

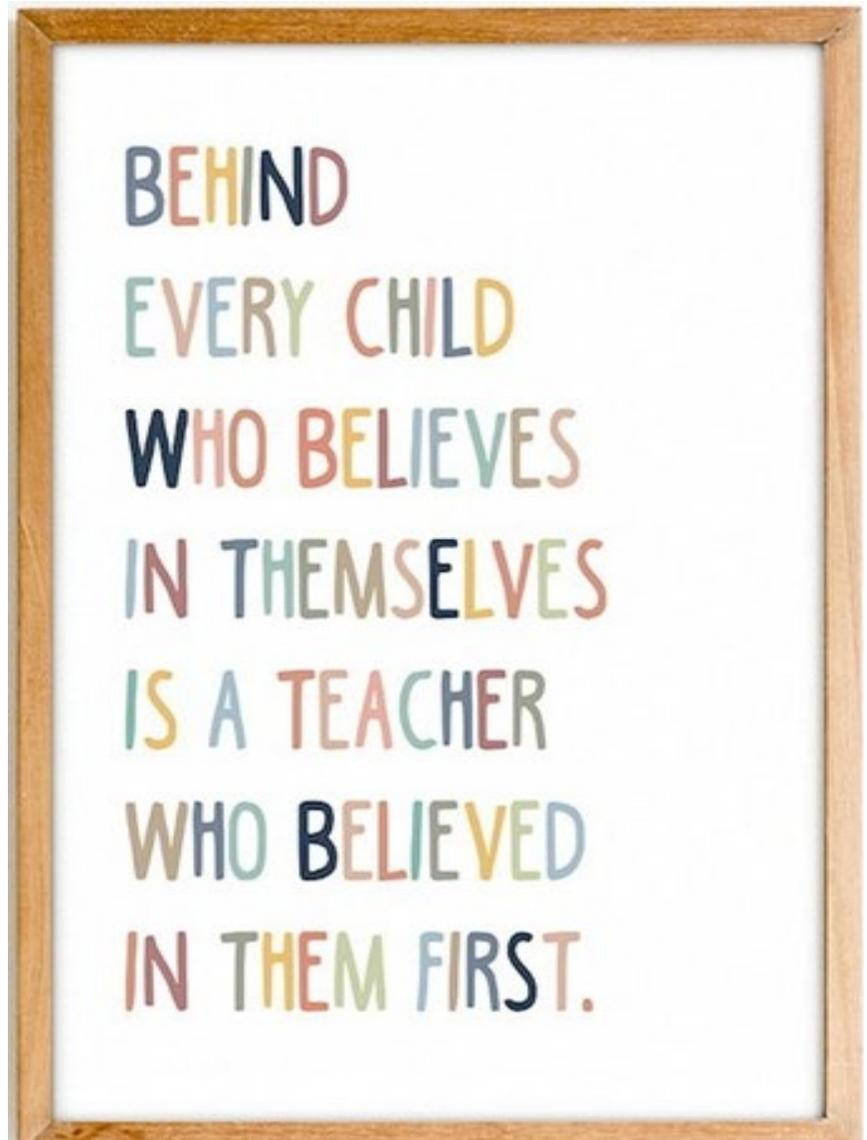
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Keeping in Touch!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers of Colorado Children with Blindness,
Low Vision, CVI, or Deaf-Blindness
January – February 2026



Welcome to a new calendar year. We have much to look forward to with the many activities of this second semester, some important summer training, and all that has been approved for training and supports next fall. No matter what is on the calendar ahead, today is precious and your instruction and support of children across their age groups is invaluable. Your belief in each student sets the stage for their learning and accomplishments. Thank you, everyone, for all you do!

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Figure 1: Erika Anderson Ko and Meghan Crosby with a student at the Western Low Vision clinic.

Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinic News

Key Updates

We have completed three out of four of our scheduled LVE Clinics for this school year. A big thank you to all who have made the Southern, Western, and Northern LVE Clinics a success for our students. What has worked beautifully has been the students, the families, and the TVIs in attendance! Also, our great team of Dr. Kara Hanson, Dr. David Simpson, Jim Olson, Erika Andersen Ko, and Krista Berkey. Our host sites have been fantastic. The reports have been in the mail pretty close to 2-3 weeks post clinic.



Thanks to our LVE Clinic Team and the skills of Krista Berkey, the Parent / TVI form was updated and reformatted as an online form. It has been trialed for our upcoming Metro LVE Clinic. We are also in process of translating the corresponding questions into Spanish.

Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

The Metro Low Vision Clinic will take place on February 18 through 20, 2026. We will return to the wonderful Anchor Center for Blind Children.

Forms for TVIs will be accepted until February 5. They will be due no later than this time for the student to be accepted for a clinic appointment. If you have a student who is a good candidate for the clinic, please be proactive to ensure this paperwork is completed in a timely manner. This includes sharing information specific to the student's most recent eye care evaluation and the corresponding exam notes. All of the submitted information is used to prepare the LVE Clinic team about the needs of the student.



Krista Berkey is our Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Coordinator. As the paperwork is received, she prepares secure electronic folders for each student and works with the TVI to confirm the appointment date and time. We will work to book appointments for the first two days of the clinic before scheduling the final day. The hope is to fill all 18 slots! At this time, we have confirmed six appointments.

For general questions about the clinics, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

If you need support with submitting the paperwork, please reach out to Krista Berkey at Berkey_k@cde.state.co.us

Thanks to everyone for your commitment in filling the clinics this year and being a good steward of low vision device / accessibility feature training and support to your students.

Low Vision Resources

American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

- Resources [for low vision and cerebral/cortical visual impairment](#)
- More information about [childhood eye conditions](#)

Lions Club

Videos and webcasts about [low vision conditions and rehabilitation](#)

Technologies: Computers, Cell Phones, Video Magnifiers

Apple and Mac devices

- [Apple accessibility information](#) | 877-204-3930
- [AppleVis user community](#)

[Microsoft Accessibility](#) tutorials | 800-936-5900

[Accessible cellphones](#)

[Computers for the Blind](#) (CFTB)

[ZoomText](#) magnification computer software

Video magnifiers: [List of products and descriptions](#)

Educational Impact of Clinical Low Vision Evaluation

Gain a clear understanding of how a clinical low vision evaluation (CLVE) informs educational planning. This course covers how to prepare students and families, what sets a CLVE apart from a standard eye exam, and the key components that lead to meaningful outcomes. Learn practical ways to translate evaluation results into actionable classroom support.

[Enroll in Educational Impact of Clinical Low Vision Evaluation](#) and earn 1.5 ACVREP credit hours.

Learn About APH Blind and Low Vision Products

Whether you are a professional in education, a student, or someone looking to enhance accessibility, these **free** live demonstrations offer an opportunity to ask questions, see revolutionary devices in action, and understand how they can meet your needs.

Pick the product that interests you, and [sign up for a free demonstration with a knowledgeable expert today!](#)

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 Project) has begun its third year of its federally-funded five-year grant cycle. The purpose of the project, awarded to every state and U.S. territory, is to identify children and youth with deaf-blindness and provide free technical assistance (TA) to the identified children, their families, and service providers. Key project activities are to maintain an annual Child Count process, host professional learning events that include an annual webinar series and the long-offered Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs, and to provide tiered and customized technical assistance to families and/or service providers.



The project has four broad goals: (1) timely identification of children with deaf-blindness; (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 four CDE employees (Project Co-Directors **Tanni Anthony** and **Gina Herrera**, TA Specialist **Jessica Meisel**, and Program Support Assistant **Krista Berkey** and a contracted Family Engagement Specialist **Cindy Colwell**. For training, support documents and resources, please check out our [Deaf-Blind website](#). A big thank you to everyone who are currently updating and/or completing the Colorado Deaf-Blind Child Count Forms for our December 1, 2025 Count. You and others have contributed to the current identification of 167 infants, toddlers, and school-age, and transition program students with deaf-blindness in Colorado.

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project Offers Intervener Training

The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss (Colorado Deaf-Blind Project) is conducting intervener training program, free of charge, twice during the school year. A new cohort will begin in January 2026. The program is designed to provide the background knowledge needed for working one-on-one with students who are deaf-blind and who are on the CO Deaf-Blind Child Count. This program provides a wonderful opportunity for schools or agencies with a staff member(s) who would like to receive intervener training. The training will include:

- ◆ An online course of study—hosted by the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project —using modules developed by the National Center on Deaf-Blindness. This includes feedback on all assignments
- ◆ Coaching/mentoring and consultation from the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project personnel
- ◆ On online support network of other interveners in Colorado, including
- ◆ Ongoing professional development opportunities from the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project

Do you have a new intervener who needs this training? For more information and to register, please contact Jessica Meisel at Meisel_j@cde.co.state.us.

Free Technical Assistance for Learners with Deaf-Blindness

Technical assistance (TA) is the mission of the CO Deaf-Blind Project. TA recipients include Colorado families of children and youth who are deaf-blind, early intervention and school personnel, and agencies providing services to identified 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 per your request
- ◆ virtual workshops and state in-person trainings, including an annual Summer Institute
- ◆ 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 our [e-Technical Assistance Request Form located here](#). If you have questions, reach out to Gina Herrera at Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us or call at 303-253-0451.

New Book on Deafblindness

Learning, Education, and Support of Deafblind Children and Adults: An Interdisciplinary Lifespan Approach is now available in print and electronic versions. Order it directly from the publisher, [Oxford University Press](#), or from booksellers, such as [Amazon](#). Another volume in this set, *Communication with People who are Deafblind: Assessment and Intervention*, will be available in August 2026.

Article on Intervener Training in DbI Review

The [November 2025 issue of DbI Review](#) from Deafblind International is now available online for free. Included is an article about *Sensity*, the Deafblind and Sensory Support Network of Canada, and their professional development pathway on the principles and practices of intervener services.

NCDB Website Spotlight: Info Topics

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness has an extensive [Info Topics section](#) with selected resources on instructional strategies and other key topics related to children and youth who are deafblind. You can learn about assessment, educational services, communication, promoting learning, and much more. The topics are designed for educators, parents, and others who live, teach, or engage in other ways with this population of children. The Info Topics are currently being updated, so check back often.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf - Free Online ASL Classes

Choose ASL 1, ASL 2, or both—and start your class immediately after registering. Learn at your own pace from anywhere!

Registration closes February 12. Do not miss out!

[Visit the OSD website to register.](#)

Check it Out

APH ConnectCenter Latest Content

- [How Student-Led IEPs for Blind and Low Vision Students Build Their Future](#)
- [College Preparation Tips for Blind and Low Vision Students](#)
- [Tips for Staying Organized in College When Blind or Low Vision](#)



APH Hive Courses

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Hive offers a variety of free online courses for professionals to increase their ability to respond to the needs of students with visual impairments. Parents, students, and consumers can also take these courses. Courses range in length from one to ten hours of content. [Explore the options at the APH Hive website.](#)

STEM2U at Home: Explore the Curriculum!

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is committed to expanding opportunities for blind and low-vision students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Their STEM2U program provides accessible STEM experiences to blind youth, equipping them with the nonvisual tools and techniques to spark curiosity and support future success in STEM fields.

They are excited to announce that the full STEM2U e-learning curriculum is now available online!

The curriculum includes:

- Step-by-step instructions for fun, accessible experiments using everyday materials
- Electronic versions of our activity booklet and tactile graphics
- Instructional videos to support learning at home or in the classroom alongside a teacher of blind students

Please note: Activities are self-guided. Hard copies of materials, including Braille and tactile graphics, must be produced independently. If you need help accessing Braille or tactile production, we encourage you to [contact your local NFB state affiliate.](#)

[Complete the STEM2U e-learning form](#) today to access the full curriculum.

Author Guidelines for Accessible Publishing

The American Mathematical Society (AMS), European Mathematical Society (EMS), London Mathematical Society (LMS), and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) have drafted a joint set of [“Author Guidelines for Preparing Accessible Mathematics Content”](#) to assist mathematics authors, who typically compose content using the LaTeX document preparation system.

When Your Student has a Visual Impairment Video

Several CO TVIs has recommended this video. The Kansas School for the Blind created it. Principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, and students may be unsure of how to interact with a person who has a visual impairment. This video contains scenarios with students who are blind or have visual impairments. This information may be helpful to anyone with questions about how to work with a person who is blind or has a visual impairment. [Watch the video on YouTube here.](#)

CIMC Key Updates

The Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) wants to thank all of you who have already submitted book orders for next 2026-2027 school year. This helps them immensely– especially for new transcriptions.

CSDB recently updated their website. Navigating the new [CIMC website page](#) is a bit different than before.

There is a new CIMC Book Order Form for the 2026-27 school year. If you need the CIMC to email you any of their Forms, please be in touch with Jim at jolson@csdb.org.

Remember, your **book order deadline is April 1, 2026** for all books needed in braille for the **2026-2027 school year**. As a reminder, the CIMC does have a Microsoft Excel “Planning Form” posted to our [CIMC Forms website page](#) which you can share with your general education teachers to help gather textbook and novel information (titles, ISBN numbers, copyright year, etc.).

Questions: email cimcbookorders@csdb.org, or call Debbie at (719) 578-2197.

CIMC Federal Quote Census

The first Monday in January, annually, is the date used for the nationwide Federal Quota Census.

Inclusion into the census is dependent upon student enrollment on Monday, January 5, 2026, and meeting all of the eligibility requirements of the Census program.

Thank you to Colorado administrative units (AUs) for working closely with CIMC staff preparing for the 2026 census. All federal quota paperwork is due to the CIMC on Friday, January 30, 2026. If there are any questions, please reach out to Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org

Building Mathematical Mastery with APH Tools: A Grade-Level Roadmap

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST (1:00 – 2:30 PM MST)

APH offers countless tools to transform learning for students who are blind or low vision. Join us to explore the best mathematic learning products for each grade level, learn how they fit Principles and Standards for School Mathematics or Common Core State Standards, and create targeted instructional plans. You’ll gain the know-how to choose the right tools, support growth, and make every Federal Quota dollar count.

[Register Here for Building Mathematical Mastery with APH Tools: A Grade-Level Roadmap](#)

Camp Abilities Four Corners

Camp Abilities Four Corners Registration is OPEN until April 15th. We are having 2 camps this year. Students must be interviewed and approved for the trips.

Regular Sports Camp for Kids Ages 9-17

- Dates: Monday, June 8 (arrival 1:00PM) to Saturday, June 13, 2026 (depart 3 PM)
- Location: Cameron Trading Post, Cameron, AZ
- Cost: \$200.00
- Possible Activities: swimming, basketball, wrestling, boxing, golf, hiking, tandem cycling, and more!

3 Days River Camp / 2 Days Sports Camp

- For mature students 14-17 year old
- Camp Dates: Sunday, June 7 (arrival 1:00PM) to Saturday, June 13, 2026 (depart 3 PM)
- Location: Cameron Trading Post, Cameron, AZ and the San Juan River, UT
- Cost: \$200.00

Interested in either camp experience? Students will need to fill out the interest form under Athlete Registration tab at the [Camp Abilities Four Corners website](#).

For more information, email campabilitiesfourcorners@gmail.com.

CEEDAR's Evidence-Based Practice Reading

CEEDAR has several items on evidence-based practices across populations and topics. Here are just a few to check out:

- *Evidence Based Practices for Students with Sensory Impairments* was written by Drs Kay Ferrell, Susan Bruce, and John L. Luckner in 2014. [You can download a free copy at this link.](#)
- *Literacy Instruction for Students with Multiple and Severe Disabilities who use AAC* written by Drs. Ann-Marie Orlando and Andrea Ruppert in 2016. [You can download a free copy at this link.](#)

[Other evidence-based practice documents can be found here.](#)

OSEP-Funded TA Centers

** Early Childhood



The [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) provides 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.



** Learners Who Are Deaf-Blind



The [National Center on Deaf-Blindness](#) covers OSEP guidance, technical assistance, resources for families and service providers, and learning for proficient communicators who are deaf-blind. The website is 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.



** Accessible Materials and Technologies



The [National AEM Center at CAST](#) has provides TA, coaching, and resources that increase the availability and use of educational materials and technologies for learners with disabilities across the lifespan.

*** Professional Learning Modules

The [IRIS Center](#) is a dedicated to improving education outcomes for all children, especially those with disabilities birth through age 21 through the use of effective evidence-based practices and interventions.



*** Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR)

CPIR is the hub of valuable information and products specifically designed for the network of Parent Centers serving families of children with disabilities



Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Resources

CVI Now



[CVINow.org](https://www.cvinow.org) is here to empower professionals and families with CVI knowledge, resources, and tools to support students with CVI.

Get the latest expertise, research, and information on CVI Now! CVI Now is a go-to resource that is rooted in research and centers the lived experiences of people with CVI and their families. Learn about CVI and the brain, the CVI visual behaviors, instructional strategies and supports, environmental and material adaptations, communication, calendar systems, and much more.

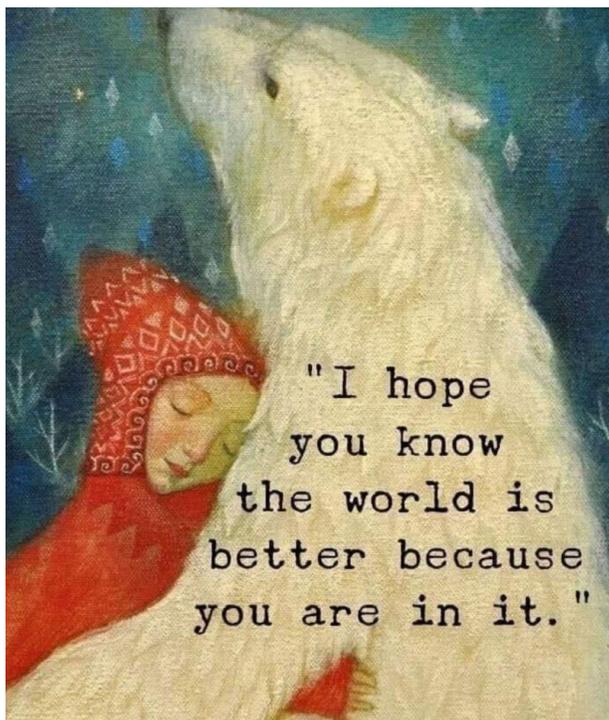
Follow [@CVINow on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cvinow) for trusted answers, resources, and CVI strategies!

Pediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Conference

Check out the 2026 Midwest CVI Conference (Wichita, KS), coming in March and hosted by [Children's Mercy](https://www.childrensmc.org) and [Kansas State School for the Blind](https://www.ksschoolfortheblind.org). Whether you are a parent, teacher, therapist, or healthcare provider, this event offers:

- Expert-led keynote and breakout sessions
- Family-centered resources and success stories
- Practical strategies for early intervention, education, and care
- Opportunities to connect with others passionate about CVI

[Check out the event website for the 2026 Midwest CVI Conference for more information and to register.](#)



CDE Happenings



CMAS News

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) is the only assessment given to all Colorado students that measures what students should know and be able to do at the end of each assessed grade. Concepts and skills explicitly identified in the Science Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) are the basis for CMAS. ELA and math assessments are administered to students in grades 3-8; science assessments are administered in grades 5, 8 & 11; and social studies assessments are administered to a sample of students in grades 4 & 7.

Administration Window: April 6 - April 24, 2026

Other Assessment Information

Colorado Alternate Assessment Program (CoAlt)

CoAlt assessments are administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The program includes Colorado-developed science assessments in grades 5, 8, and 11 and social studies assessments in grades 4 and 7. English language arts and math assessments are developed in collaboration with the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment consortium and administered to students in grades 3-11.

Administration Window: Aligned to CMAS and PSAT/SAT (April 13 - April 24, 2026)

SAT / PSAT Information

Colorado administers the SAT college entrance exam to all 11th grade students and the PSAT to 9th and 10th grade students.

Administration Window: April 13 - April 24, 2026

National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Update

A representative sample of Colorado 4th and 8th grade students participate in NAEP reading and math assessments every other year. NAEP produces state level results, but the assessments are not designed to produce individual student, school, or district results.

Administration Window: January 26 – March 20, 2026

CMAS Colorado Spanish Language Arts (CSLA) Online Practice Resources Are Now Available!

Students and educators can now get a first look at the online CSLA, which will be administered digitally for the first time in Spring 2026. Practice resources are available on the Colorado Practice Resources webpage, giving 3rd and 4th grade students a chance to experience the test format on a computer! Share these resources with districts and schools that participate in CSLA. Practice materials for all CMAS assessments and CoAlt science and social studies assessments are available in the same location.

Connecting the Dots: A Commitment to Braille

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 CDE Braille Specialists Committee consists currently of the following individuals:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Tanni Anthony	(303) 503-4647	Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us
Nancy Cozart	(303) 905-4074	Cozart_N@cde.state.co.us
Christine Maynard	(719) 229-4981	Maynard_C@cde.state.co.us
Brenda Shepard	(303) 995-7913	Shepard_B@cde.state.co.us
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](#).

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. The Braille Authority of North America approves two math codes. 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) 503–4647 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

APH Hive New Course Alert: Teaching Graphicacy Skills

The American Printing House for the Blind's Hives newest course, Teaching Graphicacy Skills, equips educators with tools to bridge braille literacy and graphicacy. The objectives of the course include:

- ◆ Define tactile graphicacy and describe how it relates to braille literacy.
- ◆ Describe a variety of instructional strategies tied to effective tactile graphics reading and tactual perceptive skills.
- ◆ Explain the key elements of graphics learning and their role in developing tactile graphics literacy.
- ◆ Identify resources that can be used to evaluate students' tactile perceptual capability and determine areas for targeted instruction.

[Visit the APH Hive website to enroll.](#)

UEB Math/Science (or "Technical Material in UEB") Resources

Below is a list of UEB Math/Science resources that Kyle DeJute compiled. Kyle is a Braille Trainer at the American Printing House for the Blind.

The webinar [UEB Math Science: Frozen Juice Concentrate](#) explains some principles that expand through all UEB Math/Science materials, and it is packed full of resources for reference and study. This webinar handouts are hosted on the Access Academy Handouts page. Below are links to a variety of free resources for learning to use UEB to transcribe technical materials.

- ◆ UEB Mathematics Program from UEBOnline
- ◆ UEB Math Tutorial online, from APH
- ◆ UEB Math + Formats = Success webinar recording and handouts, from FIMCVI (Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired)
- ◆ Provisional Guidance for Transcribing Mathematics in UEB, from BANA
- ◆ The National Braille Association has webinars about UEB Math/Science on their webinar-based learning webpage.
- ◆ The Primary Math Cheat Sheet, from UEBOnline is one list of some UEB symbols used in technical materials. See below, under the heading "Techniques," for information about the UKAAF document "Generating mathematical symbols using Math AutoCorrect or Unicode.
- ◆ Project INSPIRE, which has created a host of Nemeth-Code-related resources for teachers, is now focusing on UEB Math/Science. It is also recommended to visit Project INSPIRE's microsite on Paths to Literacy.

Denver Metro Braille Challenge

The Denver Metro Braille Challenge contest is scheduled **for February 27th** at the Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton, Colorado. In the event of inclement weather, the backup date for the Metro Braille Challenge will be March 13th.

The deadline to return permission forms to the CIMC for the Metro Braille Challenge is February 6, 2026.

There will be a Braille Challenge t-shirt for any student with a completed permission form submitted by the February 6th deadline. Please return all permission forms to Debbie Haberkorn at dhaberkorn@csdb.org. TVIs also have the option of requesting contest material from CIMC and proctoring the contests in their own district.

Our thanks to the CIMC Team (Debbie, Danielle, Jim, and Maddee) for all of their work with the Metro Braille Challenge!

3D Tactiles Webinar

Take time to check out the recent presentation by Michael Cantino on 3D tactile graphics from [OCALICON](#). You can [watch the recording here](#), and review the [presentation slides here](#).

This session is all about making the most of your 3D printer, and it provides an introduction to creating 3D printed tactile graphics for blind and low vision students. The session covers:

- Advantages of 3D tactiles over paper tactile graphics
- Examples of 3D tactiles using simple design strategies
- Where to find free 3D models for blind students
- Slicing strategies for better tactile models
- Simple strategies for creating your own 3D models, from automatic model generators to mildly more advanced modeling techniques
- 3D tactile design tips



Project INSPIRE Spring 2026 Free Professional Development for Nemeth Code and UEB Math/Science

Project INSPIRE has developed 7 free, self-paced professional development courses available through a collaboration between the Project INSPIRE Team, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Perkins School for the Blind's Paths to Literacy.

What are the logistics of the courses?

- Dates: February 9 to April 13, 2026
- You may only enroll in one course. Courses do not need to be completed in order.

Nemeth Courses Available

- Course 1: Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts and Strategies for Supporting the PreK-1st Grade Student in Building Math Skills
- Course 2: An Introduction to Nemeth Code Symbols Used in Grades 2 to 5 and Strategies for Supporting Elementary Students in Building Math Skills
- Course 3: Grades 2 to 5: Nemeth Code Symbols for Fractions and Spatial Problems, Instructional Tools, Materials and Technology
- Course 4: Geometry and Tactile Graphics for Students in Grades 3 to 8
- Course 5: Nemeth Code Symbols Used in the Middle Grades and Strategies for Supporting Math Learning
- Course 6: Nemeth Code Symbols Used in High School and Strategies for Supporting Math Learning

UEB Math/Science Course Available

- Course 7: An Introduction to UEB Math/Science for Pre-Kindergarten-1st Grade Students and Strategies for Supporting Math Learning (You will learn the symbols used in UEB Math/Science. The methods and materials are the same as in Course 1.)

[For more information, read descriptions of each course and/or view objectives.](#)

Course Structure

After completing all activities in the course, participants will be directed to the TSBVI ESC Works website where they will create an account. They will take the 20-item posttest and complete a course evaluation. Participants earning a score of 80% or higher will be issued a 12-hour professional development certificate approved by ACVREP and the Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).

How can I sign up for a course?

[You can sign up using the form at this link.](#)

Registrants will receive more info on February 16, 2026.

For more information or to ask questions, email rosenblu@arizona.edu.



Multilingual Learners Identified or Suspected of Having Educational Disabilities

2025-26 Webinar Series on Multilingual Learners

The Multilingual Learners with Educational Disabilities: Voices from the Intersection of Language, Literacy, Culture, & Opportunity engaging series brings together a star-studded lineup of national and Colorado-based researchers and practitioners who are leading the field with practical, student-centered approaches.

Mark your calendars! Remaining sessions run from 8:30–9:30 on a.m. on February 19 and March 5.

[Webinar Series Informational Booklet](#) (PDF)

[Register for the webinar series here.](#) For each webinar, attendees will receive 1 hour of Special Education recertification credit, Registration will close two weeks prior to each webinar to ensure accessibility for all.

Podcasts: Literacy and Language Development for Multilingual Learners

- [Multilingual Literacy Podcast](#)
- [Literacy Across Languages Podcast \(LinkedIn announcement\)](#)

CDE Guidance: Paraprofessionals Serving IDEA-Eligible Students

Please find the referenced FAQ here: [CDE Guidance on Paraprofessionals Serving IDEA-Eligible Students](#)

On March 13, 2025, the Colorado State Board of Education adopted changes to the Rules governing implementation of Colorado’s Exceptional Children’s Educational Act (ECEA), 1 CCR 301-8. These changes address personnel qualifications for paraprofessionals who serve students with disabilities eligible for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This guidance supports each Administrative Unit’s responsibility to ensure paraprofessional staff are appropriately trained and adequately supervised when assisting in the provision of special education and related services. For questions, please contact Candace Hawkins at Hawkins_C@cde.state.co.us.

When you:
 cut it for me,
 write it for me,
 open it for me,
 set it up for me,
 draw it for me, or
 find it for me
www.mrsdscorner.com
 ALL I LEARN IS THAT YOU
 DO IT BETTER THAN ME.

Calendar of Events



Date	Event
January 26 – March 20	National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Administration Window for selected 4th / 8th Grade students in ELA and Mathematics
February 6	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
February 11	Sound Bites: Dispelling Myths When Choosing Braille Code Options for Math and Science, presented by Dr. FM D'Andrea (Sound Bites Registration)
February 18 – 20	Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic – Anchor Center for Blind Children Contact: Krista Berkey at berkey_k@cde.state.co.us
February 19	CSDB Braille Challenge Contact: Jonathan Karli at jkarli@csdb.org
February 21	CO Center for the Blind Youth Program: Skiing with Ignite Adaptive Sports Enjoy a half-day on the slopes of Eldora! Contact: Tiffany Moon at tmoon@cocenter.org
February 23	Makeup Day for CSDB Braille Challenge Contact: Jonathan Karli at jkarli@csdb.org
February 27	Metro Braille Challenge – Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton Contact: Jonathan Karli at jkarli@csdb.org
March 1	Education for Life Scholarship Applications Due More EFL information is available on their website.
March 6	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
March 11	Sound Bites: Tech for Low Vision, presented by Erika Andersen Ko (Sound Bites Registration)
March 21	CO Center for the Blind Youth Program: Curious About It? Let Us Show You. Contact: Tiffany Moon at tmoon@cocenter.org

Date	Event
April 3	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
April 6 – April 24	Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Administration Window
April 13 – April 24	Colorado Alternate Assessment Program (CoAlt) Administration Window
April 13 – April 24	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)/PSAT Administration Window
April 15	<u>Tools for Life Applications Due</u>
April 15	<u>Camp Abilities Registration Closes</u>
April 22	Sound Bites: Low Vision Tests and Their Role , presented by Dr. Kara Hanson (Sound Bites Registration)
May 1	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
May 6	Sound Bites: What Can You Learn from a Little Information? , presented by Dr. David Simpson (Sound Bites Registration)
June 4 – June 5	Conference on Assistive Technology in Education (Virtual) Contact: SWAAAC@ucdenver.edu
June 5	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
June 8 – June 13	Camp Abilities Four Corners (Register by April 15) Contact: campabilitiesfourcorners@gmail.com
June 22 – July 31	No Limits to Learning – CCB in Littleton Contact: Tiffany Moon at tmoon@cocenter.org
July 13 – July 31	No Limits to Learning – CCB in Littleton Contact: Tiffany Moon at tmoon@cocenter.org
July 29 – August 2	AER Biennial International Conference – Louisville, KY More information is available on the AER website.

Adventure, Confidence, and Winter Fun on Eldora Mountain!

Brought to you by the Colorado Center for the Blind

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Location:

Eldora Mountain Ignite Adaptive Sports
2861 Eldora Ski Rd
Nederland, CO 80466

Cost: \$25.00

Sign up by: February 16 (on first-come basis)

Downhill skiing ~ Cross-Country Skiing ~ Snowshoeing ~ Snow Boarding

Take your pick when you join us on February 21 for another winter sports day at Eldora Mountain with our partners, Ignite Adaptive Sports.

- Blind youth of all abilities, ages 8 and up, are welcome to participate.
- Spaces are limited, so please reserve your spot as soon as possible.
- A non-refundable \$25 fee is required for each blind youth registered. Once you have registered your student, We'll send you a payment link.
- The Colorado Center for the Blind will cover remaining costs, which includes equipment, lift passes, lessons, and experienced Ignite ski guides for all blind youth.
- Students are required to bring a lunch, plenty of water, and warm clothes. (There will be some snow gear available through the Ignite program, but it is not a guarantee.)
- Parents are welcome to meet us at Eldora, but if your youth needs a ride, our van will leave from Littleton. Check the box "I need a ride" on the registration form.

For more information, contact Tiffany Moon at tmoon@cocenter.org

Transition Preparation for Life Post Public School

Announcing the 2026 NFB Scholarship Program

The National Federation of the Blind is pleased to announce their 2026 scholarship program. They offer thirty \$8,000 scholarships to blind students who will be at least eighteen years of age by July 3, 2026. Students may apply if they reside in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico and will be enrolled in a full-time accredited post-secondary degree program during the 2026-2027 school year.

The National Federation of the Blind may award up to five of the thirty scholarships annually to applicants enrolled part-time who meet all other eligibility requirements. Additionally, we recognize that employment, family caregiving, and ongoing medical care concurrent with post-secondary enrollment can contribute to a need for students to carry a part-time course load. Our application has been revised in order to provide an opportunity for students who will be enrolled part-time in the fall to share additional information with the committee.

All scholarships will be awarded at their 2026 National Convention, which will take place in Austin, Texas, from July 3-8.

The application period closes at midnight EST on March 31, 2026.

[For more information, visit the NFB Scholarship page.](#) To apply during the four-month open period: read the rules and the submission checklist, complete the official 2026 scholarship application form, supply all required documents, and request and complete an interview with an NFB affiliate president.

Evidence-Based Transition Planning IC

Looking to support students with disabilities as they transition into post-school life? Check out CEEDAR's Transition IC! It serves as a foundation for enhancing current practices in preparing special educators to provide transition services.

To download this document, go to: [Teacher Preparation to Deliver Evidence-Based Transition Planning and Services to Youth with Disabilities - CEEDAR](#)



Waitlist Update from DVR

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is currently serving more people than ever before, and more individuals with disabilities are entering the workforce. The demand for services is increasing faster than the available staff and financial resources can support. When DVR cannot serve all eligible applicants immediately, federal law requires a waitlist, based on disability priority category. As the most effective method for managing costs, a waitlist will help DVR staff continue to provide critical, individualized services.

Effective January 28, 2026, all individuals who are currently eligible for DVR services **but not yet in a plan for employment will be placed on a waitlist.**

Anyone who is **determined to be eligible on or after January 28, 2026, will also be placed onto a waitlist**

Participants with an **established Individual Plan for Employment** as of January 28, 2026, **will continue to receive services** regardless of their priority category

Students receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (pre-ETS) will also continue to have **access to pre-ETS.**

In addition, all current and future applicants will continue to be evaluated for eligibility determination and placement into a priority category.

What is a Priority Category?

Determination of an individual's disability priority is based on the number of serious functional limitations an individual experiences as a result of a severe impairment, the number of core services required to address their rehabilitation needs, and the amount of time required to provide those services. Based on this information, all individuals deemed eligible for DVR services are placed within one of the following priority categories:

- Eligible individuals with the most significant disabilities
- Eligible individuals with significant disabilities
- All other eligible individuals with disabilities

Next Steps

When DVR is able to release eligible individuals from the waitlist, **we will release eligible individuals based on their disability priority and in the order their applications were received.** Individuals on the waitlist will be provided with information about helpful goods and services offered by other statewide workforce investment system partners, as well as other programs that may be able to assist. Please use the [support finder](#) to find resources for the people you serve.

DVR will continue to closely monitor its resources to serve more people as soon as possible and work together with our partners and business relations team to support Coloradans with disabilities. Please know you can find [more information on our website](#), which will continue to be updated.

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



AER International Conference 2026:
Call for Presenters Now Open!

Join a Community of Change-Makers—Lead a Session at the AER International Conference 2026

July 29–August 2, 2026: Take the next step in growing your professional presence and influence. Presenting at the AER International Conference 2026 is an opportunity to showcase your expertise, expand your professional network, and enhance your credibility as a leader in the field.

When you share your work, research, and innovative practices with peers from around the world, you not only contribute to the advancement of education and rehabilitation for individuals who are blind or have low vision, but you also strengthen your own professional brand. Presenting at AER International Conference 2026 can:

- **Elevate your resume or CV** with recognized conference experience.
- **Increase your visibility** among colleagues, organizations, and potential collaborators.
- **Position you as a thought leader** in your area of expertise.
- **Connect with a global community** of professionals committed to innovation and impact.

Join us in *Sharing Our Stories – Impacting the Future* and be part of a transformative experience that celebrates growth, learning, and leadership. **Submit your proposal today** and take your place among the change-makers shaping the future of our field.

For proposal guidelines and submission details, visit the [AER Call for Proposals](#) website or contact conference@aerbvi.org with any questions.

Just for Parents

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP)

PEP is a conference for families and parents who have children with disabilities, ages birth to 21. Parents include parents as couples, single parents, legal guardians, adoptive, and foster parents.

A support person may attend and accompany a single parent. A support person is one who is helping a parent to raise a child(ren) with a disability or who is a caretaker of the child(ren) with a disability in the family (can include grandparent(s) or other relatives).



PEP is a non-specific disability conference that focuses on commonalities, not diagnoses.

PEP In-person Conferences at Hotels: PEP in-person conferences are arranged at various hotels throughout regions in Colorado, and offers free registration, food, and lodging (if applicable). Special accommodations, language interpretation, and document translation are available. Transportation is not provided; consider carpooling if applicable; parking and sometimes valet service is available at the hotel venue.

Cost, Food, Lodging: PEP conferences are free to attend. Funded by both federal and state grants, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU) offers these conferences free of charge to eligible Colorado parents of children with disabilities and to Colorado professionals who work with children and youth with disabilities and their families. Parents are responsible for their own transportation to and from the hotel venue.

The next PEP is in the process of being finalized. Check the website below for the date and location once they are finalized.

For more Information about PEP check out the [CDE PEP website](#).

Jobs



We have vacancies for Colorado TVIs (teachers of students with visual impairments) and Orientation & Mobility Specialists. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring they have an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an O&M Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession.

Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado! If you are looking for a job, please check out the listings below and 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 our students.

Metro

- **1 FTE or part-time TVI with developmental / early childhood experience**— Anchor Center for Blind Children. For more information, contact Tammy Miller at tmiller@anchorcenter.org
- **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist Position** — Aurora School District. For more information, contact Wendy Schlageter at wschlageter@aurorak12.org

Southern Region

- Possibly for SY 26-27: **1 FTE TVI and O&M Specialist** — Colorado Springs D11 School District. For more information, contact Nancy Maresh-Melo at nancy.mareshmelo@d11.org or 719-520-2153.
- **1 FTE TVI for Secondary English Language Arts** — Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. For more information, contact Jonathan Karli at jkarli@csdb.org.

Statewide

- **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist** — CSDB Outreach. For more information, contact Jac Tyrcha at jtyrcha@csdb.org.

Multi-Region

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

Are You Retiring Soon?

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. If you are an O&M Specialist, please also maintain your ACVREP O&M certification. Please keep in touch with Tanni if you

are interested in this type of work after your retirement! Let Tanni know if you want to be added to her list of private contractors by emailing her at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Visual Impairment Professions Video

AER's Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee (PPRC) is proud to announce the release of the long-awaited recruitment video: "Visual Impairment Professions."

[Access the video without audio description.](#)

[Access the video with audio description.](#)

Initial Licensure and Endorsement for TVI / O&M

For information about the endorsement requirements for the Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21, go to [the Endorsements page on the CDE website](#).

<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 [the Endorsements page on the CDE website](#).

<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, and under the supervision of an Academy of Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education (ACVREP) certified 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). ✓ Please do not let your ACVREP O&M Certification expire. If you are providing O&M services 0-21, please be sure you have a license to do so.
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Blindness/Low Vision Coalition Virtual Meeting Notes

Virtual Meeting on January 7, 2026

Persons in Attendance: Tanni Anthony, Michelle Chacon, Abby Horner, Jonathon Karli, Donna Keale, Paula Landry, Tammy Miller, Tiffany Moon, Erin Schroeder, Jim Olson, and Chloann Woolley

Guests: Julie Deden, Executive Director of Colorado Center for Blind Children and Judy Mathews, lead DVR Assistive Technology Specialist.

Person Absent: Paula Conroy

Mission of the Blindness/Low 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/low vision (April 1998).

Acronym Legend

ASV	A Shared Vision
BLV	Blind / Low Vision or Blindness/Low Vision
CAER	CO Chapter - 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 the BLV Coalition for the 2025-2026 School Year

- A Shared Vision – Paula Landry
- Anchor Center for Blind Children – Tammy Miller
- Colorado AER Chapter – Chloann Woolley
- Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program – Tiffany Moon
- Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
- Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – rotating

- Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind – Jonathon Karli
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach – Donna Keale
- Metro TVI / COMS– Michelle Chacon
- Northern TVI / COMS – Abby Horner
- Southern TVI / COMS – Chloann Woolley
- University of Northern Colorado – Paula Conroy
- Western TVI / COMS – Erin Schroeder

Norms of the Blindness/Low 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). Blindness/Low 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.

Announcements

We are grateful that Judy Mathews was able to join us today to represent Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Judy's oversees assistive technology training in the southern region. We will have another DVR representative at our April meeting.

Program Updates

Metro Region (Michelle Chacon)

The big take away from the Metro Region is that they have some ideas about the O&M Seminar. No major updates right now. The next meeting is January 14, 2026.

Northern Region (Abby Horner)

Greeley-Evans School District 6 hired another TVI, Stacy Bevan. She moved here from South Carolina and has been a TVI for a while. The first Northern TVI meeting was held in November. We discussed a make and take that will happen at our next meeting. The goal is a make and take specific to books for kids. They are working with Tanni on funding from the CO Deaf-Blind Project. Then there was some discussion about APH products, caseloads, and O&M topics. It was a good collaboration session!!

Western Region (Erin Schroeder)

The Western Slope TVI/COMS have continued to meet virtually this school year. We have met to support one another with questions about IEPs, eligibility, and strategies for different levels of learners. Most of us typically attend the deaf-blind webinars in addition to the Sound Bites professional learning conversations. We always look forward to learning something new.

Discussion: CATT has changed nationally, and we have lost the SW CATT Office. Tanni is working to learn more about our access to the remaining CATT offices. Dr. Ting leads the Northwest CATT, and it would be great to

continue to tap into her expertise. The need for AT training is high, and this will be an important area to discuss in the section ahead on CDE training for 2026-27.

Southern Region (Chloann Woolley)

The first Southern Region TVI-DVR meeting was held on September 16th 2:30-4:00 on the CSDB Campus hosted by the CIMC staff. Information on TVI/O&M/DVR staff coverage through the southern region was shared. Members attended the meeting both in-person and remote. Fifteen people attended representing 7 regional southern areas in the state. New resources, products, web-pages, and apps were demonstrated to support the upcoming school year from CIMC.

Our second meeting on October 28, 2025 – hosted by DVR was well attended and covered new-update and process for students with Low Vision/Blindness heading to post high school college and/or the work force. The group met at the DVR office located on 1365 Garden of the Gods Road, Suite 250, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

DVR is currently working to hire new counselor for the blind in the Colorado Springs office. Megann Brouard is the new AT supervisor for DVR. Presentation discussion around Pre-ETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) and work-readiness training opportunities; as well as the new Order of Selection was shared. DVR emphasized student readiness, independence and understanding their visual and learning needs by creating an 'Ability Statement.' DVR provided the following web resources.

Key Term: WIOA: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

[DVR Service Handbook](#)

[SWAP 101 Manual](#)

The third SRTVI-DVR meeting will be held on Tuesday January 20, 2026 Hosted by D49 located at Creekside Success Center:

3850 Pony Tracks Drive, Colorado Springs, CO

The next meetings are Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – CSDB and Tuesday, May 19, 2026 – Library 21, Maker Space to discuss 3D-Printing

A Shared Vision (Paula Landry)

A Shared Vision continues to deliver high-quality, family-centered services while expanding our reach through innovative programs. Our core work of direct vision services for infants and toddlers remains strong. At the same time, we are working on new initiatives, including family support resources, expanded screening protocols, and pilot projects.

Vision Screening Training: Training on this topic has been the primary focus of our education program. This focus reflects both the statewide need for consistent screening practices and the demand from early intervention providers for practical tools to use with families. With a third major update, it is now offered as an on-demand video with improved tools for families and providers. The *Parent Questionnaire*® and *Results & Next Steps*® forms are available through a secure online platform, with expanded, specialist-informed

recommendations in both English and Spanish. Caregivers receive a PDF of their responses plus tailored guidance, strengthening our *Vision Screening Protocol*© and supporting early identification of vision concerns in young children.

Discussion: There is a need to ensure that 0-3 vision screening is robust and an annual event for young children.

Well-Child Vision Screening for CVI Pilot: A Shared Vision is also launching a pilot to integrate screening for cortical/cerebral visual impairment (CVI)—the leading cause of pediatric blindness—into routine well-child visits. This effort, guided by the 2024 *Pediatrics* Clinical Report and aligned with national priorities, aims to increase early identification of CVI. Outreach to pediatricians, clinics, and community organizations is currently underway.

Changes in Early Intervention: The implementation of TEAM EI (Transdisciplinary Equitable Accessible Model), originally planned for January 1, 2026, for Cohorts 1 and 2, is being revised in response to concerns from EI Brokers and EI professionals. EI Colorado met with the implementation team members as well as the EI Coordinators in all 20 programs, to determine next steps together. The partnership and valuable feedback from those team members led to a consensus that the best path forward for the TEAM EI Colorado initiative at this time is with a training-only approach for all EI professionals. This approach will replace the previously planned Cohort structure and ensure that all EI Brokers across the state learn simultaneously.

Some EI Brokers have committed to implementing TEAM EI Colorado on a smaller scale within their communities. EI Colorado is meeting monthly with Community Connections, Community Options, Horizons, Starpoint, and The Resource Exchange to identify specific support and training needs as they prepare for implementation.

Stephanie Crosen is working virtually for A Shared Vision.

Discussion: The Primary Service Model is currently on hold statewide for the time being. There may be a slower roll out with some EI Brokers to see how it works. Donna Keale will be involved with one of those EI Brokers and the training is forthcoming. One area to learn more about is how a TVI / O&M Specialist services are ensured for families of young children who are blind/low vision. There is a lot to learn ahead.

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Tammy Miller)

We are enjoying a fantastic school year in our three children's programs! Preschool is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and our Infant & Toddler Program is on Mondays and Fridays. Our Home Visit EI Program is continuing strong with a great team.

Events: We have Community Days planned for each month of the school year for all our students and their families, including swimming, playground visits, adaptive horseback riding, etc. Our Family Services team holds Night Watch respite events one night per month during the school year. We had our annual Family Holiday Celebration in December, complete with Santa and Ms. Claus, carriage rides, a petting zoo from our friends at Urban Farms, professional family portraits, and many more fun activities. Our annual wine tasting fundraiser event *Visions of Love* will be on February 5th. Visit our website for more info!

Media: We have recently had a lot of media coverage for various events, which has been a great way to get more information into the community about who we are and what we do!

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. The Anchor Center charges a nominal tuition fee for our center-based infant, toddler, and preschool programs, with financial assistance available to all families. No child is ever denied access to services based on the family's inability to pay.

Colorado AER Chapter (Chloann Woolley)

Place a hold for the 2026 AER International Conference, which will take place July 29 through August 2, 2026, at the Louisville Marriott Downtown in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference theme is *Sharing Our Stories – Impacting The Future*.

Jeannie Lei was kind enough to create a gift basket from the Colorado AER chapter to contribute to the GITWL conference in November. Thank you, Jeannie!

Do not forget to check out the new [AER Website](#) for details about trainings and division updates.

CAER had a questionnaire that went out to the state asking two questions: (if there are 100 professionals working with LV/B individuals we should have at least 30 responses)

1. Should the Colorado Chapter of AER continue? Results obtained from 18 responses: 72.2% responding 'yes' to continue the chapter. Therefore to continue the Colorado Chapter, we are in need of volunteers to participate and support. We meet once a month alternating an on-line meeting and an email response meeting. At minimum we need 5 people to maintain a chapter board by the Cooperate standards. - President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. Per the most recent Colorado AER bylaws "The Board of CAER shall consist of the officers of CAER and the Immediate Past President in addition to a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 At-Large board members."
2. If the Chapter continues, How would you participate? Responses at 50% or higher were: renew your membership, nominate colleagues for annual awards banquet, and attend CEU opportunity trainings.
 - ◆ If you are interested in participating, please reach out caerboard@gmail.com

Colorado Center for The Blind Youth Programs (Tiffany Moon)

Washington DC: CO NFB is going to Washington to advocate for school and rehabilitation services. There was no movement on bringing a CO student with them. This information was sent out to the TVIs in the fall to share with families.

Discussion: Judy offered to work with Tanni on developing a BLV DVR email list that can be used for the Keeping in Touch newsletter dissemination to families. The regional TVI reps shared that the newsletter and email information about CCB events is sent to families. This may be a good topic for the regional reps.

FAST Youth Program: The Fun Activities and Skills Training program provides exciting opportunities to blind students, their families, and teachers. These activities occur monthly and are posted in the Upcoming Events section of our webpage. If you have a creative event idea, we would love to hear from you!

FAST Youth Event Calendar – please share the news!

- January 17 – Outdoor ice-skating at the Parker Ice Trail
- February 21 – Skiing with Ignite Adaptive Sports at Eldora
- March 21 – Skills Fair presented by the Colorado Future Leaders, featuring activities in Braille, technology, independent living skills, travel, and sports

CSDB Mentorship: We are pleased to begin working with the students at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. It is important for our youth to have positive blind role models in their life. In January, we will launch a mentorship program for CSDB middle school, high school, and BTL students. Our goal is to provide programming that is empowering, impactful, and educational.

Discussion: A question was asked how to reach other students across the state, so they have access to adult role models. In the past there was a buddy program with an older mentor with a blind student. This worked out for some students. CCB Youth Program is open to thinking through how this might work in the future. If there are ideas, let us talk through how it might work out to expand to other school districts.

Special thanks to Julie Harrison and Jonathan Karli for helping to make this happen! The program schedule includes:

- January 23 – Presenter Peggy Chong will share insights on blind history.
- February 20 – A career panel featuring blind professionals from a wide range of fields.
- March 13 – Independent Living Skills: Students will roll up their sleeves in the kitchen and learn practical tips, tricks, and techniques.
- April – Continued Independent Living Skills training.
- May – A discussion on maintaining independence during the summer through chores, helping in the kitchen, outdoor recreation challenges, and the importance of literacy and summertime reading.

No Limits to Learning: The Colorado Center for the Blind is pleased to announce its No Limits to Learning program for blind teens and young adults for the summer of 2026, No Limits to Learning is a residential program for ages 15–21. Our No Limits to Learning programs have empowered hundreds of teens to gain confidence, independence, and pride in their abilities as blind individuals.

This year we are offering both a six-week and three-week summer program. Students selected for the six-week session will attend the National Federation of the Blind National Convention in Austin, Texas, alongside CCB staff and students. This exciting opportunity allows students to build confidence and gain knowledge through a variety of informational and educational sessions. Six-Week Program: June 22 – July 31 and Three-Week Program: July 13 – July 31

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (Jim Olson)

Count Day: Monday, January 5, 2026 was the official count day for both our Colorado statewide count and our federal quota census account. Count paperwork is due by the end of business on Friday, January 30, 2026. Send questions and paperwork to: cimcregistrations@csdb.org

Statewide Count update from CIMC as of today, our statewide database shows 1,156 active registered students today. Please know that this number will change as data are finalized.

First Friday Zoom meetings: At the request of a few administrative units, the CIMC added an extra morning session to their Second Friday monthly afternoon Zoom meeting for January 9th. Future 2026 meeting dates: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5. Time: 2:30-3:30pm. Contact CIMC staff for the Zoom link.

Braille Challenge: Colorado hosts two contests in two separate locations. (1) CSDB, School for the Blind has scheduled their challenge for Thursday, February 19, 2026 with an alternate date of Monday, February 23rd. Contact: Principal Jonathan Karli at jkarli@csdb.org. (2) CSDB Outreach and the Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) will co-host the Denver Metro Braille Challenge on Friday, February 27, 2026 with an alternate date of Friday March 13, 2026. Contact: cimcbookorders@csdb.org for registration paperwork and questions.

CIMC housekeeping: Registering students: You must submit the signed parent consent form before, or at the same time, you send the Registration form.

Exiting students: please remember to complete and submit a CIMC Exit Form to cimcregistrations@csdb.org as well as return all barcoded equipment and APH instructional materials checked out in that student's name to the CDE/CIMC repository as soon as possible.

Please be aware that braille book orders for next 2026-2027 school year are DUE to cimcbookorders@csdb.org by the close of business Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

If you would like the CIMC to source a title for availability in braille format before filling out an order form, simply send an email with the book information (ISBN number, title, copyright date, braille code requested i.e. UEB with UEB Technical or UEB with Nemeth, etc.) to cimcbookorders@csdb.org and we will reply with your sourcing results.

NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard): Curriculum and Instruction: please share the following with your administrative unit/school district curriculum teams and procurement departments: Contract language obligates publishers to deliver NIMAS-compliant files to the NIMAC (National Instructional Materials Access Center) by a specified date, using MathML for math/science, and sometimes includes direct purchase options for specialized formats from the vendor.

A June 2012 letter from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) specifically encourages Stated Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to “ask publishers to use the MathML3 Structure Guidelines recommended by the [NIMAS] Center when requesting NIMAS file.” MathML is a markup language used to display equations and other mathematical expressions on the web and in other formats such as NIMAS, which facilitates the creation of accessible math and science content, especially for students with visual impairments. Visit [MathML in NIMAS on the AEM Center website](#) to learn more.

Visit the AEM Center website (<https://aem.cast.org>) and search for the [Communicating Digital Accessibility Requirements](#) page for information on digital accessibility requirements. Click their link for “NIMAS in Purchase Orders and Contracts” for this sample statement (shared below) that could be included in your AU/school district purchase order for print or digital textbooks and related core instructional materials:

By agreeing to deliver the materials marked with “NIMAS” on this contract or purchase order, the publisher agrees to prepare and submit on or before [month/day/year] a NIMAS file set to the NIMAC that complies with the terms and procedures set forth by the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) (IDEA Title I, Part D, sec. 674(e)).

The publisher also agrees to markup materials eligible for NIMAS submission that contain mathematical and scientific instructional content by using the [MathML modular extension of the DAISY/NIMAS Structure Guidelines](#), as posted and maintained at the DAISY Consortium website (refer to the latest applicable version). Should the vendor be a distributor of the materials and not the publisher, the distributor agrees to immediately notify the publisher of its obligation to submit NIMAS file sets of the purchased materials to the NIMAC. The files will be used for the production of accessible formats as permitted under the law for eligible students (IDEA Title I, Part B, sec. 612(a)).

Survey: Jim will be sending out a survey to learn how the CIMC service are working for everyone. Please take time to complete the survey – feedback matters.

CSDB School for The Blind (Jonathon Karli)

The School for the Blind enjoyed a memorable Homecoming week from November 10–14, filled with school spirit and connection. Students participated in themed dress-up days throughout the week, and high school classes competed in daily lunch contests that brought lots of energy and friendly competition. Over the weekend, we welcomed the goalball team from the New Mexico School for the Blind to campus for the Homecoming Goalball Tournament. Students also enjoyed celebrating together at the Homecoming dance on Saturday night, making it a wonderful week of camaraderie and school pride.

In addition to Homecoming festivities, nine secondary students attended the *Rock Your Career in Music* workshop at the National Federation for the Blind of Colorado (NFBCO) conference. Students explored potential careers in voice acting, sound and audio engineering, and DJ'ing. From this experience, we will be offering a Sound Engineering course in the second semester where students will learn to use the sound engineering software, Reaper.

In November, we launched our first Literacy Skill of the Quarter initiative. Each quarter, the school will focus on strengthening a key literacy skill across grade levels, classrooms, and activities. The focus for this quarter is finding the main idea, supporting students in building strong comprehension skills.

As part of our continued focus on literacy, all secondary students will participate in a Book Club Workshop course during the second semester. In this course, students will choose from a selection of leisure reading books to read aloud together. During daily class sessions, students will take turns reading from a fun and engaging book while classmates follow along. The goal of the Book Club Workshop is to ensure consistent daily reading while helping students experience reading as an enjoyable and social activity. A pilot group of five students participated in a Book Club Workshop this fall, and the results were extremely positive. All students demonstrated increased reading fluency and, most importantly, had fun reading together.

There are two new students at the School for the Blind and others in process. Officially there are 58 students in the School for the Blind building.

Finally, the School for the Blind is excited to announce that John Howland has been named our new Assistant Principal. Mr. Howland currently serves as the school counselor, and we are pleased to have him transition into this role beginning January 12, 2026.

We have two vacancies. We continue to recruit for our Secondary ELA teaching position and the School Counselor position vacated by John Howland.

CSDB Outreach Services (Donna Keale)

Outreach's Accreditation Overview: CSDB is currently in the process of seeking accreditation through AER and CEASD. This is a comprehensive, multi-area review that helps us examine the quality, consistency, and impact of our services across the state.

The Outreach team is taking the lead on several key components of this work, with a focus on:

- Statewide Outreach Services
- Itinerant Services
- Low Vision Clinic Services, in partnership with CDE
- Provision of Reading Materials, in collaboration with CIMC and the School for the Blind

We are actively completing our self-study, compiling evidence, and reviewing policies, procedures, and service delivery models. This process has been a valuable opportunity to reflect on strengths, identify gaps, and align services more clearly with statewide needs. All accreditation paperwork was submitted by the end of December, and we are preparing for an on-site visit in February. The site visit will include interviews, document

review, and opportunities to highlight how our partnerships and cross-program collaboration support children, families, and districts across Colorado.

Overall, this accreditation effort reinforces CSDB's commitment to high-quality, accessible, and responsive services, and to continuous improvement across outreach, low vision services, and instructional support statewide.

Our team of TVI/COMS professionals have actively engaged in professional development through the CDC training on Functional Low Vision Assessment and Strategies, CVI Protocol and several CDE "Sound Bite" sessions. These opportunities have deepened our knowledge and strengthened our ability to support students in outreach and contract services, while fostering effective collaboration with colleagues statewide.

In addition, team members who attended the 2025 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs recently met with CDE and Nancy Steele—an educational consultant and conference speaker with expertise in children with significant disabilities. The conference, titled Beyond the Matrix: Assessment to Implementation for Students with Complex Communication Needs, provided valuable insights. During our follow-up meeting, we reviewed progress and collaborative efforts for a student who is deafblind, celebrated the strides made, and planned for the child's future, including advocacy as a student with deafblindness. Together with the family, we are exploring ways to gather and share information with their school district to ensure strong support as the student transitions into school-age services.

We are also continuing efforts to expand our Outreach team to meet current and future needs. Currently they are advertising for an addition position specific to an O&M Specialist. As we begin drafting a new strategic plan, we are seeking feedback from colleagues across the state regarding programs and supports that would be most valuable to them. Your input will help us shape services that truly meet the needs of students and educators. Feedback for any areas of the CSDB Outreach plans can be emailed to CSDBOutreach@csdb.org

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) (Judy Mathews)

Carol Alves is the person who completes intakes. Her number is: 720-582- 6825. Our newest BLVS counselor is Amy Trail, in the Colorado Springs office. No one has been hired yet to fill Michele Reed's position. There is currently a hiring freeze with CO DVR.

DVR is going to an order of selection process very soon, resulting in a wait list. We do not have any information on when exactly it will start, but it could be any day now. Things to note:

Individuals receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) at the time of eligibility will continue to receive those services.

Potentially eligible students with disabilities will not be affected by a waitlist. So, a brand new student who has never received services from DVR before will be able to receive Pre-ETS services

DVR will host a Waitlist Q&A for Youth and Transition Providers on January 13 at 12 PM. [Register for the Waitlist Q&A for Youth and Transition Providers](#)

DVR is moving to a new database system. Stay tuned for more information. As there are new updates, we will work to share the information from DVR.

Judy is willing to be a resource in the area of assistive technology. Her email is judy.mathews@state.co.us

UNC (Paula Conroy)

The University of Northern Colorado continues to move ahead while also facing some real challenges. Ongoing enrollment declines and budget pressures have required tough decisions and careful planning around how resources are used and where priorities lie. At the same time, the university remains committed to supporting students and expanding academic opportunities, including continued work toward launching the College of Osteopathic Medicine in fall 2026. Campus life remains active, even as the institution works to find a sustainable path forward.

Within the School of Special Education, faculty and programs are doing solid work under similar constraints. The school is responding to growing demand for special educators, evolving licensure and accreditation requirements, and limited staffing and funding, all while maintaining strong, practice-based preparation across specialty areas. Even with these pressures, faculty remain invested in their teaching, scholarship, and service, and graduates continue to leave UNC well prepared and in high demand by schools and agencies.

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: We are in our third year of our five-year award. 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 difference. 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. Jessica Meisel is our Technical Assistance (TA) Specialist. Jessica provides onsite consultation and customized training to the educational teams of the children with deaf-blindness. She is also leading our training and support to school and community-based interveners. Cindy Colwell is the Family Specialist. Krista Berkey is the Program Support Assistant.
- Technical Assistance: To request FREE technical assistance for students with deaf-blindness, please contact Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us
- Annual Deaf-Blind Child Count: The December 1, 2025, Colorado Deaf-Blind Child Count forms were disseminated in early November. Our key contacts in most administrative school districts is a designated TVI. Children and youth with deaf-blindness can be added to the Child Count database anytime throughout the school year.

The December 1 process is a confirmation of all identified students on this date, which corresponds to the state count of learners with IEPs that is required by the Office of Special Education Programs. Thanks to all who are currently completing the paperwork for a timely and accurate Child Count.

- Project Webpage: [The CDE DeafBlind webpage is here.](#)
- Project Trainings: Thanks to Nancy Steele, our 2025 Summer Institute presenter and facilitator on providing four follow-up opportunities with the involved teams from that training. There are three scheduled DB Project webinars schedules for January – March with featured speakers Susanne Morrow (tactile communication systems), Jonathon Pringle (HKNC system navigation), and Jessica Meisel (concept development).

Also, the Summer Institute will be on June 15-16th, with Susanne Morrow. The flyer and registration for the Summer Institute will be sent out in late January.

BLV 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 families of professionals serving children who are blind/low vision, including CVI.

- 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.

One recent change is a requirement that a TVI must have taken their university-level braille course or have evidence of another form of significant self-study before taking the CDE Braille Competency Test the first time. 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.

Tanni maintains close records on the status of braille competency of our TVIs. We have close to 10 people in process. There have been a number of TVIs who have recently demonstrated braille competency. While this is not required by CDE, it is wonderful to see this commitment. Also, we are seeing a strong return on TVIs completing the one-time renewal modules.

- CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision; This year's conference was held the on October 23-24. The topic was *Functional Low Vision Assessment and Strategies* with Erika Anderson Ko. There were close to 80 people attendees.
- CDE/CSDB Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: We have already offered the Southern LVE Clinic with Jim Olson and Debbie Haberkorn as the site coordinators, the Western LVE Clinic with Angela Sims and Erin Schroeder at the site coordinators, and the Northern LVE Clinic with Sam Thuis as Site Coordinators. We have one remaining clinic, which is the Metro Clinic, on February 18-20. We thank Jim Olson and Dr. Kara Hanson, who are finished with their roles with the clinics this year. Erika Ko Andersen and Dr. David Simpson will finish their roles with the Metro Clinic.

We will pilot an electronic version of the Parent / TVI Form for the Metro Clinic. This will help roll up the data for the evaluation team to review ahead of the clinic. This information is vital for preparation for each student.

- Perkins CVI Protocol: An Interactive Training: Over 60 people attended the *Perkins' CVI Protocol* training held on November 12th. Dr. Mary Zatta was our presenter.
- Sound Bites: Sound Bites are monthly virtual training / dialogue sessions based on identified topics of needs. There will be seven Sound Bites this school year. So far, we have offered the *READ Act's Differentiated Pathway for Students with BLV* in October 3; *Digital Math Checklists* on November 13th, and *Low Hanging Technology* on December 5.

Heading into the rest of the school year, we have January 14th on *Making Math Accessible with Morf*, February 11th on *Dispelling Myths When Choosing Braille Code Options for Math and Science*, March 11th to be determined, April 22 on *Low Vision Tests and Their Role*, and May 6th on *What Can You Learn with a Little Information*. We may add a topic here and there as the school year commences.

- CDE O&M Seminar: The Spring 2026 O&M Seminar is in the planning process. Any ideas for topics and presenters should be shared with Tanni.
- Listserves: The CDE ESSU maintains two separate listservs specific to personnel working in BLV programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMSs. The second one is specific to Colorado braillists, which is being updated. 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.
- Keeping in Touch Newsletter: The August—September 2025, October 2025, and November-December KIT newsletters have been posted on the CDE BLV website. Remaining issues for this school year will include the January – February 2026 and the March-May 2026, editions.

TVIs, be sure to share the email messages with the newsletter link with parents, district braillists, and paraeducators. Thank you for ensuring the newsletter information is shared.

- Recruitment and Retention: We have a new TVI in Greeley Schools, Stacy Bevan. We have openings in Aurora School District, Colorado Springs 11, CSDB School for the Blind, CSDB Outreach, A Shared Vision, and possibly more. Please keep in touch with Tanni about expected vacancies.

Please check the Job Page in the KIT for updates on new positions as we continue to have openings. Please share any expected vacancies with Tanni so we can be as proactive as possible with new recruits. Tanni would like to know about people coming up for retirement.

Contract TVI and O&M staff are needed in several AUs. 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.

Agenda Items for Discussion

CDE Blindness/Low Vision Approved Budget for 2026-2027

The following activities are slated for funding request:

- ✓ Braille Competency Testing / Mentor Support
- ✓ CDE O&M Seminar
- ✓ CDE State Conference on Blindness / Low Vision (focus on science)
- ✓ Paraeducator Toolkit
- ✓ CIMC Interagency Agreement
- ✓ Blindness/Low Vision Coalition (no costs but an approved activity)
- ✓ Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- ✓ Sound Bites (monthly virtual trainings)

Discussion Items

ACVREP O&M

What can we do to support people working on the ACVREP O&M Certification?

- Study group
- AER Study Materials
- Facebook: orientation and mobility specialist group
- Quizlet
- People can pay for their online practice test, then study based on those results
- There are quizlets and boom cards for O&M

Paraprofessional: This was an assignment from the last meeting. We wanted to look at competencies that were developed for interveners (Tanni). The CCB is open for paraeducators coming to CCB for training. We do have the Texas book on paraeducators (Tanni will follow up to see about its status – Donna will work to communicate with Cyral Miller). It was suggested that we give recognition for those who participate in the training. This may be the priority workgroup at this time. This group currently is comprised of Tanni, Donna, and Tiffany.

Family Coordination: The goal was to create opportunities for families to connect. This is still brewing. It is hard to find a common spot. There is currently not a Colorado Parents of Blind Children group. There are existing options for parents to gather through our EI entities and CCB, but it is hard to coalesce families in one place / one time due to family logistics. This group is Michelle and Tiffany at this point in time.

Next Virtual Meeting Date: April 29, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Colorado Connections



Braille Competency

We are proud of our Jennifers! Congratulations to **Jennifer Heffington**, a brailist in Boulder Valley School District, **Jennifer Taylor**, a TVI in Cherry Creek School District, and **Jenny Campbell**, a TVI in Littleton School District, for earning their initial CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Also, to Jerad Walker for earning his CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency. Hats off to **Emma Avery, Caitlin Geoffian, Julie Harrison, Jared Walker**, for completing braille renewal modules. Thanks to **Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein** for their proctoring work. Thanks also to **Jo Pinto** for braille proofreading work.

If you are a new in-person or virtual TVI to a Colorado administrative unit have not demonstrated braille competency yet this school year, please reach out to Tanni to learn more and secure an immediate testing date. Thank you to everyone for keeping our standards for braille competency high!

Professional Development Accolades

Thank you to **Dr. Anitha Muthukumaran** and **Dr. Hari Palani** for their excellent and highly informative presentation on *Making Math Accessible with Morf*, which was our January 12 Sound Bite. It was a great way to begin the year. Thanks to the 25 participants who attended this session.

Thank you to **Susanne Morrow** for her outstanding presentation on *Tactile Communication Considerations for Students with Dual Sensory Impairment Loss* which was our January 22 Colorado Deaf-Blind Project's first of three webinars for the remainder of this school year. Such a great opportunity to learn more about Tactile ASL, Haptics, and Protactile Language. Thanks to the 125 participants who attended this session, including DB Project colleagues in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

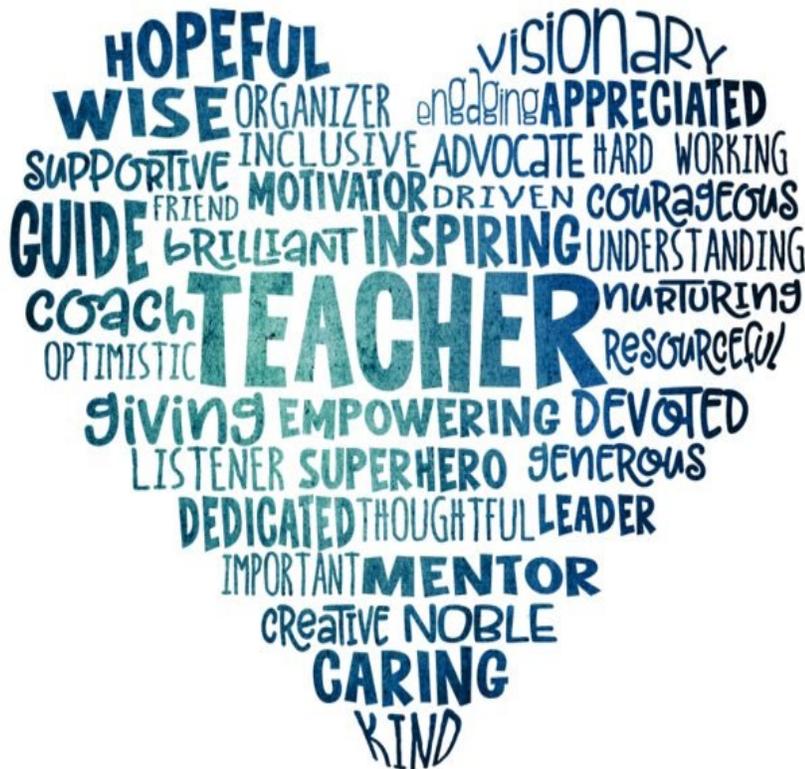
Personnel Updates

Stacy Bevan is a new TVI in Greeley School District! She is originally from Carmel, Indiana. Stacy earned her bachelor's degree in education from Ball State University and completed her vision impairment coursework through Florida State University, which at the time offered an outreach program in Atlanta, Georgia, with courses delivered both in person and online. Stacy has over twenty years of teaching experience, having worked in Georgia, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, and now Colorado. Throughout her career, she has supported students with low vision, blindness, multiple impairments, profound disabilities, and cortical visual impairments, while also instructing students from diverse racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Most of her career has been spent as an itinerant teacher, though Stacy also had the opportunity to teach in an elementary resource program in Cobb County, Georgia, serving braille learners.

Stacy shares that she is excited to join the Greeley District 6 program in Greeley, Colorado, and is grateful for the opportunity to continue growing as a TVI while learning from Colorado's resources and collaborating with fellow professionals in the field. We are so happy to have Stacy in Colorado and with the Greeley 6 team!

Personnel Updates continued

John Howland was recently promoted to Assistant Principal in the School for the Blind. This is John's fourth school year at CSDB where he has been a counselor. He has his master's in counseling and has attended a principal licensure program. Prior to coming to CSDB, he was Program Director for an alternative high school; helping students earn their diplomas and gain work experience. Congratulations to John on this new role!



Welcome to 2026 – A new year for everyone!

There are a handful of months left in the 2025-26 school year. Let's make them GREAT!

Thanks for all you do to teach, inspire, listen, advocate, support, motivate, understand, mentor, lead, nurture, coach, and care for your students.



**Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education**

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