE TVI (Home Visit focus)** - Anchor Center for Blind Children. For more information, please reach out to Tammy Miller at tmiller@anchorcenter.org
- ◆ **Braillists**—if you are looking for work, contact Tanni as there are several AUs looking to hire in the metro and northern region. Contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- ◆ **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist**—Jefferson County School District. Contact Liza Meier at Liza.Meier@jeffco.k12.co.us

Northern Region

- ◆ **1 FTE or part-time TVI / O&M Specialist**—Windsor School District. Contact Jon Paul Burden at jonpaul.burden@gmail.com

Southern Region

- ◆ **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist** - Academy 20 School District. Please contact Belinda Lujan-Lindsey at Belinda.lujan@asd20.org or (719) 234-1328.

Eastern Region

- ◆ **TVI and O&M Specialist Contract Work**—East Central BOCES—Contact Beverly Bragg at (719) 740-0544 or bevb@ecboces.org.

Across Metro, Northern, and Western Regions

- ◆ **Contact Work with Flexible Hours**—A Shared Vision. For more information about working in many areas of the state with the 0-2 population, please contact Steve Lindauer at slindauer@asharedvision.org.

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





Welcome New Faces and Personnel in New Places!

We are so very happy to have new TVI / O&M Specialists in Colorado to fill our gaps and keep us afloat across most Colorado AUs. Welcome to the following new staff!

- ◆ **Eunice Canoy** shares that she is 27 years old, and born and raised in the Philippines. She is in her 7th year of teaching this year. She is currently teaching at Red Hill Elementary School handling the Functional Communication Program for 3-5th grade. She is taking her Masters in Special Education specializing in Orientation and Mobility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has informal training with Braille and Orientation and Mobility back in her first year of teaching. She loves to read, sing, dance, travel, and be with nature. Eunice shares that she is committed to my faith and her love for the Lord. She loves to ask questions and seek help when she is in doubt. She loves learning and discovering things. Welcome to this new role, Eunice!
- ◆ **Tommi Sue Celli** is a Colorado native, born and raised in Colorado Springs. Tommie Sue, her husband, and 3-year-old son just moved to Fairplay, CO. She enjoys being outside, being with her family and sitting on a beach. This is her thirteenth year of teaching ranging from being a classroom room teacher to a SPED/ELL teacher and now a TVI, and she is very excited to be working with both Mountain BOCES and Summit County. Tommie Sue looks forward to collaborating and learning all that she can to be the most effective provider possible. She shares, “If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.” – Marc Anthony
- ◆ **Brittany Hodgson** is starting her first year as a teacher for students with visual impairments in Eagle County. Previously, she was a teacher in a SSN/Moderate Needs Blended Program, that was state recognized as well as an Affective Needs Teacher. For the past three years, Brittany has been supporting new teachers in learning to administer academic testing for initial and triennial meetings and testing for seasoned teachers. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in sociology and special education. She is currently enrolled in the Master's Program for TSVI through University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We welcome Brittany and are thrilled to have a new TVI on the western slope!
- ◆ **Bob Lee** is the new TVI in Pueblo 60 School District. He is a Colorado native, a military veteran (thank you for your service!), and has past experience as a teacher, administrator, and special education teacher. He is currently enrolled in the University of Nebraska—Lincoln program as a TVI in training. Bob shares, “Since my journey as an educator began in 2005, I have never felt more appreciated, welcomed, and supported compared to the support I have received from the TVI family from the top with Dr. Tanni at the state level, to Jim and the team at CIMC, to TVIs (Lori and Jayme) out in the field. Every member of the TVI family has gone above and beyond, and to be quite honest, it's been amazing!”
- ◆ We are thrilled that **Hanna Waldman** is the new TVI/O&M specialist at Thompson School District! Hanna found her way into this field as an instructor for adaptive recreation organizations here in Colorado. She has been a COMS serving mostly adults for the last 6 years and spent the last couple years learning as much as possible from Sally Burch and Paula Conroy at BVSD (amazing teachers!) as she served as a district brailist. Hanna shares that she is excited to learn and grow into this field in this new position!

Familiar Faces in New Places!

- ◆ **Jenna Martin** is now working in Poudre School District as a TVI and O&M Specialist.
- ◆ **Brian Moles** is now working in Cherry Creek School District as a TVI and O&M Specialist.
- ◆ **Callie Robinson** is now consulting and supporting Jill Tullman and Associates with their practice.
- ◆ **Micah Scott** is now working in Falcon School District as a TVI.
- ◆ **Michael Wright** is working with the Fort Lupton and Hudson/Keenesburg School Districts.

Thank You from the Bottom of Our Hearts to Colleagues Moving On

- ◆ **Julie Swegle** has left CSDB and Colorado. She is now a literacy teacher in Austin at the Texas School for the Blind/Visually Impaired. We wish Julie all the best!
- ◆ **Brooke Thomas**, who's been working part-time as a TVI with Denver Public Schools, has resigned to spend more time with her family. We thank Brooke for her time in DPS and wish her all the best.
- ◆ With Tremendous Gratitude, we say thank you to **Pat Lewis** for all her accomplishments, contributions, wisdom, and lasting mark on Colorado students, O&M specialists, and the field of orientation and mobility. Thanks to Trina Boyd Pratt for sharing this important acknowledgement. "Many of you over the years have known Pat Lewis. She started in the field of O&M 37 years ago. She has decided that it was time for her to completely retire from the field. It saddens my heart because she has given so much for the field of O&M and strongly advocated for the service for students. Many, many years ago, she and I were having an open discussion about being dual certified and how that it effects the services between a person providing TVI and O&M. I argued that it would not affect the service and there was not a need to have a person providing O&M and a separate person providing TVI services. As the years went by, and I semi-retired, I now fully agree with her. She began a trend a long time ago of providing O&M contract work separate of being a TVI.

Here is a list of all the agencies and school districts she provided services to as an O&M instructor and consultant, as well as other duties in the field: Anchor Center for Blind Children, and the following Colorado Administrative Units / School Districts: Adams- 12, 14 and 50 (now Westminster), Alamosa (she would fly down in a puddle jumper to provide services), Aurora, Cherry Creek, CSDB, Denver, Douglas, Estes Park, Greeley, Johnstown – Milliken, Lochbuie, Mapleton, Weld 4, Jefferson County, Poudre, Sheridan, Summit County - Edwards, Trinidad, and Yuma.. She also worked with Cheyenne ECE and Laramie, Wyoming. She worked at the Casper Lions Camp. Pat served as adjunct faculty at the University of Colorado. She was a co-sponsor of the O&M state conference for years. She contributed greatly to the YMCA Snowshoe trip. She presented at state workshops in Colorado, Arizona, and Montana. She was an O&M practicum supervisor for many, many UNC students, including me. If you had her as your supervisor, you are a very lucky person to be able to pick her brain about the development of students and how O&M is such a necessary service." Thank you, Pat, for your long lasting impact of legendary expertise, commitment, and service!





colorado connections



Braille Competency News

◆ Hats off to **Brooke Angelo** (Academy 20), **Brittany Snow** (Aurora), **Emma Barwick Avery (CSDB)**, and **Jennifer Napier** (Cherry Creek) for earning their initial CDE Braille Certificates. Hats off to **ats off to Jeff Hadala** from Jefferson County School District for earning his renewal CDE Braille Certificate! Thanks to CDE braille proctors **Chris Maynard**, **Brenda Shepard**, and **Julie Wetzstein**

Professional Development Contributions

- ◆ **Tanni Anthony** was a participant and a presenter at the June 8-11, 2022 Southeast DeafBlind Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama. Tanni presented on the topic of *Regular Opportunities to Understand and Target Identified Needs in Everyday Settings: Routines for Young Children with Deaf-Blindness*.
- ◆ **Melody Furze, Elisa Darrow, and Jessica Hank** from the Anchor Center for Blind Children were members on a CVI And Babies Panel in June at the CVI Collaboration for Change Conference held in Boston.
- ◆ Hats off to **Cathy Smyth, Tammy Miller, and Callie Robinson** for training the VIPs staff in Indianapolis on the Neonatal Assessment Visual European Grid (NAVEG) this past June. The NAVeG is designed to investigate different aspects of visual function in newborn infants and was first introduced in Europe. The conclusions of the studies are amazing. The professionals at the Anchor Center adopted the NAVeG and replicated the validity studies in the United States. The Anchor Center for Blind Children is now leading the way for training on the implementation of the NAVeG in other states, including Indiana, Kentucky, Washington, Utah, and New Mexico!
- ◆ Awesome work to **Dr. Melody Furze** of the Anchor Center who presented with Dr. Corrina Bauer about their research on measuring improvement in brain based visual impairment at the July AER National Conference in St. Louis. Also hats off to **Elise Darrow** of the Anchor Center who led a conversation about quality standardized Functional Vision Assessments.
- ◆ A huge shout out to **Michelle Chacon, Kyle Berns, and Anitha Muthukumaran** for their amazing work at the July Braille Review of the CMAS Science Tests. They took just about two days to review the tests and provide feedback on questions and tactile graphics. We thank them for their service!!
- ◆ So proud of **Cathy Smyth** from the Anchor Center for Blind Children, who was one of the presenters at the International Vision 2022 Conference held in Dublin, Ireland this summer.
- ◆ We thank all of the 90 plus personnel who gathered from across the state for the June 13-14, 2022 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Need. We loved our time with presenter **Maurice Belote** on the topics of communication and social skills strategies. TVIs / O&M Specialists in attendance included: **Tanni Anthony, Peg Collins, Barb Galgano, Jenna Martin, Debbie Mendoza, Jennifer Napier, Jim Olson, Wendy Stoltman, Maggie Tutt, Wendy Unwin Watson, and Chloann Woolley.**

Congratulations

- ◆ Welcome new CSDB Board of Trustees members! Recent board members of the CSDB retired after completion of their terms of office. The new board members were appointed by Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado and include **Ida Wilding** of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of the Deaf community, **Jessica Lee** of Colorado Springs, and **Steve Lindauer** of Castle Rock, Colorado. **Allan G. Ward** of Poncha Springs, Colorado, was reappointed to a second term. These community members will serve through July 1, 2026.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Charlyn Wallace** for becoming a certified intervener! She just completed the National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio (NICE) Review process for this credential. Charlyn is an intervener in Aurora School District. We are very proud! And a huge thank you to **Jessica Meisel** for all her training and mentor support!
- ◆ Congratulations to **Michelle Chacon** on her DPS promotion to a supervisor position! You rock, Michelle!



colorado connections

Awards

- ◆ **Janet Anderson** was recognized as an "Outstanding Early Intervention Provider of the Year" at El Colorado's Interagency Coordinating Council meeting on June 8. A Shared Vision is honored to have Janet on their team, and the families she supports are very lucky to have her as their teacher! Congratulations, Janet!



- ◆ The American Printing House for the Blind has announced the 2022 Inductees to the Hall of Fame and that **Dr. Kay Alicyn Ferrell** has been selected in recognition of her lifetime of dedication and contributions to the field. The Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the tradition of excellence manifested by specific individuals through the history of outstanding services provided to people who are blind or visually impaired in North America. Although housed at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in Louisville, Kentucky, it belongs to the entire field.

Induction Ceremony: The ceremony to induct Kay Ferrell and Trischa Zorn-Hudson will take place during APH's 154th Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests this fall in Louisville. Joining the sixty-eight outstanding legends already in the Hall, Ferrell and Zorn-Hudson had powerful impacts on thousands of students and teachers and served unique roles in their particular areas of endeavor.

The Class of 2022: Kay Ferrell: Teacher, Scholar, and Mentor

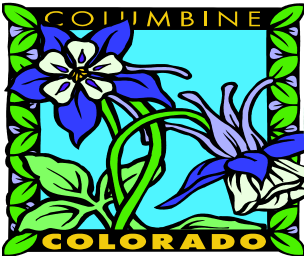
Dr. Kay A. Ferrell is Professor Emerita at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). She has served as Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Special Education at UNC; Assistant Dean of the UNC College of Education; Coordinator of the Early Childhood Special Education Program, and Coordinator of the Program in Visual Impairment. She served as Associate Director of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Policy Research Center in Washington, DC. Ferrell also had a long career at Columbia University, where she was Coordinator of the Program in Education of Blind and Visually Impaired Learners. She began her service to the field of blindness and visual impairment as an Education Specialist at the Virginia Commission for the Blind. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education's Doctor of Philosophy program in Special Education in 1983.

Dr. Ferrell has led approximately 48 research or personnel preparation grants (totaling external funding support of nearly \$19M), including co-authoring two federally funded and nationally recognized leadership grants which enabled the field of blindness and visual impairment to recruit and prepare doctoral-level leaders in all aspects of service to blind and visually impaired children and adults.

One of her five books, *Reach Out and Teach*, is the standard text for all university programs in early childhood education for students with visual disabilities and she was a lead or second author on countless others. She has presented many influential papers at conferences on topics of research and education of individuals with visual disabilities at the regional, national, and international level. She has also served as a U.S. Delegate to the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment.

Dr. Ferrell has served as research advisor and committee member for 52 doctoral graduates at both UNC and Columbia University. She is the recipient of the 2014 Warren G. Bledsoe Award from the AER and the 2013 Migel Medal from the American Foundation for the Blind. She has received the Virgil Zickel Award from the American Printing House for the Blind in 2016; the Alan J Koenig Research Award from the Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference in 2015; the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015; the Mary K. Bauman Award from AER in 2012; the American Foundation for the Blind Corinne M. Kirchner Research Award in 2009; the Distinguished Scholar Award from the UNC in 1999; and the Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research in Special Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1997.

Adapted from the letter of support by George Zimmerman. Dr. Ferrell was nominated by Stuart Wittenstein, Madeline Milian, and Julie Durando.



colorado connections

Field Connections

◆ Tom Hehir: A Champion for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities

Editor Note: Dr. Hehir was a friend and advocate for all learners with disabilities. He supported learners with blindness in his career specifically with work tied to Perkins School for the Blind. We say thank you and farewell to this kind man and champion for improved school services for so many.

From U.S. Department of Education Daily Digest Bulletin / June 28, 2022.

We at the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) mourn the loss and celebrate the extraordinary life and contribution of Tom Hehir, Ed.D. Throughout his decades-long career in special education, from special educator in Massachusetts, to director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Tom was a tireless advocate for children with disabilities and their families.

Tom was relentless in his pursuit for equity and inclusion of children with disabilities. He shaped the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1997 that required students with disabilities to have access to the general education curriculum. He demanded that our nation increase its expectations for the academic performance of students with disabilities and that all students could benefit and be successful by learning the same material as their non-disabled peers. In addition, Tom produced research that changed our understanding of how to identify and support children with disabilities. His work has changed for the better the life trajectory for children with disabilities, including children of color with disabilities and those from low-income backgrounds.

While Tom was an intellectual giant in the special education policy and research world, he was also a generous, humble, and humorous friend to many, with charm and a huge smile that lit up every room he entered. He will be remembered for his devotion to the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. We are grateful for his lifetime of service.

Katy Neas

Deputy Assistant Secretary

(Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services)



We're Going Back To School



Who Ya Gonna Call?

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

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

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

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

- ◆ For referrals or information on services / CVI Initiative contact (303) 337-9732

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

- ◆ Braille Competency Testing/Braille Certification Renewal
- ◆ CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deafblindness, and O&M
- ◆ CDE Initiatives specific to State Assessments, Standards, READ Act, School Readiness Act, etc.
- ◆ CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- ◆ CO Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- ◆ Eligibility of Learners with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness or Deaf-Blindness
- ◆ IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, instructional accommodations
- ◆ Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- ◆ *Keeping in Touch (KIT)* newsletter
- ◆ Licensure for TVIs and O&M Specialists
- ◆ Listservs for TVIs/O&M Specialists, braillists
- ◆ NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- ◆ Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BVI and/or deaf blindness
- ◆ READ Act and guidance specific for learners with blind/visually impairment or deafblindness
- ◆ Sound Bites (former BVI Office Hours)
- ◆ State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Seminar
- ◆ Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs
- ◆ Vision Coalition

Cheryl Austin at (719)578-2110 or caustin@cldb.org

- ◆ Contracted School-Age Services and Assessments
- ◆ CSDB Early Childhood Program and Services
- ◆ CSDB Outreach representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- ◆ Director of CSDB Outreach (BVI / DHH) Programs



Kevin Brousard at (719) 866-3019 or kbrousard@usaba.org

- ◆ USABA Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Scott Burns at (303) 349-1091 or sburns@learningally.org

- ◆ Authorized CO NIMAS file User
- ◆ Learning Ally – authorized CO NIMAS file user

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

- ◆ CIMC webpage: <https://csdb.colorado.gov/outreach/cimc-colorado-instructional-materials-center>

Please encrypt all emails containing personally identifiable student information (PII) you send to the following email addresses:

- ◆ cimcaphorders@csdb.org for “APH Order Form” & “CIMC Professional Lending Library” submissions and questions
- ◆ cimcbookorders@csdb.org for braille and large print “Book Order Form” submissions, sourcing inquiries, and questions
- ◆ cimcBrailleTechSoftware@csdb.org for “Braille-Tech-Software Order Form,” “Braille Repair Form” and questions
- ◆ cimcregistrations@csdb.org for submissions and questions related to “Parent Consent Form,” “Registration Form,” and “Exit Form”
- ◆ (719) 578-2195 Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.org
- ◆ (719) 578-2196 CIMC pilot number (rings all CIMC computer-based phones simultaneously, no voicemail)
- ◆ (719) 578-2197 Debbie Haberkorn, dhaberkorn@csdb.org (braille transcriber, questions related to braille book orders)
- ◆ (719) 578-2198 Teresa Kilbury, tikilbury@csdb.org (shipping & receiving related questions, APH instructional materials orders)
- ◆ (719) 578-2199 Taylor Crocker, tcrocker@csdb.org (state / APH registrations, database reports, federal quota census, & related questions)
- ◆ Mailing Address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559

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

- ◆ UNC Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment / O&M Training Program
- ◆ UNC and CAER representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

- ◆ CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor - Cozart_n@cde.state.co.us
- ◆ Metro TVI / O&M Specialist Region representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- ◆ Metro TVI / O&M Specialist Regional Meetings

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

- ◆ Colorado Center for the Blind Director

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

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

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

- ◆ Braille Challenge – Metro Denver Contest
- ◆ Site Coordinator for Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- ◆ Statewide Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Coordinator

Christine Holmberg at (303) 506-3859 or christine@foresightskiguide.org

- ◆ Foresight Ski Guides

Karin Hensel at (775) 997 8874 or KHensel@dcsdk12.org

- ◆ Site Coordinator for Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

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

- ◆ Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project
- ◆ Free Technical Assistance for Learners with Deaf-Blindness, Their Families, and Service Providers
- ◆ Intervener Training and Coaching

Melissa French at (970) 219-7697 or mfrench@svvsd.org

- ◆ Northern Region TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Anahit LaBarre at (303) 778-1130 or alabarre@cocenter.org

- ◆ Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs
- ◆ Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

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

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

- ◆ Metro TVI / O & M Specialist Regional Meetings

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

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

Christine Maynard at (719) 229-4981 or maynard_c@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor



Tammy Miller at (303)-377-9732 or tmiller@anchorcenter.org

- ◆ Anchor Center for Blind Children Program Coordinator
- ◆ Anchor Center for Blind Children representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Erin Noe at (970) 254-5414 erin.noe@d51schools.org

- ◆ Western Slope TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

- ◆ CIMC website: cldb.colorado.gov, click on the Quick Link for “CIMC”
- ◆ Authorized NIMAS file user for CO
- ◆ CIMC braille & large print book orders and APH loan materials
- ◆ CIMC First Friday Meetings
- ◆ CIMC Professional Lending Library
- ◆ CIMC Representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- ◆ CIMC year-round registration of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired
- ◆ Federal Quota Census registration (first Monday in January annually)
- ◆ Ex Officio Trustee for the Colorado Department of Education Federal Quota Accounts
- ◆ Southern Region TVI-DVR Specialist Meetings



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

- ◆ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Brenda Shepard at (303) 995-7913 or shepard_b@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Angela Sims at (970) 640-7096 or angela.sims@d51schools.org

- ◆ Site Coordinator for Western Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

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

- ◆ Executive Assistant to the CSDB Superintendent and the CSDB Board of Trustees
- ◆ CSDB Board of Trustee Meetings

Heather Solberg at (303) 505-2758 or heather.solberg@va.gov

- ◆ CAER Chapter President

Sarah Sonnier at (970)-245-5228 or sonnier_s@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Nicolle Steffen at (303) 727-9277 or Steffen_n@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ Colorado Talking Book Library

Wendy Stoltman at (303) 885-3030 or Stoltman_w@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ CDE TVIs / O & M Specialists Coach/ Mentor
- ◆ CDE Low Vision Therapist at Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- ◆ CDE TA Specialist for CO Services to Children & Youth with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project

Kim Wardlow at (303) 786-7777 x 101 or ainc@aincolorao.org

- ◆ Audio Information Network of Colorado

Liz Wieder at (303) 502-4308 or wieder_elizabeth@svvsd.org

- ◆ Site Coordinator for Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Julie Wetzstein at (303) 216-6124 or Wetzstein_j@cde.state.co.us

- ◆ CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Tera Wilkins at (719) 578-2102 or twilkins@csdb.org

- ◆ CSDB Interim Superintendent

Chloann Woolley at (719) 494-6337 or cwoolley@upbooces.org

- ◆ Southern Region TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

“

Every time you think of calling a kid ‘attention-seeking’ this year, consider changing it to ‘connection-seeking’ and see how your perspective changes.

—DR. JODY CARRINGTON
PSYCHOLOGIST

edutopia



COLORADO
Department of Education

FROM: Colorado Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202

MAIL TO:

25-38B-3401

State of Colorado Department of Education

Commissioner: Dr. Katy Anthes

Colorado State Board of Education Members

Joyce Rankin
3rd Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District

Lisa Escarcega
1st Congressional District

Debora Scheffel
4th Congressional District

Rebecca McClellan
6th Congressional District

Steve Durham
5th Congressional District

Karla Esser
7th Congressional District

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.