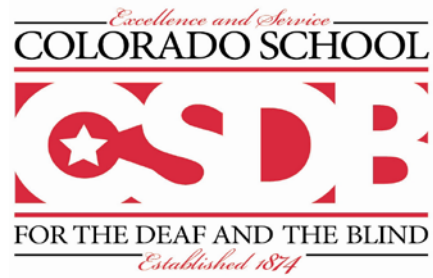


# Annual Report 2014-2015

December 1, 2015



*...Learning, Thriving, Leading*

*The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) provides children and families statewide with comprehensive, specialized educational services in safe, nurturing environments. We empower learners to become self-determined, independent, contributing citizens within their communities.*

## OUR STUDENT BODY

<b>Total Enrollment (0-21)</b>	⇒	<b>545</b>
• Infant/Toddler Program (0-3)	⇒	325
• Residential (3-21)	⇒	82
• Day (3-21)	⇒	138
• Total students (3-21) served on campus throughout the school year	⇒	245
• Direct Outreach	⇒	74
• Attendance Rate	⇒	94%
• Served directly in LEA (3-21)	⇒	4%
• Students enrolled at request of parent	⇒	5%
• Students enrolled at request of district	⇒	95%
• Enrollment stability	⇒	89%
• Average length of stay	⇒	3.54 yrs
• Graduation Rate	⇒	99%
• Dropout Rate	⇒	1%
• Student Contact Days	⇒	174
• Students eligible for free / reduced lunch (3-21)	⇒	132/17



- Students, in the School for the Blind, utilizing Braille as primary literacy mode ⇒ 47%
- Students' communication preferences, in the School for the Deaf, as identified in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs):
 

ASL Only	⇒ 81%	ASL & English	⇒ 6%	English Based	⇒ 2%
Oral & English	⇒ 1%	ASL & Oral	⇒ 5%	ASL/Oral/English	⇒ 5%
- Students, at CSDB, who come from a home where a primary language other than English is used ⇒ 8.8%
- Of 19 high school graduates, 17 planned to enroll in the Bridges to Life Program (BtL), at CSDB, for the 2015-2016 school year. Two students took their diplomas; one will attend a 4-year college, and one will work with the Colorado Center for the Blind to find volunteer work.
- Of the 16 students who exited the Bridges to Life Program throughout the year, 14 completed the program. One planned to continue college, one applied for a 4-year college, ten obtained competitive employment, one enrolled in a supportive work environment, and one worked with The Resource Exchange to apply for supportive work in another state.

CSDB does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, religion, marital status, disability, and genetic information\* in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities in which it operates. The following persons are designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy: Human Resources Manager (employee complaints) / Director of Special Education (student/parent/public complaints), 33 N. Institute Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (Phone: 719-578-2100 / Fax: 719-578-2239).

\*Nondiscrimination in relation to genetic information is applicable to employment only.

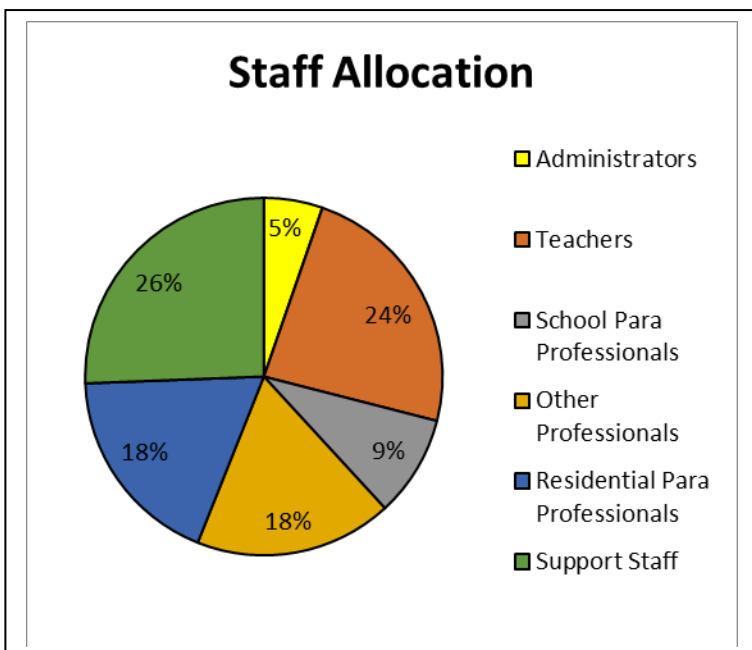
## OUR STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Students, in the School for the Blind, participated in the Optimist Club Zone 10 oratorical competition. One of the students placed 2<sup>nd</sup> which qualified him for regional competition.
- Students, in the School for the Blind, performed in the Black Forest League Honor Choir Festival, involving approximately 200 students. Two of our students were selected to perform solo pieces.
- Four high school students participated in the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Convention Student Leadership strand.
- Ten high school students, in the School for the Deaf, attended the Children of Colorado Conference and Diversity Summit.
- Two students, in the BtL Program, attended the Area Vocational Program at Pikes Peak Community College.
- The BtL Program successfully placed 39 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community. In addition, 14 students obtained competitive employment.
- The On-the-Job Training program (for high school seniors) successfully placed 17 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community, and two students in work-study employment opportunities on the CSDB campus. In addition, three students obtained competitive employment.
- Professional development opportunities were provided for parents and educational staff across the state on the topics of *Navigating Transition: Adult Day Programs* and *Navigating Transition: Post-secondary Education*.
- Freshmen, in the School for the Deaf and in the School for the Blind, participated in Freshmen Job Shadow Day.

## OUR STAFF

- As a 24-hour facility, CSDB employs a wide array of support personnel in addition to education professionals.
- Educational Media/Library Specialist: 1
- Professional Development Days: 11

- Andrea Creedon, Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Preschool), completed a Master's Degree program that resulted in educator licensure/endorsement as a Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired (VA).
- Cassandra (Torrez) Arguilez, Teacher of the Deaf (Elementary), completed a Master's Degree program that resulted in educator licensure/endorsement as a Special Education Specialist, Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH).
- Tera Lynn Gray, Supervisor/Employability Center, obtained her Principal License.



## OUR SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

To positively enhance the learning and living environments, CSDB offers students and their families...

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)</li> <li>✓ Response to Intervention (Rtl) process</li> <li>✓ Counseling programs</li> <li>✓ After-school tutoring program</li> <li>✓ Literacy Around the Clock</li> <li>✓ Summer Enrichment programs</li> <li>✓ Opportunities for leadership</li> <li>✓ Opportunities to participate in athletics</li> <li>✓ Lower teacher/student ratios</li> <li>✓ Individualized instruction and programming</li> <li>✓ Role models who are blind or Deaf</li> <li>✓ Safe, home-like environment in residential areas</li> <li>✓ Student Resident Assistant (SRA) program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bullyproofing education</li> <li>✓ Parent involvement opportunities</li> <li>✓ Home visits</li> <li>✓ Early Years program</li> <li>✓ Sign language classes</li> <li>✓ Student/Parent/Staff Compacts</li> <li>✓ Family Involvement Coordinators</li> <li>✓ Accountability Team</li> <li>✓ Drug prevention program</li> <li>✓ Student Advocates</li> <li>✓ Monthly fire/safety drills</li> <li>✓ Spanish Language Interpreter/Parent Liaison</li> <li>✓ On-the-Job Training program</li> <li>✓ Opportunities to participate in after school activities</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Student Suspension/Expulsion Incidents		
	2013-2014	2014-2015
<b>Suspensions</b>	42	45
<b>Expulsions</b>	0	0

### TECHNOLOGY

- Every classroom, common area, and media center in our education buildings have interactive technology.
- Laptops are available for classroom use and multi-point computers are in nine classrooms. Personal computers are available, in media centers, and portable devices are available for loan to students.
- CSDB has the ability to provide distance education to students, across the state, using video conference/other video technologies in classrooms, as well as offices and conference rooms.
- Teaching staff have portable computers, which were updated spring 2014, for classroom use and lesson preparation.

### CONSTRUCTION

- LED lights were installed in the Adams building, with a control system allowing color, intensity and temperature control.
- A new campus fire alarm was installed.
- CSDB received funding for Jones Hall renovation, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Safety Project and HVAC replacement in the Stone building.



### OUR REVENUE

### OUR EXPENSES

OUR REVENUE			OUR EXPENSES		
<b>Government Grants</b>	\$ 603,895.00	4%	<b>Administration</b>	\$1,573,926.67	10%
<b>Per Pupil Operating</b>	\$ 1,505,635.00	9%	<b>Support</b>	\$3,557,768.96	23%
<b>General Fund Appropriation</b>	\$13,193,665.80	78%	<b>Programs</b>	\$8,669,889.64	55%
<b>Donations/Other Income</b>	\$ 1,536,179.00	9%	<b>Residential</b>	\$1,831,283.31	12%

## SCHOOL PLANNING EFFORTS

- Year Two implementation of the **2013-2016 Strategic Plan**, which focuses on Academics, Independence Beyond the Classroom, Productive Citizens Within the Community, Outreach, and Quality Staff, occurred.
- The **Schoolwide Plan** for school year 2014-2015 identified the following goal areas: (1) Numeracy and Literacy; (2) School Climate and Culture; (3) Family and Community Involvement; and (4) Employability.

## OUR ROLE IN COLORADO

- Outreach Services continued developing informational videos for parents, educators, early intervention providers, and community members related to topics of interest. In addition to the Livestream Channel purchased by CSDB, a YouTube Channel was also used to upload videos related to various aspects of working with children who are Deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired. YouTube Analytics revealed a total of 32,000 minutes viewed this year with 11,700 individual views. Nine role model videos and 10 professional development videos were created and uploaded to the YouTube Channel by CSDB Outreach Staff.
- American Sign Language (ASL) classes continued to be popular, on the CSDB campus, with parents and community members. Three levels of classes were offered: Beginner I, Beginner II and Intermediate.
- Aligned with the CSDB Outreach portion of the Strategic Plan, participants at all events and programs were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the events. Feedback from participants ranged from 87%-100% satisfied or very satisfied, with the activities in which they participated. These events included: a visual language workshop in Montrose and Denver, parent and community ASL classes, and ASL events.
- Outreach staff offered regional professional development workshops to include co-sponsoring family events in Durango and Eagle, Colorado, with Colorado Families for Hands and Voices, in which educational professionals also attended. A “Visual Impairment”, including Blindness 101, training was conducted, on the CSDB campus, with thirty-seven professionals attending. Participants included special education directors, special education teachers, occupational and physical therapists, speech/language therapists, paraprofessionals, and general education teachers. 100% of the participants indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the training.
- CSDB understands the importance of children/students who are Deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired coming together to meet each other and share common experiences. The following events for children/students were sponsored or co-sponsored by CSDB Outreach Services: the Braille Challenge in Colorado Springs and in Denver (co-sponsored by the Colorado Center for the Blind), a Sensory Safari at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, a Fall Festival for families who have children who are blind/visually impaired, two orientation and mobility outings in Denver at Union Station and at Coors Field, a Spanish Family Fiesta in Denver (co-sponsored with the Marion Downs Center), a bowling event in Adams 12 school district and the San Luis Valley, an orientation and mobility scavenger hunt in the Mountain BOCES, Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Camp (co-sponsored with the Colorado Center for the Blind), a swimming activity for students in the Aurora School District, and Early Years and parent group events in Denver (co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Deaf School).

### Colorado Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (CIMC)

The CIMC supplied books, in Braille format, as well as instructional materials to students who are blind/visually impaired, in public schools throughout Colorado. The CIMC purchased and produced books to meet the needs of these students.

	2013-2014	2014-2015
<b>Students age 0-21 identified with a qualifying educational disability of Visual Impairment, including Blindness</b>	1195	1185
<b>Students age 0-21, on the January 2013 Federal Quota count, of eligible students who meet the definition of blindness</b>	632 (Jan 2014 Count)	531 (Jan 2015 Count)
<b>Textbook and novel requests fulfilled in Braille and large print format</b>	588	690

## Early Education Programs

- The Colorado Home Intervention Program (CHIP) continued to serve an average of 337 children who are Deaf/hard of hearing, between the ages of birth and three. These children are served through home intervention, in partnership with Community Center Boards throughout the state, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a variety of other agencies in the state.
- Early Literacy Development Initiative Projects served an average of 85 families, on a weekly basis, with tutoring in literacy development principles and communication strategies.
- In the El Paso and Teller Counties, home intervention was provided, by CSDB teachers of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialists, to an average of 18 families a month who have children who are blind/visually impaired. Two trainings, focusing on the early development of visual language, were provided in Denver and in Montrose, for parents and educators/early interventionists who work with young children who are Deaf/hard of hearing.



## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) MEASURES

### Teaching/Paraprofessional Staff

- Paraprofessional staff who meet the highly qualified requirements under the NCLB Law = 100%
- Teaching staff are highly qualified under NCLB as follows:
  1. Core Content
    - Teaching staff who are highly qualified = 100%
    - Classes taught by a teacher not highly qualified in their core content = 0%
  2. Special Education
    - Teaching staff who are highly qualified = 95%
    - Core content classes taught by a teacher not highly qualified as a Special Education Teacher = 1%
- Teaching staff who are highly qualified in both their core content area and as a Special Education teacher = 95%.
- Core content teaching staff holding an Emergency, Interim, or Initial teaching credential = 30%

Professional Qualification of Core Content Teachers	Percent of Teachers
Bachelors Degree	18%
Masters Degree	78%
Ph.D.	4%

### School Accreditation and Accountability

- CSDB continues to have district-wide Alternative Education Campus designation by the Colorado Department of Education.
- CSDB continues to be fully accredited and received the top rating of “Performance”, on its accreditation profile.
- CSDB continues to collect and analyze data in the areas of individual student growth and uses this information to guide instruction using the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) model.
- CSDB is a Title I Focus School, due to the performance and growth gaps of our students compared to typical peers.

## 2015 District Level AEC Results

CSDB is an Alternative Education Campus (AEC) and receives an Alternative Education Campus School Performance Framework annually. CSDB earned the top plan type of Performance for the 2014 District Performance Framework for accreditation. The performance indicators that CSDB is measured on include academic achievement, academic growth, student engagement, and postsecondary workforce readiness. In each of these areas CSDB received a rating of exceeds, meets, approaching, or does not meet. Due to changes in assessments administered in Colorado, districts did not receive a rating for the 2014-2015 school year. The accreditation rating from the 2014 District Performance Framework remains the same for the 2014-2015 school year.

### Colorado Measures of Academic Success: CMAS Science and Social Studies

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) students participated in the state CMAS and CMAS Alternate assessments in the spring of 2015. Elementary (fourth-grade social studies and seventh-grade science) and middle school (seventh-grade social studies and eighth-grade science) participated in the assessment. The tests are based on Colorado-developed standards in science and social studies and the tests reflect rigorous learning expectations. The student performance levels for this assessment are distinguished command, strong command, moderate command and limited command. Twenty-one (21) students took the CMAS assessment in the area of social studies, and twenty (20) students took the CMAS in the area of science. In addition, four (4) took the CMAS Alternate assessment in Social Studies, and two (2) took the Alternate assessment in Science.

The 2015 CMAS results indicate that the percentage of students who scored at the moderate command or higher were 5% in Social Studies and 15% in Science. The table below reflects the percentage of students scoring in each performance level for CSDB, the statewide average for all students, and the statewide average for students on Individual Education Plans (IEP). Due to statistical reliability, only those grades that had a number of students (n) of 16 or greater are included.

Content Area	Grade Level	Students	Number of Students (N)	Performance Levels			
				% Limited Command	% Moderate Command	% Strong Command	% Distinguished Command
Social Studies	4	CSDB	6	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg		71.1	25.0	3.5	0.4
		State Average		29.9	48.3	18.2	3.6
	7	CSDB	15	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg		86.5	12.0	1.4	0.2
		State Average		43.5	38.9	13.0	4.5

Content Area	Grade Level	Students	Number of Students (N)	Performance Levels			
				% Limited Command	% Moderate Command	% Strong Command	% Distinguished Command
Science	5	CSDB	7	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg		69.2	22.8	7.5	0.5
		State Average		29.1	36.1	30.4	4.4
	8	CSDB	13	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg		82.0	13.8	3.9	0.2
		State Average		36.7	34.2	26.5	2.5

## Colorado Measures of Academic Success: CMAS English Language Arts and Mathematics (PARCC)

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) students participated in the state CMAS (PARCC) English Language Arts and Mathematics assessment in the spring of 2015. Students in grades 3 – 11 participated in the PARCC assessment. The PARCC assessment aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards and measures a student's progress toward mastery of the standards. They also measure complex skills such as critical-thinking and problem solving. For each test, students receive a numerical score and then, based on that score, students are ranked from Level 1 to Level 5. Level 1 indicates that a student is not yet meeting grade level expectations, Level 2 indicates the student is partially meeting expectations, Level 3 indicates the student is approaching expectations, Level 4 indicates the student is meeting expectations, and Level 5 indicates the student is exceeding expectations. Ninety-six (96) students took the CMAS assessment in the area of English Language Arts, and ninety-three (93) students took the CMAS in the area of Mathematics.

The 2015 CMAS results indicate that the percentage of students who were partially meeting expectations or higher were 25% in English Language Arts, and 36% in Math. The table below reflects the percentage of students scoring in each performance level for CSDB, the statewide average for all students, and the statewide average for students on Individual Education Plans (IEP). Due to statistical reliability, only those grades that had a number of students (n) of 16 or greater are included.

Content Area	Grade Level	Students	# of Students (N)	Performance Levels				
				% Did Not Yet Meet Expectation (Level 1)	% Partially Met Expectations (Level 2)	% Approached Expectations (Level 3)	% Met Expectations (Level 4)	% Exceeded Expectations (Level 5)
ELA	3	CSDB	6	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6148	61.9	18.2	11.5	*	*
		State Average	62675	19.6	19.0	23.2	34.6	3.6
	4	CSDB	6	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6550	48.9	27.1	15.8	*	*
		State Average	62329	11.5	18.6	28.2	33.9	7.8
	5	CSDB	7	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6648	46.1	32.6	14.6	*	*
		State Average	61954	11.2	19.9	28.4	37.3	3.2
	6	CSDB	12	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6395	49.3	30.3	14.8	*	*
		State Average	60844	11.6	19.4	30.0	33.5	5.6
	7	CSDB	14	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	5808	55.7	24.8	13.4	*	*
		State Average	57343	15.2	18.6	25.2	29.5	11.5
	8	CSDB	12	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	5430	56.9	25.6	11.2	*	*
		State Average	54533	15.3	18.8	25.0	33.7	7.3
	9	CSDB	11	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	4306	52.7	28.4	12.8	*	*
		State Average	45844	16.1	20.7	25.4	30.5	7.3
	10	CSDB	15	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	3555	62.7	19.6	10.7	*	*
		State Average	38372	23.1	18.4	21.1	27.1	10.3
	11	CSDB	13	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	2568	48.0	28.1	16.9	*	*
		State Average	29719	17.5	19.0	23.7	29.2	10.7

\*Values for these fields are not displayed in order to ensure student privacy.

Content Area	Grade Level	Students	# of Students (N)	Performance Levels				
				% Did Not Yet Meet Expectation (Level 1)	% Partially Met Expectations (Level 2)	% Approached Expectations (Level 3)	% Met Expectations (Level 4)	% Exceeded Expectations (Level 5)
Math	3	CSDB	6	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6283	47.0	27.4	15.7	*	*
		State Average	63766	14.1	22.2	27.0	31.0	5.7
	4	CSDB	6	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6557	46.3	33.8	13.3	*	*
		State Average	62329	13.2	27.1	29.5	27.9	2.3
	5	CSDB	7	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6672	47.9	33.8	12.6	*	*
		State Average	61917	13.6	26.7	29.6	26.3	3.8
	6	CSDB	12	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	6373	48.1	34.8	11.8	*	*
		State Average	60750	12.9	26.2	29.2	28.1	3.6
	7	CSDB	14	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	5796	38.8	41.7	14.8	*	*
		State Average	55346	10.2	28.6	33.8	25.5	2.0
	8	CSDB	12	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	5249	60.6	25.9	9.1	*	*
		State Average	40562	26.0	29.8	25.3	17.8	1.1
	Alg 1	CSDB	24	54.0	42.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
		IEP State Avg	444.	38.8	45.5	11.6	*	*
		State Average	41791	14.7	29.2	25.8	28.6	1.7
	Geo	CSDB	2	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	2249	28.9	52.4	13.9	*	*
		State Average	29609	9.6	34.1	32.4	22.0	2.0
	Alg II	CSDB	10	X	X	X	X	X
		IEP State Avg	1202	63.1	21.3	9.3	*	*
		State Average	23434	27.2	23.9	21.1	26.0	1.7

\*Values for these fields are not displayed in order to ensure student privacy.

### Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind ACT Results

CSDB			Colorado		
Number of students	Year	Composite	Number of students	Year	Composite
22	2013	15.9	52,703	2013	20.1
18	2014	13.4	53442	2014	20.3
13	2015	14.4	54439	2015	20.1