

Annual Report 2015-2016

December, 2016



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

Total Enrollment (0-21)	485
• Infant/Toddler Program (0-3)	286
• Residential (3-21)	77
• Day (3-21)	122
• Total students (3-21) served on campus throughout the school year	220
• Direct Outreach (K-12)	84
• Attendance Rate	94%
• Students enrolled at request of parent	5%
• Students enrolled at request of district	95%
• Enrollment stability	89%
• Average length of stay	3.71 yrs
• Graduation Rate	99%
• Dropout Rate	1%
• Student Contact Days	184
• Students eligible for free / reduced lunch (3-21)	132/17



- Students, in the School for the Blind, utilizing Braille as primary literacy mode 60%
- 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 6.5%
- Of 19 high school graduates, 17 planned to enroll in the Bridges to Life Program (BtL), at CSDB, for the 2016-2017 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.
- 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 supported work in another state.

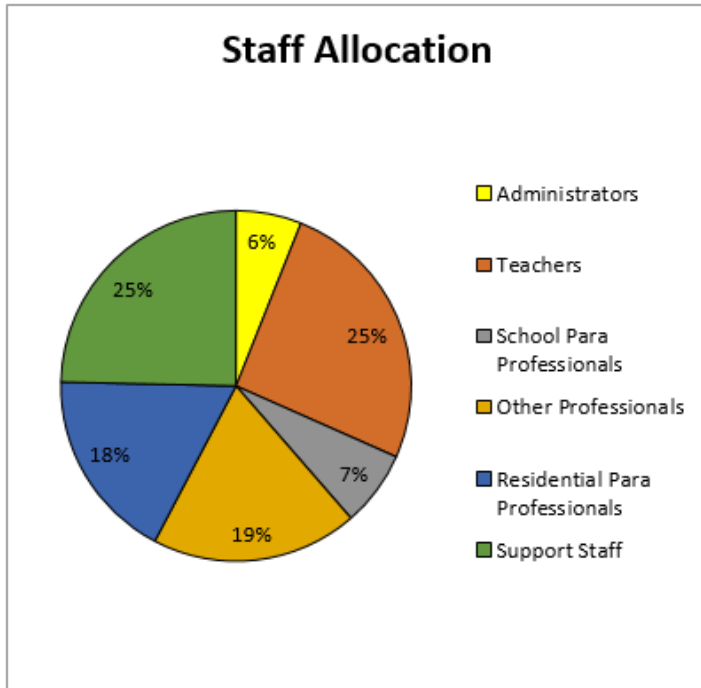
CSDB does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, religion, marital status, disability, and genetic information* in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities in which it operates. 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 high school Drama class performed monologues at a local bookstore, Mountain Fold Books.
- Three high school students, in the School for the Deaf, participated in a local high school art ceiling tile competition. The CSDB ASL tile came in first place online and third place in the gallery.
- One high school student, in the School for the Deaf, won second place in the National Deaf Visual Image Art (DeVIA) competition.
- Four high school students, in the School for the Deaf, attended the Junior National Association of the Deaf Youth Leadership retreat.
- Two students, in the School for the Blind, attended Close-Up in Washington, D.C.
- One student, in the School for the Blind, attended the National Skills USA competition for vocational programs, after placing second in the regional competition.
- Our Bulldog Band performed at the Arts and Business Luncheon, in Colorado Springs.
- Four high school students participated in the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Convention-Student Leadership strand.
- Three students, in the Bridges-to-Life (BtL) Program, and one student, in the School for the Blind, attended the Area Vocational Program at Pikes Peak Community College.
- The BtL Program successfully placed 34 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community. In addition, 12 students obtained competitive employment.
- The On-the-Job Training program (for high school seniors) successfully placed 15 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community. One student obtained competitive employment.

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



- Kyle Berns, Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Mathematics), completed a Master's Degree that resulted in educator licensure/endorsement as a Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired (VI).
- Tera Wilkins, Program Administrator/Family-Centered Early Education Program, obtained her Principal License.
- Kyle Berns, Amy Gunning, Donna Keale, Jamie Lugo, Lori Mattick, Sara Noel, and Marty Rahn demonstrated competency in reading and writing Unified English Braille (literacy), per the standards established for implementation of the Exceptional Children's Education Act concerning achievement of literacy by children who are blind.

OUR SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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

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

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Suspensions	45	120
Expulsions	0	0

TECHNOLOGY

- CSDB has instituted a “1 to world” program providing a personal device to students. Each student is assigned an appropriate device to meet educational needs. Currently, CSDB is using iPads, Google Chrome books, and Microsoft Surface tablets.
- Every classroom, common area, and media center in the education buildings have interactive technology.
- CSDB has the ability to provide distance education to students, across the state, using video conference/other video technologies in classrooms, as well as in offices and conference rooms.
- Teaching staff have portable computers and the ability to connect wired and wirelessly to the interactive LCD monitors in each classroom.

CONSTRUCTION

- CSDB is renovating Jones Hall to provide a new home for the Colorado Instructional Material Center (CIMC), guest housing and a low vision center.
- CSDB received funding for the renovation of Palmer Hall. An internal team is working with design professionals, to complete the design. Construction is expected to begin, in the summer of 2017.
- CSDB completed the first phase of the safety project. This included a new parking area, to relocate parking to the exterior of campus, security fencing to augment the existing perimeter fence, additional card access controls, and high impact security film installed on glass entrance doors and nearby windows.



OUR REVENUE

Government Grants	\$659,652.00	4%
Per Pupil Operating	\$1,610,894.00	10%
General Fund Appropriation	\$14,397,450.00	85%
Donations/Other Income	\$180,516.00	1%

OUR EXPENSES

Administration	\$1,707,847.09	11%
Support	\$3,010,885.29	19%
Programs	\$9,063,838.47	55%
Residential	\$2,451,502.24	15%

SCHOOL PLANNING EFFORTS

- Year Three implementation of the **2013-2016 Strategic Plan**, which focused on Academics, Independence Beyond the Classroom, Productive Citizens Within the Community, Outreach, and Quality Staff, was completed.
- Development of the **2016-2019 Strategic Plan**, which focuses on Academics, Independence Beyond the Classroom, Productive Citizens Within the Community, Outreach, and Quality Staff, occurred, involving internal and external stakeholders.
- The **Schoolwide Plan** for school year 2015-2016 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 staff added (a variety of videos) to the CSDB YouTube playlist related to aspects of working with children who are Deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired, including American Sign Language “Signs of the Month” and “Come Learn ASL” instructional videos. YouTube Analytics revealed a total of 85,000 minutes or 1,416 hours of viewer time, this year, which is an increase of 145% from last year. A total of 28,500 streams, this year, is an increase of 128% from last year. A partnership was developed with the Southern Colorado Public Television Consortium which provided an opportunity for CSDB broadcasts to be aired on public television, in the Pikes Peak viewing area. Two of the video clips were given an ‘Excellence Award’ by the Colorado School Public Relations Association (CSPRA).
- American Sign Language (ASL) classes, on the CSDB campus, continued to be popular with parents and community members.
- Aligned with the Outreach portion of the CSDB Strategic Plan, participants at all events and programs were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the events they attended. Feedback from participants ranged from 97%-100% satisfied or very satisfied, with the activities in which they participated.
- The CSDB Outreach Department partnered with the Colorado Families for Hands and Voices organization to support the “Mom’s Nite Inn” event. CSDB Outreach staff and staff from the Family-Centered Early Education program offered a Deafness 101 training, for early intervention providers who work with The Resource Exchange.
- 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, on the CSDB campus; a Spanish Family Fiesta, in Denver (co-sponsored with the Marion Downs Center); bowling events (Adams 12 School District, San Luis Valley, Aurora Public Schools, South Central BOCES in Trinidad); a swimming activity for students in the Aurora School District; the Northern Colorado Host Day; and Early Years Literacy & Parent group events, in Denver (co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Deaf School, Northern Colorado and the Pikes Peak Region).
- CSDB continues to provide contract teacher of the deaf services, teacher of the visually impaired services and orientation and mobility (O&M) services to school districts, Boards of Cooperative Education Services, and charter schools who are unable to hire teachers or O&M specialists in their areas of the state. 117 students were served through contracts, during the 15-16 school year.

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.

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Students age 0-21 identified with a qualifying educational disability of Visual Impairment, Including Blindness (VIIB)	1185	1173
Students age 0-21, on the January Federal Quota count of eligible students who meet the definition of blindness	632 (Jan 2014 Count)	531 (Jan 2015 Count)
Textbook and novel requests fulfilled in braille and large print format	690	562

Early Education Programs

- The Colorado Home Intervention Program (CHIP) continued to serve an average of 321 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 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 14 families a month who have children who are blind/visually impaired.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) MEASURES

Teaching/Paraprofessional Staff

- Paraprofessional staff who meet the highly-qualified requirements under the NCLB Law = (12) 100%
- Teaching staff are highly qualified under NCLB as follows:
 1. Core Content
 - Teaching staff who are highly qualified = (26) 100%
 - Classes taught by a teacher not highly qualified in their core content = (0) 0%
 2. Special Education
 - Teaching staff who are highly qualified = (23) 88%
 - Core content classes taught by a teacher not highly qualified as a Special Education Teacher = (12) 11%
- Teaching staff who are highly qualified in both their core content area and as a Special Education teacher = (23) 88%.
- Core content teaching staff holding an Emergency, Interim, or Initial teaching credential = (8) 31%

Professional Qualification of Core Content Teachers	Percent of Teachers
Bachelors Degree	(4) 15%
Masters Degree	(22) 85%
Ph.D.	(0) 0%

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.

2016 School Performance

CSDB is an Alternative Education Campus (AEC) and receives an AEC School Performance Framework annually. The performance indicators measured include academic achievement, academic growth, student engagement, and postsecondary workforce readiness, and CSDB receives a rating for each of these indicators. In the areas of academic achievement and academic growth, CSDB uses required state assessment measures to include CMAS, PARCC and ACT, as well as NWEA MAP as an optional measure. Based on the performance indicator ratings, CSDB receives an overall plan type of either AEC Performance, AEC Improvement, AEC Priority Improvement, or AEC Turnaround. CSDB received a rating of AEC Performance on the 2016 AEC School Performance Framework. The chart below summarizes the performance indicators and ratings for each area.

Performance Indicator	2016 Rating	2016 % of Pts Earned
Academic Achievement	Approaching	41.2%
Academic Growth	Approaching	47.8%
Student Engagement	Meets	75.0%
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness	Meets	75.0%
Plan Type	AEC Performance	60.43%

For a full report of school performance accountability information required by federal law, please visit the Colorado Department of Education website, [within the SchoolView Data center](#).