

Annual Report 2017-2018

December 2018



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)	567
• Infant/Toddler Program (0-3)	371
• Residential (3-21)	77
• Day (3-21)	119
• Total students (3-21) served on campus throughout the school year	210
• Direct Outreach (K-12)	102
• Attendance rate	92.5%
• LEA supported student placement	96%
• Enrollment stability	82.9%
• Average length of stay	4.07 yrs.
• Graduation Rate	99%
• Dropout Rate	1%
• Student Contact Days	184
• Students eligible for free / reduced lunch (3-21)	105/19



- Students, in the School for the Blind, utilizing Braille as their primary literacy mode 54%
- Students' communication preferences, in the School for the Deaf, as identified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs):
 - ASL Only 60%
 - ASL & Oral 5%
 - Minimal Language/Gestures 7%
 - Oral & English 8%
 - English-based 2%
 - ASL & English 6%
 - ASL/Oral/English 17%
- Students, at CSDB, who come from a home where a primary language other than English is used 14%
- Of 15 high school graduates, fourteen will enroll in the Bridges to Life Program (BtL), at CSDB, for the 2018-19 school year. One student took his diploma and has gained employment.
- Of the 6 students who exited the Bridges to Life Program, throughout the year, six completed the program. One attends college, four earned competitive employment, and one participates in athletic activities with her local Community Center Board.

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and its Board are committed to providing a safe learning and work environment where all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. CSDB does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or veteran status. Accordingly, no otherwise qualified student, employee, applicant for employment or member of the public shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, or unwelcome behavior under any CSDB program or activity on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or veteran status. The following persons are designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy: Chelle Lutz, Human Resources Manager (employee complaints) /Kathy Emter, Director of Special Education (student/parent/public complaints) at CSDB, 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.

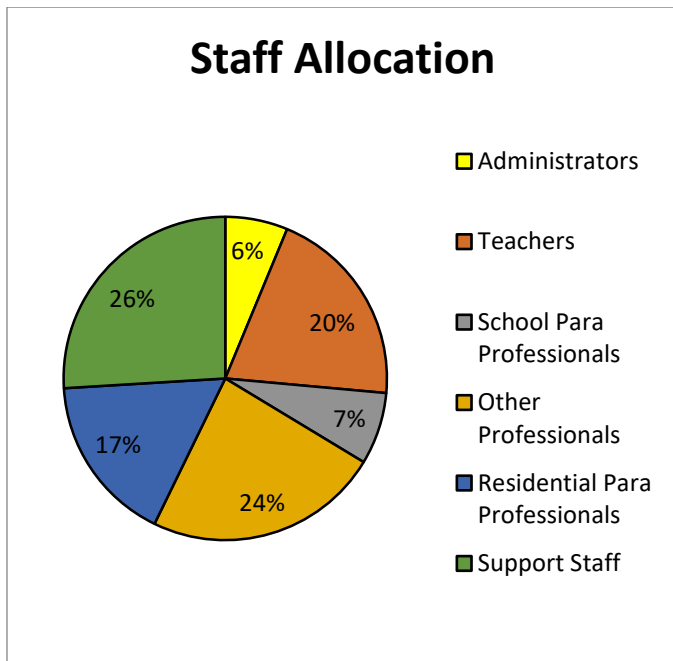
OUR STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- For the first time, Family-Centered Early Education (FCEE) (Preschool – 2nd grade) Spring Parent / Teacher Conferences were held on campus, off campus, and in families' homes to support families with a time and place that best met their needs (participation rate of 92%).
- FCEE Preschool earned a Colorado Shines Qualistar program quality rating of Level 2.
- Six high school students, from both schools, attended the 11th Annual Children of Color Conference. This year, a middle school student, from the School for the Deaf, attended as well.
- Eight middle school and high school students, in the School for the Blind, participated in a oratorical contest sponsored by the Optimist Club. Three students advanced to the district contest earning a medal and cash prize. One of our students then advanced to the district contest.
- Eight high school students, in the School for the Deaf, participated in a speech/oratorical contest sponsored by the Optimist Club. Three students advanced to the district contest earning certificates and medals. One of these students won the district competition.
- Two high school students, in the School for the Blind, attended Close Up in Washington, D.C.
- Seven students, from both schools, attended the Cherry Creek Diversity Conference.
- The School for the Blind had a student audition and make the All-State Choir, for the first time. The upper elementary students performed at the Pike's Peak Center, as a singular choir, for the first time. Students performed a musical for which they created the script and the music.
- Four high school students, in the School for the Deaf, participated in the West Regional Academic Bowl (competition) in California.
- The School for the Blind held the 2nd Annual Cane Quest, in May 2018. Third through sixth grade students competed in orientation and mobility tasks, across campus.
- Four high school students, from both schools, participated in the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Convention-Student Leadership strand.
- One student, in the Bridges to Life (BtL) program, and one student in the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program, attended the Career Start Program, at Pikes Peak Community College.
- One student was accepted into a 5-week LeaderQuest Computer Training Program.
- The BtL and Supported BtL programs successfully placed 29 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community. In addition, 8 students obtained competitive employment.
- The OJT and Supported OJT programs (for high school seniors) successfully placed 14 students in work-study employment opportunities, within the local community. One student obtained competitive employment.



OUR STAFF

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



- Cynthia Hirst has completed the Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential 2.0 earning an Early Childhood Professional III credential through Colorado Shines
- Christina Jones (Transition Teacher / Employability Center) completed a Master's Degree program that will result in educator licensure / endorsement as a Special Education Specialist: Deaf/Hard of Hearing.
- Jayme Cusimano (TVI / Outreach Programs) 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...

- ✓ Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)
- ✓ Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- ✓ Counseling programs
- ✓ After-school tutoring program
- ✓ Summer Enrichment programs
- ✓ Opportunities for leadership
- ✓ Opportunities to participate in athletics
- ✓ Lower teacher/student ratios
- ✓ Individualized instruction and programming
- ✓ Opportunity to participate in Deaf Academic Bowl competition
- ✓ Life Skills classes
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Braille Classes

Student Suspension/Expulsion Incidents

Type of Incident	2016-2017	2017-2018
Suspensions	110	58
Expulsions	0	0

TECHNOLOGY

- CSDB continues to provide a personal device to students. Each student is assigned an appropriate device to meet educational needs. CSDB continues to use iPads, Google Chromebooks, and Microsoft Surface tablets.
- CSDB continues to maintain the interactive technology program. This includes LCD screens and projectors, with interactive connection to the staff and student devices, in learning environments, common areas, and the media center in the education buildings.
- CSDB has the ability to provide distance education to students, across the state, using video conference/other video technologies in learning environments, 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 learning environments, as well as monitor or share the display of each student device.

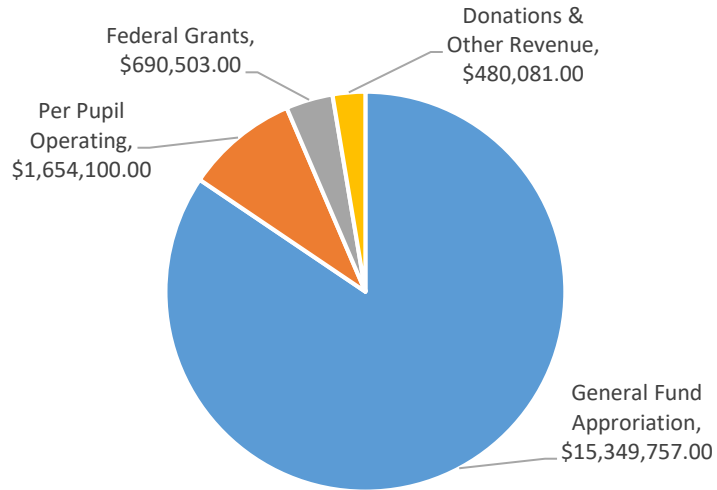


CONSTRUCTION

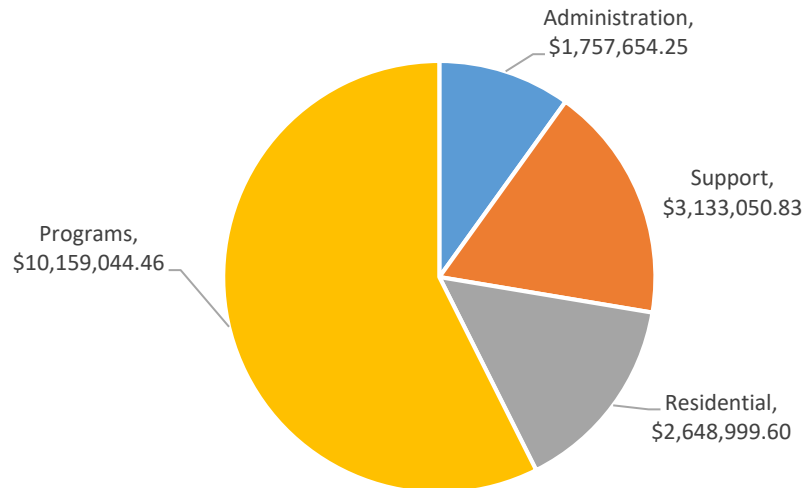
- CSDB is renovating Palmer Hall. The function of Palmer Hall, when complete, will be to provide housing and learning environments for students in the Bridges to Life program.
- CSDB continues to focus on staff and student safety.
- Campus card access and communication systems continue to be expanded, to provide a safer environment.



Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Revenue for Fiscal Year 2017-18



Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017-2018



SCHOOL PLANNING

- Year Two implementation of the **2016-2019 Strategic Plan** occurred, focusing on Academics, Independence Beyond the Classroom, Productive Citizens Within the Community, Outreach, and Quality Staff.
- The **Schoolwide Plan**, for school year 2017-2018, identified the following goal areas: (1) Numeracy and Literacy; (2) School Climate and Culture; (3) Family and Community Involvement; and (4) Employability.

Numeracy and Literacy:

- FCEE Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 85% of students demonstrated growth on the Development Reading Assessment (DRA-2) Literacy assessment, 93% of students demonstrated growth on the STAR Math assessment.
- NWEA MAP Growth assessment is administered to identified students in grades 3-12 in the fall, winter, and spring. The percentage of students who demonstrated growth on the assessments, in the areas of Reading, Language, Math, and Science, by program, are below:
 - School for the Deaf 3rd – 8th Grade Program: Reading 68%, Language 80%, Math 76%, Science 67%
 - School for the Deaf 9th – 12th Grade Program: Reading 50%, Language 56%, Math 42%, Science 59%
 - School for the Deaf 3rd – 12th Grade Program: Reading 65%, Language 81%, Math 67%, Science 76%

Schoolwide Climate and Culture:

Both objectives were met, this year, including promoting a positive schoolwide climate relative to bully awareness/prevention. More than 80% of students and staff, involved in bully prevention training, reported an increase in understanding of bully behaviors and intervention. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) strategies, across campus, including targeted PBIS interventions, resulted in an overall reduction of Office Discipline Referrals by 18%.

Family and Community Involvement:

- FCEE: 96%
- School for the Deaf 3rd – 8th grade: 41%
- School for the Deaf 9th – 12th grade: 46%
- School for the Blind 3rd – 12th grade: 73%

Employability:

79% of the students, who graduated, met their post-secondary education/work goal.

OUR ROLE IN COLORADO

- CSDB Teachers of the Deaf, Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists provide direct and consultation services to students in school districts, Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), and charter school through contracts until the entities hire qualified staff to serve their students who are Deaf or Visually Impaired. Staff also conduct specialized assessments when school districts do not have qualified staff or when an Independent Education Evaluation (IEE) is requested.
- One hundred twenty-nine education professionals, parents and community members participated in CSDB's American Sign Language (ASL) classes. Additionally, a "level 4" class was offered, at the request of stakeholders, to 8 individuals with advanced ASL skills.
- The Outreach Distance Learning team created and disseminated video content related to ASL instruction, deaf culture and deaf role models to five educational television stations in Colorado, including the Thompson Valley and Avon/Vail areas. Videos addressing needs of students who are visually impaired were also available to stations in five areas of the state and through CSDB's YouTube Channel.
- Activities for students who are Deaf who live in Pueblo and in Eagle County were supported by CSDB Outreach to bring students together for fun and to share their similar experiences.

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.

School Year 2017-2018

- Students age 0-21 identified with a qualifying educational disability of Visual Impairment, Including Blindness (VIIB) – 1,268
- Students age 0-21, on the January Federal Quota count of eligible students who meet the definition of blindness – 910 (January 2017 count)
- Textbook and novel requests fulfilled in braille and large print format – 237

EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Colorado Regional Hearing Coordinators (CO-Hears) employed by CSDB provided services to a monthly average of 318 children, birth to three years, who are deaf/hard of hearing.
- A total of 56 early interventionists who provide services to children who are deaf/hard of hearing participated in two trainings offered through CSDB Outreach's early education programs. The trainings focused on "Supporting Infant Mental Health" and "Moving intervention from research to practice".
- In-home Language and Literacy support was provided to 107 families through the Colorado Shared Reading Project (CSRP).
- Two events, "Sensory Safari" and the "Fall Festival", for visually impaired children and their families were offered to 24 family members and allowed them to share their common experiences.
- Twenty-four early literacy events were offered in various areas of the state with 304 families represented at those events.

2018 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

CSDB is an Alternative Education Campus (AEC) and receives an AEC School Performance Framework annually. The performance indicators that are 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 both required state assessment measures to include CMAS and PARCC, and PSAT and SAT, as well as optional measures including NWEA MAP and post-completion success rate. Based upon 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 2018 AEC School Performance Framework. The chart below summarizes the performance indicators and ratings for each area.

Performance Indicator	2018 Rating	2018 % of Pts Earned
Academic Achievement	Does Not Meet	24.9%
Academic Growth	Approaching	42.3%
Student Engagement	Meets	75.0%
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness	Meets	65.0%
Plan Type	AEC Improvement	53.05%

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 at www.schoolview.org/performance.asp.