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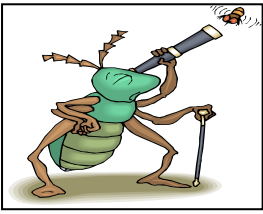
KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness and Deaf-Blindness
October 2023

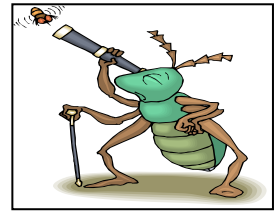


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LOW VISION NEWS



2023-2024 Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

Clinic	Clinic Date	Due Date for Paperwork	Site Coordinator
Northern LVE Clinic	November 9, 2023	Wednesday, October 25, 2023	Liz Weider
Metro LVE Clinic	February 7-9, 2024	Tuesday, January 23, 2024	Roberta Curtis

Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

By Roberta Curtis

Welcome to a new school year! With the changes from our last year’s team due to retirements and new jobs, we have some new faces this year. I am Roberta Curtis and am the clinic administrator. Additionally, Karin Hensel (Certified Low Vision Therapist), Dr. Kara Hanson, OD, and Dr. David Simpson, OD, are the new LVE Clinic team. Jim Olson is returning as a certified low vision therapist.

The current team has considerable experience working with students with low vision. Each member brings clinical and educational expertise to each attending student. It is a time to continue what was working and also to bring on new ideas, materials, and conversations. We hope many of you take advantage of booking students for the remaining clinics yet this school year in the northern and metro region.

The first low-vision clinic was held in the Southern region on Friday, October 27, 2023, at Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) in Colorado Springs. Six students from four administrative units (Academy 20, Falcon, Lewis, Palmer, and CSDB) received low vision evaluations. The parents and TVIs (Deb Andrews, Lori Mattick, and Cheryl Austin) attended the evaluation with their students.

The LVE Clinic team would like to thank the Regional Coordinator, Jim Olson, for continuing to coordinate the Southern Region Clinic. Jim worked not only as the site coordinator, but also the certified low vision therapist. This was our inaugural clinic this year and Karin Hensel was also able to attend to assist in her role.

We are off to a brilliant start! Let’s keep it going for our kids!



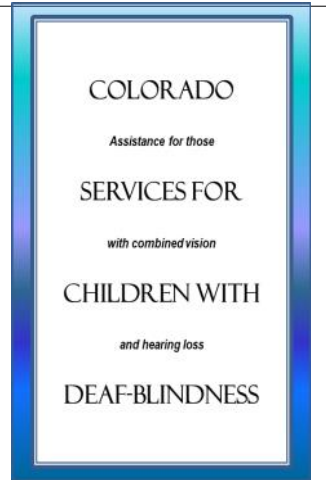
Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Project Purpose and Staff: The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (aka the Colorado Deaf-Blind Grant) has just closed out the fifth year of the 2018-2023 grant cycle. The final report for our past five years was just submitted to the federal government. A huge thanks to all that contributed to the activities of the past five years.

The good news is that CDE has been awarded a new grant, which began October 1, 2023 and will go through September 30, 2028. The purpose of the project, awarded to every state and US territories is to identify children and youth with deaf-blindness and provide free technical assistance (TA) to the identified children, their families, and service providers.

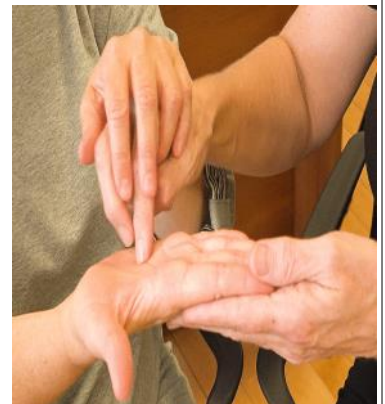
Key project activities are to maintain an annual Child Count process, host professional learning events, and provide tiered and customized technical assistance. The current project has four broad goals: (1) timely identification, (2) family networking, training, and TA support, (3) professional training and TA support, and (4) intervener recruitment and training / support. 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 our contracted Family Engagement Specialist (**Cindy Colwell**) on board with the project. 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: As you identify new children 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.



Blog: Advocating for Max, My Son Who Is Deaf-Blind

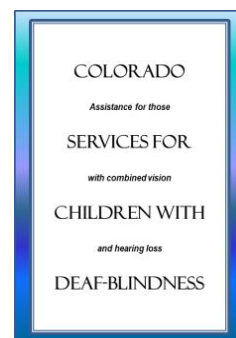
Tiara's blog shares her story of raising Max, who is Deaf-Blind, and their journey of living and learning beyond what doctors expected. Tiara advocates for Max to have the same experiences and opportunities as any other child. Check out their story of advocating and pushing through in [Advocating for Max, My Son Who Is Deaf-Blind](#)



Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project Offers 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. The next cohort begins in January 2024, and a second cohort will begin August 2024. The project has agreed to also assist with the training of the Community Intervener Project, which is housed with the Commission for the Deaf and DeafBlind.



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](https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/techassistrqst)

Return the form by fax to 303-866-3808 or email attachment to Gina Herrera at Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us. You can also call Gina at 303-253-0451. Or fill out our new Google Form for Technical Assistance located at <https://forms.gle/FAWsSVo2itikrtLR6>



Resource on Deaf-Blindness for School Administrators

School administrators play an important role in supporting the identification and referral of children who are deaf-blind. **Identification of Children with Deaf-Blindness: Resources for School Administrators**, by Deborah A. Ziegler, provides information to help school administrators increase their knowledge of deaf-blindness and strategies they can use to ensure that children with deaf-blindness

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News



NCDB Important Resources—Be in the Know!

Fact Sheet in Spanish

The National Center on Deaf-Blind (NCDB) popular factsheet, "[An Overview of Deafblindness](#)," is now available in Spanish. Like the English version, it covers what deafblindness is, how many children are affected, and how children who are deafblind learn and communicate.

Please share this important resource with Spanish-speaking families and educators in your state.

[¡Ahora en español!](#)

Deaf-Blindness in the IEP

There is a new "Family Key Topic" on our website. [Including Deafblindness in the IEP](#) provides information families share with educators and administrators, about practices for identifying, assessing, and educating children who are deafblind. Please share this important resource with your families with a child who is deaf-blind.

**” IF YOU SEE
SOMEONE WITHOUT A
SMILE, GIVE THEM
ONE OF YOURS.”**

— DOLLY PARTON



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

2024 Conference Announcement

The 2024 AER International Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Call for Presenters is open!

Our 40th Anniversary conference will be held at the Sheraton/Le Meridien Hotel in uptown Charlotte from July 24-28, 2024.

The Call for Presenters is open! [Click here for more information and to submit your proposal](#). The deadline to submit is December 1, 2023.

Plan now to join us for the AER International Conference 2024! It will be the experience of a lifetime.



CAER in Need of Our Support

By Tanni Anthony

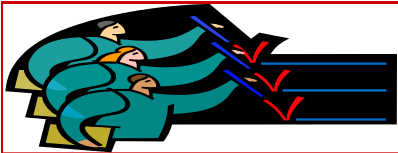
Our Colorado AER Chapter has enjoyed a long and proud history of support to its membership. Over the years, the chapter has co-sponsored conferences with CDE, sponsored their own professional development, supported initial and renewal ACVREP certification of Orientation and Mobility Specialists, funded mini grants for the good of kids, families, and professionals, provided a variety of fund raising events, and held an annual banquet which has included an awards ceremony to thank and honor Colorado individuals who have excelled, contributed, and honored our profession.

In the broader perspective, AER has been a many things—an advocacy organization, a professional learning community across specific professional topics, a professional development opportunity, and a presence at national tables of discourse about the needs of the field. It is our link, as a profession, to a membership organization.

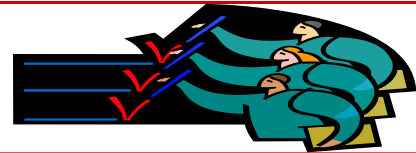
We are at a cross-roads for the continuation of our chapter. The board is most often comprised of personnel who have long contributed to the chapter. It has been hard to recruit new board candidates. The awards banquets, once well attended, have dwindled in attendance. What was once a time of gathering and celebration has significantly changed in the numbers of attendee

It time to evaluate whether Colorado professional see the value in a professional organization, both at a national level and a state level. For many of us, this will be a sad closure of what we were taught in our preservice programs as a responsibility to the field and what it means to be a profession.

If you want to contribute to the CAER board, please be in touch with Heather Solberg at Heather.Solberg@va.gov. The meetings are held virtually and it is a time to meet with colleagues from DVR, the VA, school districts, and early intervention agencies. It is a marvelous time to meet other colleagues from across our many agencies and to contribute the fields of edu



CHECK IT OUT!



APH Orders

If you are submitting an order for more than one student; **PLEASE** only send ONE order form, per student, per email. If you are ordering for 2 separate students, please send two separate emails. This helps us assign a number to your order and reply much more easily saving a surprising amount of time.

We appreciate you! Thank you, Jim

APH Professional Development for ACVREP Credit

Please remember that if you are a Colorado COMS, you need to retain your ACVREP certification to renew your CDE O&M license. If you are looking for more educational opportunities, head over to **APH Hive**. Their FREE eLearning platform for educators and families can be accessed at any time to earn ACVREP credits from the comfort of your home and office. With a growing course catalog covering categories like Early Childhood, Expanded Core Curriculum and more, we're compiling the resources you need to serve students. [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

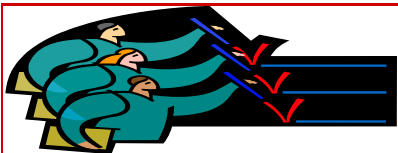
Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), *Roadmap to Consensus & Building Awareness*

CVI emerged as a priority area in the 2021 [National Eye Institute \(NEI\) Strategic Plan](#), following concerted stakeholder input from CVI patients, families, providers, teachers, and researchers. The plan outlined strategies to develop methodologies for diagnosing and classifying CVI to ultimately understand the neural basis and structure/function relationships. It also called on forging partnerships with CVI community stakeholders and improving clinician awareness to increase timely recognition of CVI when rehabilitation is most effective. Toward these goals, NEI Director Dr. Michael F. Chiang announced in June 2022 that NEI would create a CVI patient registry. This workshop is designed to discuss technical and practical aspects of creating that registry and identifying next scientific steps to advance the field.

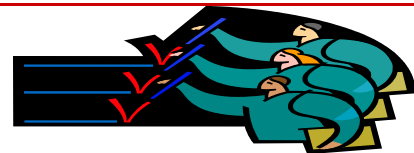
In developing this workshop, NEI is excited to partner with the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to incorporate expertise including pediatrics, rehabilitation, behavioral science, and neuroimaging.

The workshop will be **November 17, 9:30 am – 5 pm ET**, in Bethesda, Maryland. Registration will open to the public on October 23, 2023. The meeting will be videocast in real time, and also recorded for later viewing.

For more information, and to register for the live videocast or to attend in-person, please visit the event page <https://www.nei.nih.gov/events/cvi-workshop>



CHECK IT OUT!



Dear Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments,

If you are still currently teaching students with visual impairments, I am inviting you to participate in a course designed to eliminate the learning curve and potential frustrations of using an abacus to teach mathematical skills to students with visual impairments. The course is designed to learn foundational mathematical skills, instruction of addition and subtraction using complementary numbers, adaptations of mathematic equations, and strategies for teaching school age children who are blind or have low vision. Both environments offer nine (9) hours of Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) credit following the completion of the professional development.



Because school is starting and you are focusing on your caseloads, the study will be held from October 19 until November 27, 2023. Half of these participants will enroll in a course that meets Thursdays via Zoom® from 3:00-4:30 pm EST for five weeks. The second half will enroll in the APH Hive® learning management system. You may choose between synchronous (Zoom®) or asynchronous (APH Hive®) for your learning environment. Your involvement in the study is expected to last approximately six weeks.

With almost 300 teachers interested, please register quickly to reserve your space. To enroll in the professional development, please complete this survey which is available for the next three (3) weeks: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AbacusPD2023>

Thank you for participating in this study, *The Effects of Online Synchronous Versus Online Asynchronous Abacus Professional Development*. If you have questions related to the study's purpose and procedure, please contact Leanne Grillot at (386) 986-6506 and/or lgrillot@fsu.edu. For questions related to the rights of research participants, please contact the Florida State University Human Subjects Office at 850-644-7900 or humansubjects@fsu.edu.

Sincerely,
Leanne Grillot, American Printing House for the Blind



SAVE THE DATE!

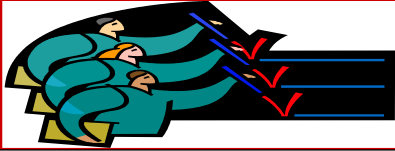
The 2024 Virtual Conference for Assistive Technology and Education (CATE) will be held on June 6 - 7, 2024

The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) and the Colorado Department of Education are proud to announce open registration for the **2024 Conference for Assistive Technology and Education (CATE)**. This 2-day virtual conference features sessions with nationally-renowned trainers addressing a wide variety of assistive technology topics related to the academic support needs of students with disabilities.

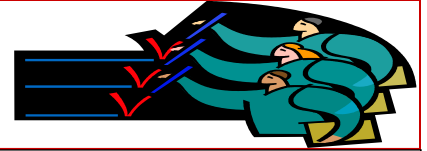
** More information and event updates will be posted on the [CATE webpage](#) as they become available!

Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT)

The Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) Project is a collaboration between the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB). Our mission is to provide assistive technology training to teachers of the visually impaired, utilizing a “train the trainer” model, while also providing training for students and families. Devices are provided through APH and training is provided through AIDB employed trainers serving a nine-state region: The SW CATT proudly serves a six-state region, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Our trainers travel throughout the region to meet the needs of providers. They specialize in training and educating on assistive technology for the Blind and Low Vision community. For more information, go to: <https://seeitourway.org/contact-us/>



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.



** 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.





Dear Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments and/or Orientation & Mobility Specialist,

We are currently conducting a study and would like to invite you to participate. **If you are a certified teacher of students with visual impairments (TSVI) and/or a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS) who completed a university training program in either or both of these areas and work as an itinerant vision professional in education, you are eligible to be a study participant.**

This study will allow us to further evaluate and validate a new scale designed to guide itinerant teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVIs) and certified orientation & mobility specialists (COMS) in analyzing their workload. The purpose is to determine if this scale will be an effective and useful tool when analyzing workload time per week. The scale is called the *Visual Impairment Scale of Staffing Pattern Analysis (VISSPA)*. Initial review of the instructions for the scale will take no more than 10 minutes to read. This study will last for one semester.

We would like you to use the *VISSPA* to analyze your workload as an itinerant vision professional. The *VISSPA* is designed to help you, as the TSVI and/or COMS, determine how much time you spend each week on the variety of tasks done as part of your job in addition to the amount of both direct service time and collaborative consultation service time provided. The *VISSPA* should not take longer than 30-45 minutes to complete for your workload.

After the *VISSPA* is used for workload time evaluation, we would like to receive your feedback on the use of the *VISSPA* by having you participate in a short electronic survey. The survey should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete after completing the *VISSPA*.

We need you to send us a copy of your *VISSPA* results via email after you have completed the survey. There is no identifying information on the demographic information sheet in the survey about you as the vision professional. Please do not include any identifying information on your survey.

If you are interested in participating, please email Dr. Rona Pogrund at rona.pogrund@ttu.edu as soon as possible as the first deadline was October 31 and you will be sent a copy of the *VISSPA* with instructions on how to complete it.

There is no compensation for your participation. You will receive the added benefit of the use of a new tool used to help quantify TSVI and/or COMS workload time during this study. There is a hope that you and your students will benefit from the use of this tool in quantifying your workload time as an itinerant vision professional by the end of the study.

You may stop participating at any time in the study if you become uncomfortable completing the study. You can leave the study any time you wish. You will keep the benefits of participating even if you stop. Participation is your choice.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Rona Pogrund from the Special Education Department in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. If you have any questions about the study, you can contact Rona Pogrund at the email address above or at 806-252-8026.

TTU also has a Board that protects the rights of people who participate in research. You can ask questions of the Board at 806-742-2064. You can also mail your questions to the Human Research Protection Program, Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409.

We hope that your participation can help us understand more about how to help you analyze your total workload time and possibly prevent professional burnout. We look forward to working with you and appreciate your willingness to participate in this study.

Sincerely,

Rona Pogrund Ph.D., TSVI, COMS
Principal Investigator

Laura Cabrera-Garcia, TSVI, COMS
TTU Ph.D. Candidate



ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER
CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO

Mountain Mobility: Winter Camp for Visually Impaired Youth

Thursday, February 15th – Monday, February 19th

THE CLOCK IS TICKING—PLEASE SIGN UP SOON FOR THIS EVENT TO GO FORWARD

Dear Camper,

The Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte will be running a winter weekend-long snow sports camp specifically designed for youth who are blind or visually impaired. The camp will bring youth together for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding and other fun activities in the Rocky Mountains. The ASC will be providing three days of one-on-one lessons taught by professional adaptive ski/snowboard instructors. This camp will focus on building confidence and making connections with others who share similar experiences.

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

Writing and journaling will be a priority during the trip. Each evening campers will be writing as they recall and relive the most exciting and perhaps the most challenging moments from their day. At the end of the trip, campers will have a narrative to bring home and share with their family and friends.

Enclosed you will find the following items to help you organize:

- ◆ A packing list and high altitude tips
- ◆ An itinerary for the weekend
- ◆ Permission to transport
- ◆ Mountain Mobility registration
- ◆ ASC Release of Liability and Media Release
- ◆ Ski/Snowboard rental form

Please note: All applications must be received by Friday, November 10, 2023 and will be accepted in the order they are received. Students who are accepted to the camp will be notified at the beginning of January or earlier. There is a \$50 camper fee and payment can be made through check or credit card. Checks must be made out to Adaptive Sports Center. Credit card payment can be made over the phone, please call the Logistics Team at 970-349-2296.

Shuttle vans will be organized for transportation to Crested Butte on Thursday, February 15 from central locations once the camp roster is set. Students will also be transported back to these central locations from Crested Butte after the camp on Monday, February 19. For more information contact Hanna Waldman at hanna.waldman@tsd.org

Please mail registration, waivers, and payment to:

Adaptive Sports Center
Attn. Logistics Team
P.O. Box 1639
Crested Butte, CO 81224

We are thrilled for you to be a part of the Mountain Mobility camp this winter!

-Adaptive Sports Center



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.
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For information about the endorsement requirements for the School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>.

<p>School Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ages 0-21: (11.03)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution. ✓ Completion of a preparation program from a regionally-accredited institution for school orientation and mobility specialists. ✓ Completion of practicum or internship, which must be in a school setting and equivalent to a minimum of 350 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 Certified O&M Specialist certificate (for initial and renewal licenses). Do not let your ACVREP Certification expire.
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Educator Talent Website

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

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



Licensure Requirements for TVIs and Orientation and Mobility Specialists Colorado Initial Licensure in the Endorsement Area of Visual Impairment

For information about Colorado licensing requirements in the area of Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment and/or School O&M Specialist, please refer to the information contained within Educator Licensing's Endorsement Requirements page at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>.

Initial CDE Braille Competency Testing Requirements

Initial CDE Braille Competency Certificate: All licensed teachers endorsed in the area of visual impairment, including those individuals employed on a temporary status (Temporary Educator Eligibility-TEE), who are completing their university program in visual impairment, must have a valid CDE Certificate of Braille Competency or a CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency on file with their current administrative unit of employment. The CDE Certificate of Braille Competency must be earned no later than May 31st of the first instructional year as a teacher of students with visual impairments, with a Colorado administrative unit. If a TVI moves from one Colorado administrative unit to another, the expectation of first-year braille competency demonstration does not “reactivate” from year-to-year. The testing clock begins with the first day of Colorado employment as a TVI.

The initial CDE Braille Competency Certificate expires five years from its date of issue.

Renewal CDE Braille Competency Certificate

There is a one time expectation to renew the initial CDE certificate five years after its initial issue. This is accomplished by completing 15 renewal modules across the five year renewal period. These modules must be taken with one of the CDE Braille Proctors. For more information, contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

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

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

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You can do it !



Computer Science Revision Begins

Based on the State Board of Education's guidance, CDE will move forward with minimal revisions to the high school computer science standards. The Colorado Academic Standards for English language proficiency, physical education, and world languages will remain in place for the next six years. The Computer Science Standards Revision Committee anticipates presenting a first draft of recommended revisions to the State Board of Education this November. A period of public comment on the proposed revisions will begin in mid-November.

[Please visit the Standards Review and Revision page for more information.](#)

Reading, Writing and Communicating

The Colorado READ Act promotes grade-level literacy by the end of third grade, ensuring students can think critically and helping identify students with a Significant Reading Deficiency or SRD. CDE has composed guidance for supporting students who remain on READ plans in grades four through 12, and provides districts with research, resources and training opportunities to support students who remain on READ plans in these grade levels. [The guidance and other information can be found on the READ Plan Guidance for Students in Grades 4-12 webpage.](#) The Colorado Framework for Writing Instruction aids district and school leaders in developing a research-based framework toward the teaching of writing. [The framework can be found on the Framework for Writing Instruction webpage.](#) For more information, contact Olivia Gillespie, Office of Standards and Instructional Support, at 720-930-1298 or gillespie_o@cde.state.co.us.

Celebrate Family and School Partnership in Education Month

November is Family and School Partnership in Education Month, and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education and CDE are launching a social media campaign promote the importance of family, school, and community partnerships. Throughout the month, we encourage schools, families, students, and our community partners to share examples of how they collaborate. Use #PartnerInEd #FSCPMonth2023 and connect with CDE social media to help spread the word. [Follow this link for the FSCP Month Communications Toolkit.](#)





About DonorsChoose: The Colorado Department of Education, in collaboration with DonorsChoose, is providing \$1,000 in funding to help teachers purchase classroom supplies. Every Colorado PreK-12 public school teacher is eligible to apply for this opportunity while the \$11 million in COVID-19 relief funds last.

Who is DonorsChoose? DonorsChoose is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit connecting teachers to resources across the country. Since DonorsChoose was founded in 2000, more than 10,000 Colorado

teachers representing school districts across the state have received over \$16 million for projects that help them go above and beyond in the classroom. Seven school districts in Colorado, including Denver Public Schools, are currently part of the DonorsChoose District Partnership Program. To help districts, schools and teachers communicate and take advantage of this funding opportunity, we've created a number of resources to spread the word in schools

Create a project on DonorsChoose: Submit a project on DonorsChoose using the campaign code **COLORADO**, and keep your total project goal under \$1,000, that's about \$800 in materials. Since funding is limited, submit as soon as possible for the best chance to get your project approved. [To submit a project on DonorsChoose, click here.](#)

CDE and DonorsChoose: Starting on August 24, 2023, the Colorado Department of Education will award up to \$1,000 in Federal COVID Relief funding to Colorado classroom teachers' projects requesting resources to support students in response to COVID-19. Funding for eligible projects will be applied shortly after a project is approved.

- [Check out the Program Eligibility Information, here.](#) *[Check out all the Project Request Details, here](#)

How to Quality:

- [Create a teacher account on the DonorsChoose website, if you don't already have one.](#)
- [Click here to learn more on how to qualify.](#)

Which educators qualify; who is eligible? All Colorado public school educators who teach students in PreK-12th grade are eligible for the program. For the purposes of this program, "Colorado educator" is defined as any full-time equivalent public-school employee who spends the majority of their time directly educating or counseling students. [Read a more detailed list of eligibility requirements on the DonorsChoose website.](#)

I already have a DonorsChoose account, do I need to make a new account to submit a project? No. Only one DonorsChoose account per teacher is permitted. If you already have a DonorsChoose account sign in to that account before submitting your project.

What resources can educators request? Educators can request classroom resources, including but not limited to supplies, technology and instructional materials.

Can a non-educator nominate an educator and/or project? No. Funding through this partnership is intended to address the individual and specific need(s) of each educator and classroom. Educators must submit their own projects to participate in the program. [See the CDE Communications toolkit if you'd like to share about this program on social media.](#)

Can educators submit multiple projects for funding? Each Colorado educator can only have one project funded through this funding opportunity. However, educators are encouraged to post additional projects to DonorsChoose and benefit from the community of donors.

[For more information on if your project qualifies, visit the DonorsChoose Help Center.](#)



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)



English Learners with Disabilities

One in seven children who are identified as English learners has a disability. For more information about identifying multilingual learners with disabilities, go to: [How to Identify and Serve English Learners with Disabilities \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/technology/2019/07/15/how-to-identify-and-serve-english-learners-with-disabilities/)

IEP Translation Requirement

Each administrative unit must ensure that IEP teams offer to provide a translated version of the final IEP of dually identified learners to their parents with limited English proficiency. A link to both documents can also be found on the Directors' Corner, in the "What's New Section." For questions, please contact Hunter Smith, smith_h@cde.state.co.us.

Fact Sheet: [IEP Document Translation: HB 23-1263: Language Access for Families with Limited English Proficiency](#)

Spanish Language Version: [Traducción de Documentos IEP: HB 23-1263: Acceso al Lenguaje para Familias de Habilidad Limitada del Inglés](#)

From Beliefs to Actions: Designing Culturally Relevant Systems



Register today for a five-part webinar series hosted by the [Western Educational Equity Assistance Center \(WEEAC\)](#) at WestEd, where we'll examine the root causes of chronic educational inequities and equip participants to implement evidence-based culturally responsive practices for achieving equitable outcomes for all students.

Who Will Benefit: This series is designed for districts, charter management organizations, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and tribally operated schools. State education agency, tribal education agency, Bureau of Indian Education, and Office of Indian Education personnel are also invited to participate.

Session 1 Part 1: *Beyond Diversity Part 1: Achieving Racial Equity by Addressing Systemic Beliefs*

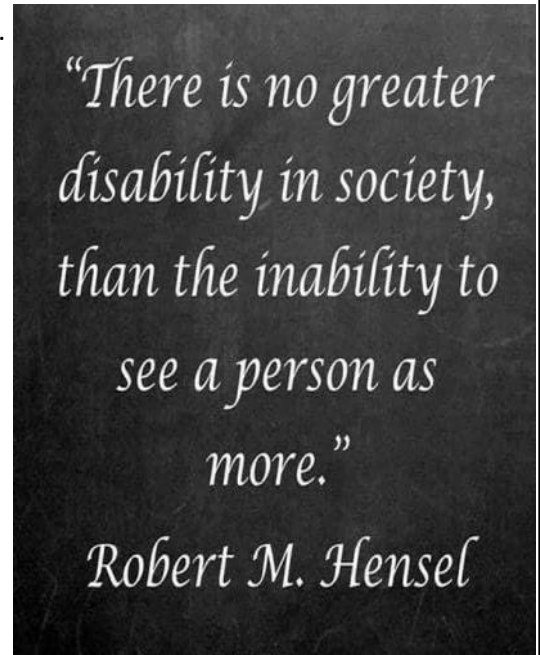
Date: Wednesday, November 1 **Time:** 2 p.m. (PT) / 5 p.m. (ET)

[Register for Session 1 Part 1](#)

Session 1 Part 2: *Beyond Diversity Part 2: Achieving Racial Equity by Addressing Systemic Beliefs*

Date: Wednesday, November 15 **Time:** 2 p.m. (PT) / 5 p.m. (ET)

[Register for Session 1 Part 2](#)





WaterViz: A Creative Approach to Understanding Water Cycle & Climate Data

A Research Project at the University of South Carolina Upstate



- Learn about how a team of artists, musicians, and scientists use animated digital art and musical sonification to represent real-time water cycle data from the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest!
- Team up with students from around the country to analyze, interpret, and build 3-D scale models of real scientific data!
- Create your own data representation to present at the Water Showcase!

All materials will be delivered to you for FREE!

Join us Saturday mornings from October 14th - November 18th

11:30-1:00 Eastern / 10:30-noon Central / 9:30-11:00 Mtn / 8:30-10:00 Pacific

All events will take place on Zoom. The meeting link will be sent upon receiving your registration. If you have questions, contact Dr. Tina Herzberg at herzberg@uscupstate.edu or 864-503-5572.

To participate in the study, students must:

- 1) read braille or be learning to read braille
- 2) be in middle or high school



To join our weekly adventure, register at the link below or scan the QR code. https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0kMmg37sVj4ZfV4

The purpose of this project is to examine the effectiveness of the extra-curriculum programming in helping YOU advance your data analysis skills.




Calendar of Events

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

November	Family and School Partnership in Education Month
November 1	Metro Region TVI/COMS meeting - virtual (3:30 to 5 pm) Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us or Jeannie Lei at lei@cherrycreekschools.org
November 8	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—Middle School Students with BVI Accessing Technology Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6
November 8-9	Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic at the Enight Center in Fort Collins Contact: Liz Wieder at wieder_elizabeth@svvsd.org
November 14	APH Tactile Graphics Webinar—Teaching Touch and Exploratory Skills Register: https://www.aph.org/educational-resources/outreach/training/access-academy/
November 15	Tools for Life Applications Due Go to: https://www.seethefuture.org/learn-more-tools-for-life.html
November 27	Deaf-Blind Webinar Series – Topic to Be Determined Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
Nov 29 - Dec 2	Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference — St. Pete’s Beach, FL Contact: https://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/
December 1	CIMC First Friday —virtual Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
December 13	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—Assessment for Visually Impaired Learner Access (AVILA). Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6

2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024

January 5	CIMC First Friday —virtual Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
January 8	Metro Region TVI/COMS meeting - virtual (3:30 to 5 pm) Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us or Jeannie Lei at lei@cherrycreekschools.org
January 8-26	Initial Window to Order Braille Format CMAS Tests Contact: Work with your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
January 9	Southern Region Meeting: Host/Location: Falcon SD from 2:30—4:30 PM Contact: Lori Mattick at lmattick@d49.org
January 22	Deaf-Blind Webinar Series —Topic to Be Determined Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



Calendar of Events

2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024

January 24	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—Executive Functioning Considerations for Students with BVI Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6
January 31	Office Hours : CoAlt/SwD for BVI learners (4 – 5 PM) Contact: Arti Sachdeva at Sachdeva_a@cde.state.co.us
February 2	CIMC First Friday —virtual Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
February 7-9	Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic at the Anchor Center for Blind Children Contact: Roberta Curtis @ curtis_r@cde.state.co.us
February 13	Southern Region Meeting : Host/Location: Academy 20 SD from 2:30—4:30 PM Contact: Melissa Shular at melissa.shular@asd20.org
February 21	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—College Prep Considerations for Students with BVI Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6
February 22	Braille Challenge at CSDB in Colorado Springs Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
February 23	Braille Challenge at the Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton Contact: Taylor Leinbach at tleinbach@csdb.org
February 26	Deaf-Blind Webinar Series – Topic to be Determined Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
March 1	CIMC First Friday —virtual Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
March 13	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—Topic to be Determined Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6
March 25	Deaf-Blind Webinar Series – Topic to be Determined Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
April 3	Metro Region TVI/COMS meeting - virtual (3:30 to 5 pm) Contact: Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us or Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschools.org
April 5	CIMC First Friday —virtual Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
April 10	Sound Bites — 3:30-5:00 PM—Topic to be Determined Registration: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3003fe0868204b739e52e195b0e9e6d6




Calendar of Events

2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024

- May 1** See the Future Fund Education for Life Scholarship Applications Due
Go to: <https://www.seethefuture.org/efl-app-info.html>
- May 3** CIMC First Friday—virtual
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 14** Southern Region Meeting: Host/Location: Ute Pass BOCES from 2:30—4:30 PM
Contact: Chloann Woolley at cwoolley@upboces.org
- June 6-7** Colorado AT Conference—virtual
<http://www.swaac.org/conference-for-assistive-technology-and-education-cate>
- July 24-28** AER Conference— Charlotte, NC
Contact: www.aerbvi.org

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



Orientation & Mobility

White Cane Day at CSDB

By Jamie Lugo

White Cane Day was celebrated at Acacia Park on October 13th. An official proclamation was presented by city council woman, Yolanda Avila. Both bands, the Bulldog Band and PRIDE band performed songs, students danced, and poems were read. Our guest speaker this year was Quaiyim Gray, a paraprofessional in the blind school. White Cane Day Themed Tactile Art was displayed and described in large print and braille. Finally, our CSDB staff band made their big debut singing “Celebration” The entire student population attended, blind/vi and deaf hard of hearing students. It was truly the best White Cane Day yet!



Visual Impairment, including Blindness

Thank you to all of people who took time to discuss, craft, and comment on the updated eligibility criteria of Visual Impairment, Including Blindness. Thank you also to the Colorado State Board of Education for their careful view and constructive feedback on the draft version and the ultimate final version, which is effective as of June 2023.

The updated eligibility criteria can be found in the [Rules for Administration of the Exceptional Children Education Act](#).

2.08(11) A child with a Visual Impairment, Including Blindness has an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects the child’s educational performance and that requires specialized instruction. The term includes low vision, blindness and/or progressive vision loss.

2.08(11)(a) A determination that a child is an eligible child with a Visual Impairment, Including Blindness may include but not be limited to:

2.08(11)(a)(i) Visual acuity of no better than 20/70 in the better eye after correction;

2.08(11)(a)(ii) Visual field restriction to 20 degrees or less; and/or

2.08(11)(a)(iii) A physical condition of visual system which cannot be medically corrected and, as such, affects visual functioning to the extent that specially designed instruction is needed.

These criteria are reserved for special situations such as, but not restricted to cortical visual impairment and/or a progressive visual loss where field and/or acuity deficits alone may not meet the aforementioned criteria.

Tanni will be working with the Vision Coalition and internal CDE personnel to finalize training guidance. As with all eligibility categories, it is necessary to (a) define the vision impairment from an eye report that details diagnosis, prognosis, and clinical visual functioning ; (b) determine the educational impact based on educational evaluation; and (c) confirm the need for specially designed instruction.



Visual Impairment, including Blindness

Navigating the Great Outdoors

Join Colorado Center for the Blind and Boy Scout Troop 870 for a Fun-filled Collaborative Event!

Discover the Great Outdoors Together!

Date: Saturday, November 11 **Time:** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Colorado Center for the Blind—2223 W Shepperd Ave., Littleton, CO 80120

Activities Include:

- Learn Essential Knot Tying Skill
- Building and Enjoying a Cozy Campfire
- Tent Building Workshop
- Delectable S'mores for Everyone

Come and experience an exciting day filled with adventure, learning, and building friendships! This collaborative event between Boy Scout Troop 870 of Highlands Ranch and the Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program aims to provide a unique opportunity for youth to come together, share skills, and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to enhance your outdoor skills and connect with fellow youth enthusiasts!

If you have any questions, please contact: Chaz Davis, Director of Youth Services Phone: (303) 778-1130

Email: cdavis@cocenter.org

Event Details:

- Open to all Boy Scouts and Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program participants aged 8-18.
- All necessary materials and equipment will be provided.

Dress comfortably and appropriately for outdoor activities.

[Deadline to RSVP: November 9](#)

We look forward to seeing you there and making this event a truly memorable experience for everyone involved!

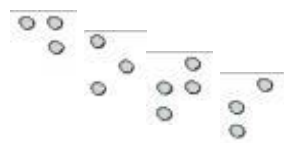
Introducing Braille Brain!

The American Printing House for the Blind is excited to announce the release of [Braille Brain](#)! This is a free website-based, self-paced curriculum to help people who already have literacy skills learn braille. Braille Brain can be especially useful for parents, paraeducators, students in university level TVI programs, people who lose sight later in life, and others who want to improve their braille skills. The curriculum is based on [Ashcroft's Programmed Instruction: UEB](#) and starts with the basics of braille, going through uncontracted and contracted UEB braille. No account is needed to access this curriculum, making it quick and easy to use.

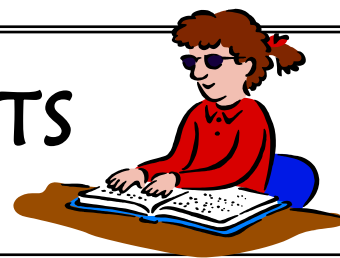
Braille Brain is the result of a collaboration between APH and California State University. The lead curriculum writer is Kim Blackwell, who has over 25 years of experience in the vision field, including as a content writer for the [iBraille Challenge](#). The lead researchers are Dr. Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, professor at California State University, Los Angeles, and Gina Michell, a TVI and a faculty lecturer at California State University, Los Angeles. For more information about the experts involved with the development of Braille Brain, including all the additional content authors, please visit the [About page](#) on Braille Brain.

Braille Brain currently has 21 units. These units include braille letters and numbers, two-cell punctuation and shortform words, and braille specific symbols and formatting. The lessons include repeatable practice to help build your braille knowledge. Writing is done via six key input on a QWERTY keyboard, or on a braille display, and is reinforced with writing workout practice. The writing practices tell you how many words per minute you wrote to help you keep track of your speed progress.

Braille Brain will continue to grow over time. Future updates will include Nemeth braille and more advanced UEB content. To start your learning adventure, head over to the [Braille Brain](#) website!



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	Nkcozart@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
Julie Wetzstein	(303) 819-7887	Wetzstein_J@cde.state.co.us

Christine Maynard is our southern 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. If there is a testing need on the western slope, please contact Tanni.

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.

Thanks for being a steward of braille competency—our students are counting on your expertise for their specially designed instruction and instructional materials.

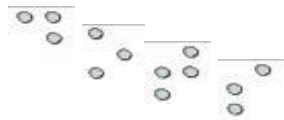
UEB Technical Versus Nemeth Braille Codes

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 an 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.

Braillewriter Repair

- Kirk McCall (303) 875-4527 (phone) and email km2320@msn.com
- Mark Carpenter (719) 634-8720 (phone) and email carpdiane@yahoo.com





CONNECTING THE DOTS



APH Access Academy – Tactile Graphics Literacy

The American Printing House for the Blind will be hosting a four-part series on Tactile Graphics Literacy for Students with Visual impairments. This four-part webinar series are noted in the KIT Newsletter's Calendar of Events. We do not have the registration links so be watching for their posting on the APH website. Learn more about [APH Tactile Graphic Literacy](#).

Seeking TVIs for a Research Study to Learn about the Timelines and Processes for Adapting Math Materials for Secondary Students Who Use Braille and/or Audio Media

Are you an itinerant Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) who is working in the United States or its territories this fall? Do you provide services to a middle or high school student who reads braille or uses other tactual or audio media? If so, you're invited to take part in a research study. Participants will complete a brief survey (about 10 minutes) and then document their timelines and processes for adapting math materials over the course of 4 to 8 weeks this fall. Participants who document at least 4 weeks of materials will receive a \$25 gift card.

To start the survey, use this link: https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cJNGN9RwZEnt8W
Please share this advertisement with any TVIs you think might be interested. If you have any questions, please contact one of the researchers: Dr. C. Rett McBride at rettmcbride@gsu.edu or Dr. Tina Herzberg at herzberg@uscupstate.edu

LEGO Braille Bricks for Everyone

[LEGO Braille Bricks – Play with Braille](#) includes 287 bricks in five color's: white, yellow, green, red and blue. All bricks are fully compatible with other LEGO products and the studs on each brick are arranged to correspond to the numbers and letters in the braille system, with the printed version of the symbol or letter situated below the studs. [LEGO Braille Bricks are now available](#) for everyone to purchase! Get children excited about braille literacy with a kit today. Educators who teach students who are blind or low vision can still request free kits (<https://www.aph.org/lego-braille-bricks/>) from APH, courtesy of The LEGO Foundation.

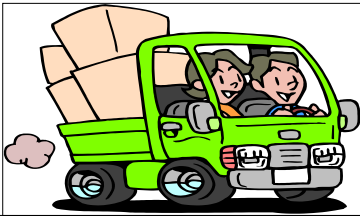
APH Tactile Graphics Webinar Series: Details and Registration

The American Printing House for the Blind is sponsoring a four-part webinar series on Tactile Graphics. The first one will have happened by the time this newsletter is disseminated, so please note the trainings in November – December. Sounds like a great opportunity o learn more about tactile graphics!

1. **Teaching Touch and Exploratory Skills to Prepare for Tactile Graphics Learning:** November 14, 2023; 1:00 MST
2. **Strategies and Resources for the Instruction and Evaluation of Tactile Graphicacy Skills:** November 28, 2023; 1:00 MST
3. **The Monarch: Tactile Access to Digital Learning:** December 12, 2023; 1:00 MST

Registration is open for all webinars on the APH Access Academic Website. To register:

- Go to the **Access Academy website:** [APH Access Academy: Tactile Graphics Foundations Webinars](#)
- Locate the heading "Upcoming Webinars" and the four Tactile Graphics Foundations webinars listed below the heading
- Click on the "View Event" button and then on the "Register Now!" button to register for each webinar



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

A New Parent Training Resource: Helping Families See Possibilities in Employment

Date: Monday, Nov 6th, 2023 Time: 3pm-4:30pm ET

There is growing momentum to promote competitive employment as the preferred outcome of secondary transition services, and to make sure that individuals with disabilities have access to employment opportunities after high school. To realize this vision, families will need support to help them embrace the benefits of their loved ones having a real job in the community. RAISE, in partnership with TransCen, has developed a new parent training resource designed to help advocates, educators, and disability professionals connect with families and highlight the possibilities found in employment.

This "train the trainer" session will provide content information and delivery strategies related to using the materials effectively. Key topics include understanding the value of employment, examining families expectations, building work skills and addressing family concerns. If you are a parent trainer, or if you just want to have better conversations with families about employment, this session is for you.

[Register Here!](#)

ASL interpretation & Spanish interpretation will be offered!

Un nuevo recurso de capacitación para padres: Ayudar a las familias a ver las posibilidades de empleo

Fecha: lunes 6 de noviembre de 2023 Hora: 3pm-4:30pm ET

Existe un impulso creciente para promover el empleo competitivo como el resultado preferido de los servicios de transición secundaria y para garantizar que las personas con discapacidades tengan acceso a oportunidades de empleo después de la escuela secundaria. Para hacer realidad esta visión, las familias necesitarán apoyo que les ayude a aprovechar los beneficios de que sus seres queridos tengan un trabajo real en la comunidad. RAISE, en asociación con TransCen, ha desarrollado un nuevo recurso de capacitación para padres diseñado para ayudar a los defensores, educadores y profesionales de la discapacidad a conectarse con las familias y resaltar las posibilidades que se encuentran en el empleo.

Esta sesión de "capacitación para instructores" proporcionará información sobre el contenido y estrategias de entrega relacionadas con el uso eficaz de los materiales. Los temas clave incluyen comprender el valor del empleo, examinar las expectativas de las familias, desarrollar destrezas laborales y abordar las preocupaciones de las familias. Si usted es instructor de padres o si simplemente desea tener mejores conversaciones con las familias sobre el empleo, esta sesión es para usted. [Regístrese aquí](#)

Se ofrecerá interpretación al español y ASL (lenguaje de señas americano)



Expect, Engage, Empower: Successful Transitions for All

November 9th, 2:00 pm Eastern

This session will target the recent OSERS initiative 3E: Expect, Engage, Empower. This initiative challenges our field to raise expectations, engage families earlier, and empower all who support students with disabilities to improve postsecondary outcomes. Come join staff from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTA CTC) who will share information and resources about evidence-based transition practices and predictors leading to improved student outcomes. These resources can be used by state educational agencies and educator preparation programs to ensure transition is included across the lifespan.

ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

Do you need help finding employment opportunities for students with the most significant support needs?

Do you need some training on supporting students with disabilities in community or job settings?

Are you wondering how to help students who are nonverbal become more self-determined?

Are you worried about taking students with aggressive behaviors out in the community or workplace?

Competitive Employment: An Important Consideration for All Students with Disabilities!

[Module 1: Understanding the Importance of High Expectations for Employment](#)

After completing this module, you will have a basic understanding of Employment First, including the importance of embracing high expectations for all students with disabilities as well as the need to begin transition planning as early as possible. You will also learn about current transition efforts taking place across Colorado and you will have the opportunity to apply the Sequencing of Services Framework to your local educational agency. (45 min)

[Module 2: Employment First Training Strategies](#)

After completing this module, you will have a better understanding of customized employment and how to connect students and their families to state agencies such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Workforce Centers. You will explore several types of assessments used to help students identify their employment and will also have the opportunity to apply this information to the students that you are serving. (33 min)

[Module 3: School Staff's Role with Employment](#)

After completing this module, you will understand the importance of collaborating with district personnel, community partners, and family members when helping students with disabilities reach their employment goals. You will understand how school staff, including paraprofessionals, can support students with disabilities at job sites and during community-based instruction. As part of this module, you will have the opportunity to discuss the separate roles and responsibilities of each team member. (44 min)

[Module 4: Supporting a Student's Self Determination to Achieve Employment](#)

After completing this module, you will be able to identify the characteristics of someone who is self-determined, and you will understand the importance of teaching students with disabilities these skills. You will learn strategies to help encourage students to become more self-determined as they transition into adulthood. You will have the opportunity to discuss the ways you can help increase self-determination skills of the students you are currently serving. (21 min)

[Module 5: Strategies for Increasing Independence to Support Employment](#)

After completing this module, you will gain strategies to help support students in achieving greater independence. You will learn about various levels of prompting, how to select appropriate prompts that will increase a student's independence, and the importance and process of fading prompts. You will have the opportunity to apply what you learn to students you support. (23 min)

[Module 6: Managing Behavior in the Community to Prepare for Employment](#)

After completing this module, you will understand the different functions of behavior and how to determine these functions in order to identify effective strategies that can be used to help prevent and/or reduce the behavior while in the community or workplace. You will learn about the importance of providing support that is more proactive in nature such as creating predictability, providing choices, ensuring students have effective communication systems, and focus on building relationships. You will have the opportunity to apply what you learn to students you are currently supporting. (37 min)

[Module 7: School Staff's Roles and Responsibilities in Progress Monitoring](#)

After completing this module, you will understand why it is important to take data when working with students in work and community-based activities. You will learn the steps needed to design an effective data collection system and the role that school staff play in implementing this system. You will also have the opportunity to analyze your current progress monitoring practices and identify components that need to be put into place within your setting. (35 min)

[Module: Work-Based Learning Options for Students with Significant Support Needs](#)

After completing this module, you will understand the importance of work and high expectations for students with the most significant disabilities, the need to presume competence when supporting these students, and the need to start the transition planning process early. You will also learn about the need to ensure that transition assessments are individualized, customized, and accessible for students who have varying levels of support needs to gain information to better identify post-secondary goals and supports and services needed by these students. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to learn what work-based learning experiences are and why they are important for students with significant support needs. You will learn different ways to develop worksites by incorporating self-determination and through working with students' family members. Finally, you will have the opportunity to analyze current worksite supports, including assistive technology and transportation, that you are providing to students you serve. (1 hours, 42 min)

[Module Resource links and resources](#)

[Additional Handouts](#)

ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

For any questions
regarding content/topics,
please reach out to:

Katie Oliver

oliver_k@cde.state.co.us

Gail Lott

lott_g@cde.state.co.us

Cheryl Carver

cheryl.carver@state.co.us

Kara Halley

halley_k@cde.state.co.us

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.



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.

The APH ConnectCenter website offers curated advice and resources to assist children, parents, adults, job seekers who are blind or low vision, and associated professionals.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 7:30 – 8:30 PM EST

ParentConnect: A family support Group offered in partnership with the Virtual Parent Support Group Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind

APH FamilyConnect and the Chicago Lighthouse are pleased to offer this virtual support group for parents and families of children who are blind or visually impaired. These monthly sessions are for families to connect with and learn from each other about the joys, challenges, and adventures of raising children with visual impairments and blindness. These sessions are open to families. No ACVREP or professional development credits will be available.

[Register Here for ParentConnect](#)





IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

We are facing our first real shortage for this school year for TVI s= teachers of students with visual impairments and O&M Specialists = orientation and mobility specialists.

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!

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 for TVI / O&M Specialist** in Adams 12 School District. For more information, please contact Heather Greicius at gre008602@adams12.org
- ◆ **1 FTE TVI (or part time)** TVI at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. For more information, please reach out to Tammy Miller at tmiller@anchorcenter.org
- ◆ **1 FTE for TVI/O&M Specialist** in Cherry Creek School District. Please contact Amy Barr at abarr2@cherrycreekschools.org
- ◆ **1 FTE for TVI / O&M Specialist** in Denver Public Schools. Please contact Michelle Chacon at michelle_chacon@dpsk12.net
- ◆ **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist Position** in Littleton School District. Please contact Jennifer Templeton at jtempleton@lps.k12.co.us

Northern Region

- ◆ **1 FTE or part-time TVI / O&M Specialist**—Windsor School District. For more information, please contact Jennifer Sedaghat at Jennifer.sedaghat@weldre4.org





IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Southern Region

- ◆ **1 FTE TVI Position**—Colorado Springs District 11. For more information, please contact Nancy Melo Maresh at nancy.mereshmelo@d11.org or (719) 520-2158.
- ◆ **1 FTE TVI Position**—El Paso County District 49. For more information, please contact Rhonda May at rhonda.may@d49.org or (719) 491-4630.
- ◆ **1 FTE** for a Secondary Social Studies teacher at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Please contact Jamie Lugo for more information at jlugo@cldb.org

Western Region

- ◆ **1 TVI / O&M Position** in the Colorado River BOCES. For more information, please contact Julie Goldberg at Julie Goldberg at goldberg@crboces.org
- ◆ **1 PTE TVI/O&M Specialist**—Northwest BOCES. For more information, please contact Courtney Lincoln at Courtney.Lincoln@nwboces.org
- ◆ **1 FTE TVI/O&M Specialist** with Mountain BOCES and Summit School District. For more information, please contact Susan Udenberg at sudenberg@mtnboces.org and/or Ellen Clark at ellen.clark@summitk12.org.
- ◆ **Contract Work TVI and O&M Specialist** in Rio Blanco BOCES. For more information, please contact Bradley Bauer at brad.bauer@meeker.k12.co.us.

Across Metro, Northern, and Western Regions

- ◆ **Contract 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 TVI and/or O&M licenses expire, as you are in a great position to keep contributing 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 on the CDE's TVI and/or O&M Specialist contractor list, please be in touch with Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.

VISION COALITION MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting – September 20, 2023

Persons in Attendance: Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, Chaz Davis, Melissa French, Donna Keale, Paula Landry, Tammy Miller, Erin Schroeder, Jim Olson, Michelle Reed, and Chloann Woolley

Guests: Amber Rundle Kahn represented UNC and Cheryl Austin represented the Colorado School for the Blind

Absent: Paula Conroy and Jamie Lugo

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

ACRONYM LEGEND

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

MEMBERS OF VISION COALITION FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

- A Shared Vision – Paula Landry
- Anchor Center for Blind Children – Tammy Miller
- Colorado AER Chapter – to be determined
- Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program – Chaz Davis
- Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
- Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Michele Reed
- Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind – Jamie Lugo
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach – Donna Keale
- Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
- Northern TVI / COMS – Melissa French
- Southern TVI / COMS – Chloann Woolley



- University of Northern Colorado – Paula Conroy
- Western TVI / COMS – Erin Schroeder

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

PROGRAM UPDATES

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

Our first meeting will be on Thursday September 21st from 3:30-4:30 online through Teams. The focus will be talking about preschool services and transition into the public school setting. Paula Landry and Janet Anderson will be sharing their input from A Shared Vision.

We will also be reviewing information shared at the first Vision Coalition meeting of the school year. In addition, we will be planning future meeting dates and topics. Topics for discussion and training include:

1. Thoughts on the change in eligibility- how districts are handling referrals, what evals can include, etc.
2. How are staff using the new NewT kit?
3. After our state conference, we can do a Make and take or brainstorm how to implement ideas and strategies we learn from the conference.

Vacancies: full time TVI / COMS in Denver, Littleton, and Cherry Creek School Districts and Anchor Center. Part time in Englewood School District.

Discussion

- *Can we do something to design a similar format between districts for CVI Assessment, Functional Vision Assessment, Learning Media Assessment as well as setting up our narratives for specific sections of the IEP. We could share samples in our online meetings through ScreenSharing and send electronic versions. We can brainstorm strengths from samples to offer a state option (informally).* Discussion: The regional reps will bring this back to their regions to see if this would be helpful, especially for the TVIs who operate as N of ones in their administrative units. The metro region is willing to take a lead role in providing the space for documents to be stored for others to access. One suggestion was to break down some of these areas into outlines that could help guide the practice of what can be included. It might be helpful to identify specially designed instruction.
- *Please confirm all work email addresses. The metro TVI/COMS list is kicking back a number of emails, so this should be checked for each region.* Tanni will send the regional reps a list of personnel in their region.
- *The future topic ideas can be addressed by regions or as a state. What is the interest in discussing any or all collectively or get input from individual regions and then follow up with a small group of interested TVIs/COMSs?* Discussion: It would be great to have a way to share what is happening across the state and if there is a way that others can join in on virtual experiences.

Northern Region (Melissa French)

The Northern Colorado TVIs and O&M Specialists will be meeting virtually on September 21, 2023. This meeting will include the webinar; Intro to AT Instruction and Assessment for Students with BVI. This is an exciting opportunity for everyone in the state – we are grateful to the Northern Region for opening this up to others!

Announcement: Campabilities is coming to Colorado Summer 2024. One of the goals of Campabilities is to empower children and teens with visual impairments to be physically active and productive members of their schools, towns, cities, and communities, as well as to improve the health and well-being of people with sensory impairments. <https://www.campabilities.org>

Vacancies: Full time opening in Windsor School District

Discussion

- *Will there be any discussion about changing recommendations for services on the Colorado Department of Education's Severity Rating Scale for Students with Visual Impairments? If so, how do we share ideas before changes are made?* The former Colorado Workload document is dated and has been taken off of the CDE website. At this time, it should not be used. It does not represent the technology of today or the current population of children with blindness/visual impairments. We simply do not have a Colorado tool with established psychometrics. Persons interested in a workload formula can check other states for their documents. Of specific recommendation is the Michigan Scale and the VISSIT Scale from Texas.

Western Region (Erin Schroeder)

The Western Slope TVI/COMS will meet for the first time this year on September 18th. There seems to be more deaf-blind students than in previous years. Even though the hearing and vision loss for most are mild, the combination is impacting access to their educational needs and environment. The Western Slope has received support from the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project and they have been awesome and responsive to questions/requests. TVI/COMS are looking forward to the Sound Bites again this year. They are very informative and many times give suggestions and ideas we can quickly implement.

Mountain BOCES, Summit School District, and NW BOCES have hired virtual TVIs from out of state.

Vacancies: There are openings for full time / contract work in Mountain BOCES, Summit School District, Colorado River BOCES, and NW BOCES.

Southern Region (Chloann Woolley)

The Southern Region had their first meeting on Tuesday, September 12th 2:30-4:00 p.m. hosted by CSDB in the Argo Conference Room. We had a great turn out! 15 people were in attendance with representation from DVR, CSDB, CSDB Outreach, CIMC, D49, D20, and Ute Pass BOCES.

Introductions of attending members and updates from the programs, schools and districts were shared. District D49 has a current opening along with CSDB preschool and DVR. (See websites for details). There have been lots of personnel changes throughout the southern region. Several individuals moved within the state or took different positions. Please continue to watch for staff updates. CIMC introduced their new staff and demonstrated the resetting of the environmental control box or power select from APH (a device to operate electrical devices via a switch) which was an item within the sensory kits that now can only be purchased as a replacement item. Jim shared other quick highlights of Polly and the difference between mini-lite box overlay vs. the Swirly Mates: CV. Participants received their district's state registration & count paperwork to share with their teams. The updated paperwork is always due the first Monday in January. These first-round edits are due back to CIMC by Wednesday, November 30, 2023.

The first Vision Coalition meeting is September 20. The region discussed the need for support with technology and the group shared where and how they are providing technology training for their students and clients. The discussion revolved around how difficult it is to support TVIs/O&Ms/CLVT with learning the skills necessary to teach the needed technology that students may need to be independent during high school, college and as adults. The team discussed the overall barriers are: 1.) each individual teacher and student are at different levels of need – beginner, intermediate and advanced. 2.) technology is always changing and updating 3.) learning technology is needed when it is needed (learning it earlier when it is not needed doesn't always help because the tech will change or the situation is now new). However, despite these barriers 4.) Assistive Technology is essential for our students and clients to learn.

The CDE/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic has a tentative date for the Southern Region clinic on October 27, 2023 at CSDB-Jones Hall, 2nd floor. However, we do not have confirmation for this event at this time. Please put this on your calendar as a possible clinic date and begin to gather the necessary paperwork. Further details will be coming soon.

Our topic for discussion concerning the new state definition of Visually Impaired, including Blindness eligibility was postponed. All members were advised to join the Sound Bite scheduled on the 13th concerning the same topic.

The Southern Region will meet four more times this year, rotating hosting locations. *Discussion: While not everyone can attend an in-person meeting in Colorado Springs, it would be great to share out information about the meetings in case (a) someone can make the drive and (b), if it is a virtual meetings, others can attend.*

October 24, 2023 - Hosted by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Please contact Meggan Brouard for location details. Our agenda for the meeting will be “What additional skill focus does DVR wish to see increased with incoming clients?”

January 9, 2024 - Hosted by El Paso County District 49 (Falcon). Please contact Lori Mattick for location details. The planned agenda items will be to learn about the information and news presented at the Literacy Conference by attendees.

February 13, 2024 – Hosted by El Paso County District #20. Please contact Melissa Shular for location details. The planned topic will be assistive technology for print access by their district CATIS staff. Our last meeting of the year will be

May 14, 2024 - Hosted by Ute Pass BOCES. Please contact Chloann Woolley for location details. The agenda will include summer programs, trainings, and scheduling meeting dates for the following year.

A Shared Vision (Paula Landry)

This 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is Colorado’s leading provider of early intervention vision services for children who are blind or visually impaired. Our 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.

Leveraging a unique and flexible operating model, A Shared Vision strives to attract and support a highly skilled workforce, build partnerships throughout the state, and provide a breadth of programming that grows the capability and capacity of all early intervention providers to serve families with very young children who are blind or visually impaired.

Through our Early Intervention Vision Services Program, our team of 15 teachers provides early intervention home-based vision services to families and young children in 55 counties across Colorado. In 2022, A Shared Vision supported 212 children, providing 1,675 educational service visits. This number is over 60% of all early intervention vision services to families statewide.

According to feedback from our 2023 Caregiver Questionnaire, 100% of the families who responded to the survey felt their teacher was a valuable member of their child’s support team, the education and coaching provided to them were beneficial to their child’s development and would recommend A Shared Vision to other families who have a child with blindness or visual impairment.

Our teachers often help us plan special events, cook up sensory recipes, or create new, at-home activities for our families. Our virtual “Mystery Parties” have been especially popular with rural families. This September, Paula Landry will be hosting a Mystery Party on musical play with Amanda Brigham, board-certified music therapist and owner of Colorado Music Therapy Services, LLC.

This fall, we’re welcoming two new teachers to our team. Samantha Thuis (Fort Collins) is a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments in Boulder County. Teresa Vu-Fountain (Loveland) received a master’s degree in early childhood special education from the University of Kansas and is in the Early Childhood Visual Impairment Endorsement Program at the University of Utah. Both teachers will join us part time.

Would you enjoy working part-time in early intervention supporting families with very little ones who are blind or visually impaired? Contact Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org if you’re interested in learning more about A Shared Vision and joining our team.

ASV, Anchor Center for Blind Children, and CSDB have been meeting together to discuss statewide needs. They are working on a three-part proposal for Part C to assist with funding new personnel.

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Tammy Miller)

Program Updates: We are off to a great start to this new school year. We have expanded our Preschool program from 2 to 3 days/week this year, which has been an exciting change for us and our students. We now have Preschool on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (optional), and Thursdays. We have 26 students enrolled in Preschool and have no wait list at this time. This is year three for our Inclusion program, where we have a few sighted peers (all siblings of students this year) enrolled alongside our students with visual impairments in our Preschool program; it continues to be successful and a wonderful asset to our program. Our Infant and Toddler Program is now every Monday and the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month. We currently have approximately 45 students enrolled in our Infants and Toddlers Program and approximately 31 students in the Home Visit Program, with many new referrals rolling in each week.

Staff Updates: We had very little staff turnover this year, which has been wonderful. Erin Lovely, our former Horticultural Therapist, has returned to Anchor Center in a new role as a Lead Preschool Teacher. We're so excited to have her back! The anchor Center is looking for another TVI – in full or part time capacity.

Our Research Team, led by Dr. Cathy Smyth, continues to grow, and we have many research projects underway! Our NAVEG research project (newborn screenings for brain-based visual impairments), now in its second phase and showing promising results for the future of newborn vision screenings, is underway at Children's Hospital of Colorado. The NAVEG team (Cathy Smyth, Tammy Miller, and Elise Darrow) continues to have requests for trainings on the screening from TSVIs and early interventionists across the country. They have trained EI professionals in eight states and have 3-4 more in progress/scheduled over the next few months. The response has been exciting!

The CVI Initiative, headed by Elise Darrow, is working on exciting projects with students who have brain-based visual impairments, including case studies and other research projects in our center-based programs. She, along with Cathy Smyth, continue to represent Anchor Center as presenters and attendees of both education and medical conferences nationwide and are collaborating with vision specialists from around the world on CVI-related research.

Events: We kicked off the year with a Welcome Back Plant & Picnic Party for all students and alumni in August, and we have Community Days planned for October (at a Pumpkin Patch) and November (at Rosie's Ranch riding horses). Our Family Services team is planning upcoming Night Watch respite events and we will continue to have one per month starting in October. Our 27th annual fundraising gala, Sunset in the City, took place in September and was an overwhelming success. Given that Anchor Center is funded nearly in full by charitable gifts, we are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors and guests.

Anchor Center has been working on a Transition Project. Children can come to the Anchor Center for two days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) of preschool and also have their child attend their local administrative unit's preschool. Families may choose to attend only Anchor Center's preschool or only their administrative unit's preschool. UPKY funds can be provided if the child attends Anchor for 10 or more hours. There are procedures for all of this to work! Families have appreciated having these options. One difference is that Anchor Center staff have more understanding about transition implications and how better to support families and increase collaborations with local administrative units. Their Circle Grant has given Anchor Center staff an opportunity to make this process more systematized. *Discussion: It was asked if Lunch Bunch type of meetings might continue with the focus of bringing in school TVIs to meet with families. Tammy will keep us posted if this continues.*

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.

Colorado AER Chapter (Chloann Woolley)

The chapter is in need of personnel who are interested in meeting, holding office, and offering CAER events. If this is an interest area, please reach out to President Heather Solberg.

Colorado Center for The Blind Youth Programs (Chaz Davis)

Over the summer, Colorado Center for the Blind offered three separate camps/programs for elementary, middle school, and high school/transition aged students. In June, we held our annual NFB BELL Confidence Camp for 5-10 year olds. The camp is designed to increase Braille literacy, offer challenge recreation, and improve executive function skills for blind young people. The theme of this year's Confidence Camp was transportation. Students were able to travel by bus and light rail to grocery stores to learn how to shop with a shopper's assistant, employ orientation and cane travel skills through a fun scavenger hunt in downtown Littleton, and attend an interactive tour of Denver International Airport with a surprise visit from a United pilot. Students worked on their reading speed and accuracy with comprehension of the UEB Braille code and learned about budgeting and organization. Students loved their trips to Chatfield Park's Gravel pond to kayak and Clear Creek Canyon to go rock climbing. There were a lot of activities and lessons squeezed into those two short weeks.

Also in early June, local middle and high school students from the Denver Metro area had the opportunity to learn how to code devices called Microbits in Python, a high-level coding language through a partnership with Cyber.org. Students programmed their devices to play hide and seek with their peers' devices and even had a competition to see who could code their device to say hello with the most intelligible speech.

To close out the summer, CCB hosted 15 students from across the country and abroad for our four-week residential program, "No Limits to Learning". Throughout the program, we held group discussions twice per week. During "Philosophy Class" students were encouraged to discuss relevant topics openly and respectfully to blindness. Over the course of the four-weeks, we discussed transitioning from high school/training to post-secondary education, self-advocacy in real world situations even when uncomfortable, and how to foster continued growth once students return to their home environment or school setting.

As part of our "No Limits to Learning" program, all students were introduced to important values and ideals for successful employment. We held exercises designed to identify and improve hard/soft skills, addressed the importance of good hygiene and professional dress, and ways to navigate networking opportunities and job interviews. During our second week of the program, we invited four blind professionals working in government and private sector jobs to answer questions and impart wisdom/advice for students as they garner an interest in future employment. Prior to the panel, students worked together to come up with a number of general and profession specific questions to ask our panelists. The students expressed learning a lot from the employment activity and engaged well with the panelists.

An exciting and enriching part of our program is participation in our challenge recreation opportunities. In addition to excitement and fun, we want to instill a sense of accomplishment and self confidence in our students. We find that once students push themselves past their perceived limits, their belief in themselves extends to other facets of independence in their lives. Some of the "Challenge Rec" activities include goalball, Martial Arts (self-defense class), rock climbing, Kayaking/stand-up paddle boarding, and accessible outdoor sports and activities.

A highlight for many of our students was a trip to University of Colorado's Fiske Planetarium. Students had the opportunity to experience the 2017 solar eclipse through an auditory presentation in the impressive dome-like viewing area. Other activities included seeing tactile renderings of the sun and moon in various events throughout history and dropping a ball into a concave structure to simulate the way gravity exists and works.

For a number of years now, our entire center has convened for our annual multi-generational ice-cream social. Our "No Limits to Learning" program was joined by students and staff in our Independence Training Program (Adult), and our Older Blind program. On this particular day, we had over 70 blind people conversing with one another and enjoying some refreshing treats.

Over the next few months, we will pick back up with our Fun Activities and Skills Training [FAST] which occur on the second Saturday of each month. This month, Colorado students will have a fun, interactive experience with nature and

wildlife at the Carson Nature Center. In October, the Blind Parents division of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will partner with our blind youth to take on the Chatfield Farms corn maze and in November, a Boy Scout troop out of Highlands Ranch will work with our blind youth to learn various outdoor related skills like fire safety, camping/tent, and shelter building, and of course, making S'mores. Before we break for the holidays, CCB will play host to the annual holiday party, a great opportunity for blind people young and old to connect and learn from one another.

CCB is working on a Parents of Blind Children group. They have interested parents and really want to identify a parent or two that can take a leadership role in organizing meetings. Please be in touch with Chaz.

The State NFB Convention will be October 26-28 at the Marriott Lone Tree. On the 25th, there will be a STEM day geared toward youngest students.

Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)

The CIMC is very excited to be fully staffed! With that said, give our new personnel time to be fully onboarded. There is a lot to learn!

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

The CIMC uses these four email addresses for the majority of the services we provide:

- cimcaphorders@csdb.or for "APH Order Form" & "CIMC Professional Lending Library" submissions and questions
- cimcbookorders@csdb.or for braille and LP "Book Order Form" submissions, sourcing inquiries, and questions
- cimcBrailierTechSoftware@csdb.or for "Brailier-Tech-Software Order Form", "Brailier Repair Form" and questions
- cimcregistrations@csdb.or for submissions and questions related to the "Parent Consent Form", "Registration Form", and "Exit Form"

Individual CIMC staff can be reached at the following phone numbers and email addresses:

- (719) 578-2195 Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.or
- (719) 578-2196 CIMC pilot number (rings all CIMC computer-based phones simultaneously; no voicemail)
- (719) 578-2197 Taylor Leinbach, tleinbach@csdb.or, for braille book orders
- (719) 578-2198 Felizia Gosine, fgosine@csdb.or, for shipping/receiving questions; APH order questions
- (719) 578-2199 Maddee Durossette, mdurossette@csdb.or, for statewide registration; federal quota registration questions

The CIMC mailing address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559

Statewide Count & Federal Quota Census: In early September, the CIMC emailed every administrative unit (AU) their statewide student registration database report, reflecting enrollment as of September 1st. Please send edits to cimcaphorders@csdb.org. Maddee will update any changes into our statewide database and our KLAS, library, database and send a new updated report to your AU designated contact person. The next count day, for both counts, is Monday, January 1, 2024.

First Friday Zoom Meetings: The CIMC is hosting "First Friday" meetings again this 2023-24 school year. We are trying something new. We are only hosting one meeting a day, in the afternoon from 2:30-3:30 p.m. There is no morning meeting. We will reevaluate it at the end of first semester. Meetings are scheduled for: September 8, 2023 (second Friday), October 13, 2023 (second Friday), November 3, 2023, December 1, 2023, January 5, 2024, February 2, 2024, March 1, 2024, April 5, 2024, and May 3, 2024.

CIMC – School District / Agency / BOCES Zoom Meetings: The CIMC has a goal this year to meet with every AU team using Zoom video conferencing. We can meet with you one-on-one, or with your entire vision team. We would like to

thank the staff who have met with us so far this school year: Pueblo 60, School District Jefferson County School District (their assistant Director of Special Education even joined the meeting!), El Paso County School District 3 (Widefield), Logan County RE-1 Valley School District (Sterling), Morgan County-Fort Morgan RE-3 School District; and Northeast Colorado BOCES. Please contact any CIMC staff to schedule a meeting.

Braille Book Orders: It is not too early to start ordering your textbooks for the 2024-25 school year. Braille textbooks can take one and a half to two years to transcribe. Thank you to Mesa County Valley 51 School District, (Grand Junction), CSDB School for the Blind, and Poudre School District for submitting book orders already.

All are new productions. Be sure to have your school district include the recommended NIMAC language into ALL of their book order contracts. Here is the language: The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC) supports students with disabilities by helping ensure that an accessible format can be produced when a need is identified. When files in "NIMAS" format are received from publishers, these files are used to produce formats including braille, EPUB, DAISY and large print. **All states and districts that coordinate with the NIMAC are obligated under IDEA 2004 to require publishers to send files to the NIMAC when they purchase new instructional materials.** This concise handout can be distributed to local or state-level procurement staff to assist that this specific language is embedded in publisher contracts.

Assignment: Tanni and Jim will huddle to get a multi-factored game plan on how to increase the awareness of TVIs, special education directors, and others about this NIMAS language and its importance with the purchase of new text books.

2024 Braille Challenge Contests: The CSDB location contest in Colorado Springs is scheduled for Thursday, Feb 22, 2024. Contact: Jamie Lugo, jlugo@csdb.org. The Metro Denver location contest is scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2024 at the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) in Littleton. Please contact Taylor Leinbach, tleinbach@csdb.org. We would like to do some forecasting, so we know how many contests to order for each competitive category. If you think you have one or more students who will be participating, please email Taylor and give her that forecasted number. Check the CIMC website for more information.

Parent Consent for CIMC / APH Quota Funds (based on eligibility) is needed one time per educational placement. For example, if a family moves from one Colorado administrative unit to another Colorado administrative unit, a new Parent Consent form will be needed.

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) School for The Blind (Jamie Lugo)

School started on August 14th. Students and staff were excited to return. We held an open house on September 14th. Students walked their parents through their schedules at CSDB and introduced their parents to their teachers and service providers. The testing window for district assessments opened on August 28th and closed on September 13th. We welcomed five new students to the School for the Blind this school year. So far, we have 59 students enrolled in the K-12th grade blind program this year. We have three students enrolled in our preschool program and nine students in our transition program. Students are released from school every Friday at 1:00pm. This year we have a unique Friday schedule. Students participate in case manager check-ins, IEP goal / Drop Everything and Read time, Independent Living Skill Instruction, Recreation and Leisure Activities, and Social Emotional Learning groups every Friday at CSDB. We are sending two of our staff members to the Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference.

White Cane Day will be October 13th at an area park. Everyone is welcome.

We are offering staff braille classes. We will be offering parent braille classes and other parent workshops throughout the year. Jamie will share a list of these workshops and how to get connected with Tanni.

CSDB will be celebrating their 150 year anniversary this year. Be watching for some great events! They will be working to build their alumni connections who attended the School for the Blind. If you have contact, please reach out to see if they may want to be involved in the Alumni Association and share Jamie's or Cheryl's email addresses (jlugo@csdb.org and caustin@csdb.org).

Discussion

- *What accommodations are you allowing on the district reading assessments? For example, CSDB is using Acadience for our READ Act screenings. Acadience will not allow extended time for braille users. AUs must adhere to the allowable accommodations of the selected READ Act Tools. Go to the CDE website to learn more about differentiated pathways: https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/literacy_disabilities*

The differentiated pathway established for braille learners recommends (a) the TVI or brailist customizes the braille passages in the READ Act tools to reflect the contractions known by the child, (b) the TVI or brailist administers the tool, and (c) the TVI works with the general educators to interpret the results so as to avoid false positives for significant reading discrepancy scores if the issue is about learning braille and not showing a reading concerns tied to the science of reading. We used to have a DiBELS set at the CIMC in contracted and uncontracted formats. This is no longer viable as new editions have emerged. There are also tools that do not have timed components. For more information about approved screening tools, go to: https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/literacy_disabilities

- *What topics do you believe parents are interested in learning more about? What topics are TVIs interested in learning more about? For example, a School for the Blind elementary math teacher would like to present at one of the upcoming Southern Region TVI meetings and show some of the math tools he has developed and uses with his students. Would your regions be interested in learning more about this training? Discussion: People like the idea of incorporating the trainings into established regional meetings. Virtual offerings for families was recommended. Transition is always a good topic!*

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) Outreach Services (Donna Keale)

Cheryl Austin, Director of Outreach Programs since January 2022, is currently transitioning to a new position in the School for the Blind as Dean of Students. She will serve in both roles part-time until January 2024 as a search for her replacement is conducted this Fall. Jayme Cusimano, TVI/COMS, has also left CSDB and accepted a different position in the state. At this time, her position has not been posted as we evaluate needs and programming moving forward. Both will be missed by the Outreach team, and we wish them the best in their new endeavors! Our two remaining TVIs/COMSs are working with five school districts and BOCES throughout the state, serving a total of 22 students, as well as with The Resource Exchange and Colorado BlueSky Enterprises, INC providing EI services to 26 children/families.

We held Summers in the Park events in El Paso County for our BVI families 0-5 from May to September this year, attended and enjoyed by a total of 10 families with half the families attending more than 4 park events. In addition, we hope to host a Fall pumpkin patch activity in October.

University of Northern Colorado (UNC) VI Program (Paula Conroy)

All is well at UNCO. We are and will be preparing for reaccreditation of all licensure areas at UNCO across the entire university. There are almost 100 programs and so this is a huge undertaking. The actual review is not until the fall of 2024. Dr. Corey Pierce will be stepping down as the School of Special Education Director and Dr. Tracy Gershwin will be the new School of Special Education Chair. Program numbers remain consistent. We are in the fourth O&M training cohort with the state of Utah. This program is funded through a state grant and has led to 24 TVIs adding O&M to their credentials. We did a similar program in Hawaii that Portland State now runs.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) (Michelle Reed)

Staff Updates: Our current vacancies include a Field Instructor O&M/VRT for the Denver Metro area and a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Colorado Springs. Michele Reed has a new role with the Blind and Low Vision Services as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Denver Metro area as well as the students at CSDB. Michele will be visiting the school every third Thursday of the month to work with students eligible for Pre-Employment Services starting at age 15 and moving transition students (17 and 18) into a full DVR plan for access to all DVR services. Blind and low vision services has a new VRC Supervisor Kylene Lima.

The Personal Adjustment Training Unit continues to provide training in the community. We continue to discuss and examine ways to provide comprehensive services to the people we serve that include remote training, in-person training, and Zoom virtual group. Sessions (Reflections, Enrichment Hour, Women's Group, two Braille Groups (Beginning and Intermediate) and a Men's Group. We are also going to begin discussions on how to reopen and offer in

person training opportunities at the Denver Metro Regional Office. We had a soft launch of a group typing class in the fall of last year as another this summer.

Blind and Low Vision Services and the Division for Vocational Rehabilitation are looking at pre-employment transition services including training/job development support, collaborating with other youth with disabilities, collaborating with other states, and increasing vendors to provide more options and opportunities.

Audrey Wille will handle Pre-ETS referrals. Students between ages 15-21 are eligible for these services. Students are encouraged to submit a referral and meet with a counselor at the age of 15 years old. Audrey's contact information is audrey.wille@state.co.us

Vendors or others interested in working with DVR Adult Services for the Blind should be in touch with Krista Hedlund at krista.hedlund@state.co.us.

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: We are closing the final year of our current project. A new grant award was made that will be effective from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028. The project's mission is to provide free technical assistance to parents and service providers of children and youth, ages birth through 21, who are deaf-blind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with a multitude of electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel.

- Project Staff: Tanni Anthony and Gina Herrera are Co-Directors on the grant project. Wendy Stoltman and Jessica Meisel are our Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists. Both Wendy and Jessica provide onsite consultation and customized training to the educational teams of the children with deaf-blindness. Jessica is leading our training and support to school-based interveners. Cindy Colwell is the Family Specialist.
- To request FREE technical assistance, please contact Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us
- Annual Deaf-Blind Count: The December 1, 2023 Colorado Deaf-Blind Child Count forms will be disseminated to the field in early October and should be returned to CDE through a secure online portal. The forms for each Colorado administrative unit, Anchor Center for Blind Children, and A Shared Vision are sent to a designated contact who is a TVI. Please note that a child can be registered at any time in the calendar year. If you work with a learner with both vision and hearing loss, please be sure to work with Tanni to register the child. All learners identified as having combined vision and hearing loss are eligible for free technical assistance. This can be child-specific consultation and customized staff training.
- Project Webpage: The CDE DeafBlind webpage URL is <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.as>
- Project Trainings: We are offering a slate of 2023-24 Deaf-Blind Webinar Series trainings. Tanni will send out the registration link shortly.

BVI State Funded Activities: The CDE has a strong commitment to services and supports to our students and the staff who serve them. We are pleased to offer professional learning and technical assistance to the field serving children who are blind/visually impaired.

- Sound Bites: Sound Bites are monthly virtual training / dialogue sessions based on identified topics of needs. The topics for the 2023-24 school year are almost finalized. Tanni has sent out Calendar Invites and information with the registration link.
- CDE/CSDB Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: We have added three new personnel to fill the positions vacated by Dr. Tom Theune, Wendy Stoltman, and Debbie Haberkorn. Drs. David Simpson and Kara Hanson are filling the optometrist roles and Karin Hensel is the Low Vision Therapist who will serve the northern and metro regional clinics. Jim Olson is returning as our Low Vision Therapist for the southern clinic. Roberta Curtis will be our statewide clinic coordinator. There will be no Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic this school year due to a low number of students.

- CDE O&M Seminar: Tanni is working with two individuals as possible presenters for a Spring 2024 two-day, in-person training that will be held in the Denver area. Stay tuned!
- Recruitment and Retention: We have openings in several parts of the state. Please share any expected vacancies with Tanni so we can be as proactive as possible with new recruits. Contract TVI and O&M staff are needed in several AUs. A Shared Vision and Anchor Center need more TVI / O&M Specialist support. Please keep Tanni in the loop on anticipated and real vacancies. If you want to be on the CDE list of contractors, please reach out to Tanni.
- Listservs: The CDE ESSU maintains two separate listservs specific to personnel working in BVI programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMSs. The second one is specific to Colorado brailleists. It is important to remind all users of these listservs that personally identifiable information (PII) on students and parents should never be posted in any listserv messages. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.
- Parent Database: We currently have about 226 parents registered on the CDE Parent Database. This is out of over 1,200 families across the state. The database is used to email out the Keeping in Touch newsletter link and, on rare occasion, mailing to families. It is important to keep it maintained with accurate names and addresses of families of children with visual impairment, including blindness who are currently enrolled in our Colorado early intervention or public-school programs. As children graduate or families move out of state, we need to ensure that we remove those families. As new families come into the system, please help Tanni to be proactive with getting families registered on the database. This is a voluntary process – so families need to complete and sign their registration forms.
- Braille Competency: All TVIs who are new to the field are expected to demonstrate braille competency in their first year of employment in this role. If a TVI extends this date, the administrative unit of employment is at risk for a citation of noncompliance. A Practice Test is posted on the Visual Impairment, Including Blindness website. It includes practice multiple choice items and braille samples. Please be aware that all TVIs in Colorado public schools must renew their braille certificate one time after the first five years of initial certification.
- Keeping in Touch Newsletter: The August-September 2023 edition has been posted to the CDE BVI webpage. There are 50 more editions to go (October 2023, November – December 2023, January – February 2024, March-April 2024, and May 2024). Please be sure to share the email messages with the link with parents and paras, as we are no longer mailing out the newsletter and do not have the email addresses of most parents who have signed up to receive the newsletter. A representative from each AU is encouraged to reach out to Roberta Curtis at Curtis_r@cde.state.co.us to go through parents and key contact information.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Approved CDE BVI Budget for 2023-24

The following activities are on the docket were approved for funding

- ⇒ Braille Competency Testing / Mentor Support
- ⇒ CDE O&M Seminar
- ⇒ CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual impairment
- ⇒ CIMC Interagency Agreement
- ⇒ Vision Coalition
- ⇒ Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- ⇒ Sound Bites (monthly virtual trainings)
- ⇒ FVA Make and Take
- ⇒

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIB Eligibility: Tanni provided an overview / discussion Sound Bite on the updated eligibility criteria for Visual Impairment, including Blindness. She is working internally within CDE for final approval on the training guidance.

Recruitment Needs: We must be creative and vigilant on bringing new people into the field. Ideas included (a) identifying parents and paraeducators as candidates for personnel preparation programs; (b) providing these individuals information about existing programs with federal funding supports or other possible funding supports; (c) identifying a cadre to support; and (d) checking to see if CSDB might be a site for housing practicum students as a way to incentivize Colorado as a employment site.

Specially Designed Instruction: Tanni is working with CDE colleagues to build out a website specific to SDI. This will include guidance documents and information about specific student populations. It would be great if the Vision Coalition could assist with information to example SDI needs of students with visual impairment, including blindness.

Next Meeting Dates

January 24, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Items

- Key Discussion Items
- 2023-24 Budget Recommendations
- Specially Designed Instruction
- IEP Service Time Data

April 11, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Agenda Items

- Key Discussion Items
- Specially Designed Instruction

WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG
PEOPLE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN
YOU WILL SEE RESULTS
IN 10 SECONDS
AND THERE ARE TIMES YOU
WON'T SEE IT FOR 10 YEARS.
EITHER WAY,
KEEP PLANTING THOSE
SEEDS OF CHARACTER,
EVENTUALLY THEY BLOOM.



colorado connections

Braille Competency News



- ◆ Hats off to **Anahit LaBarre**, a TVI in Denver Public Schools, for earning her CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Thanks to **Lorraine Chevarria** and **Nancy Barron** for completed braille renewal hours. Thanks to proctors **Julie Wetzstein** and **Chris Maynard**.

Professional Development

- ◆ A big thank you to **Dr. Tina Herzberg** for her October 4 Sound Bite session with us. Her topic was Strategies and Resources for Teaching Nemeth Code and/or UEB Math/Science. We were a small but group of attendees to learn from this master on Math and Science codes with many easy-to-implement ideas and some outstanding resources!
- ◆ A big thank you to the **Assistive Technology Training Center (CATT)** for hosting a late afternoon / early evening AT demonstration session. **Jesse Roan** led us through information in eight categories: (a) braille displays / notetakers, (b) braille embossers, (c) braille teaching tools, (d) Code/Stem, (e) magnifiers, (f) screen access/ screen readers, (g) specific needs products, and (h) access technology bank. We had over 30 TVIs from across the state attend. We thank CATT for sponsoring the evening, including a pizza dinner. A good way to kick off our annual conference together. Our thanks to **Niraj Parikh** of CATT who made the training arrangements. And our huge thanks and applause / standing ovation to **Jim Olson**, our amazing APH Ex Officio and CIMC Coordinator, for bringing a van-load of equipment for this session. Please be in touch with Jim on equipment needs based on quota fund availability for APH quota-fund eligible students. If you would like more information from CATT, please reach out to Niraj at nparikh@seeitourway.org. This could be a regional, district, or a parent /child / TVI demonstration on assistive technology.
- ◆ Thanks to our Northern Region TVIs and COMSs who sponsored a wonderful 90-minute session on Introduction to AT Instruction and Assessment with **Dr. Yue-Ting Siu** on September 21st. There was a great turn-out from across the state! She shared two great handouts at the training: (a) needs Assessment for Technology and (b) IEP Technology Goals for the IEP. Thanks for **Ayrn McNichol** for organizing this event.

Just Updates

- ◆ So happy for **Caitlin and Alan Geoffrion** on the birth of their son Finnigan (Finny) who was born on June 19th. Caitlin shares, "He's been an amazing addition to our family. He's full of smiles and loves all the hustle and bustle that our other four kids make. Well we are exhausted we couldn't be more happy to have him!"

Personnel News

- ◆ So happy to know that **Caitlin Geoffrion** is back in action, working part time in Adams 12 School District. This is wonderful news!

Celebrations!

- ◆ CSDB School for the Blind Principal **Jamie Lugo** was honored with the Outstanding Principal Award by the Council of Schools & Services for the Blind (COSB) at its annual Leadership Institute. CSDB Interim Superintendent, Tera Spangler, nominated Jamie for this prestigious award, which was presented at the COSB Annual Awards Banquet by Cheryl Austin, Dean of Students, CSDB School for the Blind. We are so proud of you, Jamie – and grateful!!!





COLORADO
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