

P.R.I.D.E

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

## A message from Interim Superintendent Tera Spangler

Dear CSDB Community and Friends,

I am honored to present the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind's annual report for the school year 2021-2022. Since beginning my role as Interim Superintendent, in April 2022, I am amazed by the ability of CSDB staff, students, and our stakeholders to adapt to change, and come together. I have often said CSDB is more than just a school, more than just a job; it is a community, and this was proven true this year. CSDB is fortunate to have such dedicated, resilient staff members continuing to give their best for our students and families.

Throughout the school year, CSDB was presented with challenges related to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Staffing shortages continued to be an obstacle, and staff members demonstrated flexibility and teamwork to ensure that classes continued.



The annual report provides just a snapshot of the incredible programs and services that CSDB provides to students, families, and the community, both on-campus and statewide. As you read the report, I hope you recognize the incredible hard work that has been done to provide the best education and services we can for our students. A quote by Thomas C. Murray sums this up perfectly. "The work is hard, but our students are worth it." I couldn't agree more, and as we strive to continue to provide programs and services of excellence, I keep this at the forefront.

*Tera Spangler*

Tera Spangler  
Interim Superintendent

### **CSDB P.R.I.D.E.**

Positive Attitude, Respect, Independence,  
Determination, Excellence

## CSDB Board of Trustees



*From left top: Teresa Raiford, Martin Becerra-Miranda, Allan Ward, Chair, Paul Foster, CDE Ex-Officio Member*

*From lower left: Michelle A. Samuels, PhD, Vice-Chair, Walter Vonfeldt, Meghan Klassen, M.Ed.  
(Mike Merrifield, not pictured)*

Thank you to Dr. Michelle Samuels and Mr. Walter Vonfeldt for eight years of volunteer service on the CSDB Board of Trustees!!

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), in collaboration with families, school districts and community partners, educates and inspires learners throughout the state, birth through age 21, to achieve their full potential through comprehensive, individualized academic, transition, residential and outreach programs and resources.



*"CSDB continues to make important differences in SO MANY wonderful Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired youth!!*

*THANKS 🙏 to EVERYONE, from the dorms and kitchen staff, to the grounds and building staff!!*

*KUDOS!!"*

*~Community member*

*"A fabulous 'school' (CSDB is so much more than just a school!) ...A FABULOUS COMMUNITY of dedicated, caring, skilled, folks who all come together to celebrate, support, and improve the lives of Deaf, Blind and Deafblind students from all around the state & beyond!! CSDB gives a "solid foundation to build on!" ~ Kim, a former CSDB teacher for 27 years*



# CSD B Profile and Demographics

## Student Demographics (2021)

Hispanic	46%
White	37%
Asian	5%
Black	9%
2+ Races	3%

## Our student body

- Average length of stay 4.8 years
- Eligible for free/reduced lunch 64%
- Student contact days 185 scheduled

## Graduation Rate

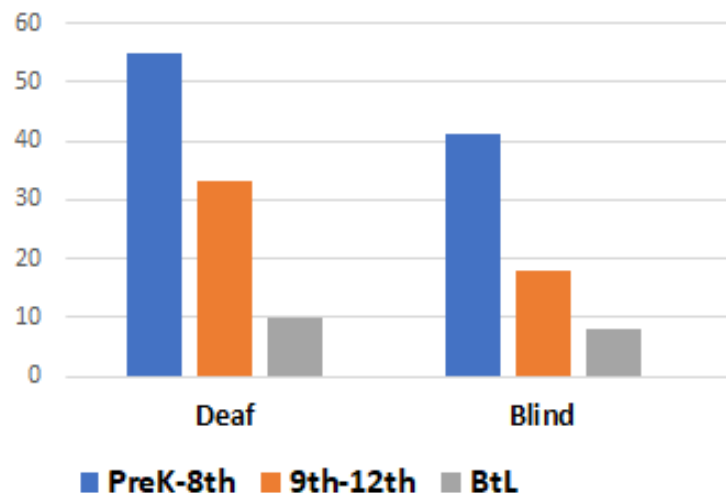
4-YEAR  
GRADUATION RATE

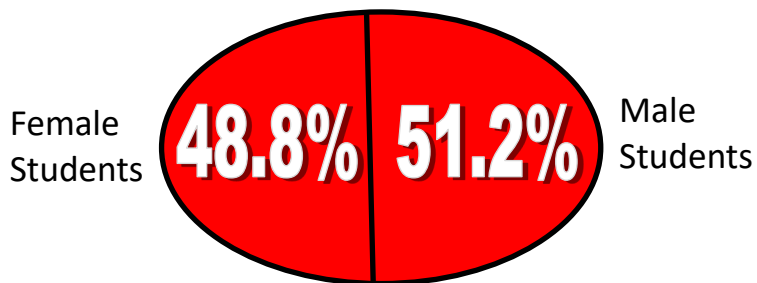
94.4%

COLORADO STATE  
AVERAGE  
GRADUATION RATE

81.7%

## Enrollment by Program (on-campus)

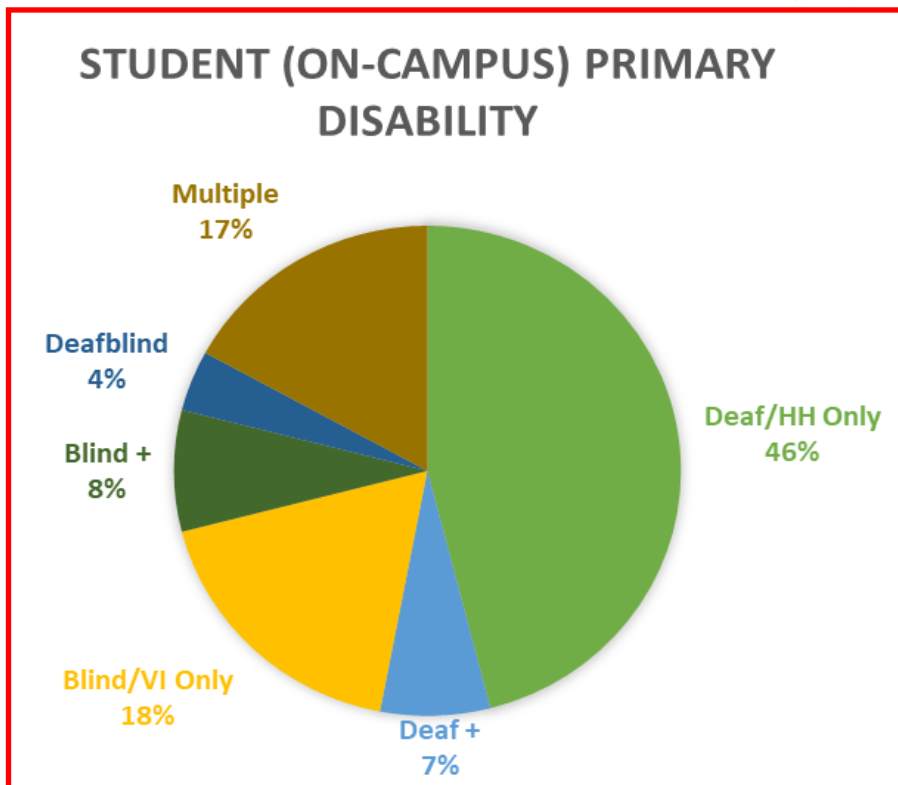




*"Congratulations to the talented students and the faculty at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. The professionals, paraprofessionals and all of the support staff work very hard to develop best solutions and education for the students." ~Community member*



*Students in a group waving*



Students, served by school districts in Colorado, who require a specialized unique learning environment in the area of deafness and/or vision loss, as outlined in their current Individual Education Program (IEP), may be eligible to enroll as a student, if the needs can be met in the environment, at CSDB.

## School Performance Frameworks

### Plan Type

**AEC: Improvement**

**47.53/80.00**  
Points Earned

### Indicator Rating Totals

Indicator	% of Points Earned	Pts Earned/ Eligible	Rating	Performance <b>59.41%</b>
Academic Achievement	25.07%	3.76/15.00	Does Not Meet	
Academic Growth	46.49%	16.27/35.00	Approaching	
Student Engagement	-	0.00/0.00	-	
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness	91.67%	27.50/30.00	Exceeds	

### Performance Indicator Ratings Cut-Points

Academic Achievement;	at or above 87.5%	Exceeds
Academic Growth;		
Student Engagement;	at or above 62.5% - below 87.5%	Meets
Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness	at or above 37.5% - below 62.5%	Approaching
	below 37.5%	Does Not Meet

CSDB has a specialized mission and is designated as an Alternative Education Campus (AEC). CSDB qualifies as an AEC because 100% of the students are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The AEC School Performance Framework (SPF) is composed of required state

measures but may also include additional optional measures. CSDB submits optional measures that are approved by CDE for inclusion in the AEC framework. The optional measures include NWEA MAP, BASC3-Bess SURVEY and, Post-Completion Success Rate. CSDB received a rating of AEC: Improvement on the 2022 AEC School Performance Framework.

## CSDB is comprised of the following departments

- School for the Blind
- School for the Deaf
- Employability Center
- Student Services
- Student Life
- Athletics
- Outreach Statewide Services
  - ~ Early Education
  - ~ CIMC
- Finance
- Personnel
- Facilities
- Communications



*Seniors, in caps and gowns, with Interim Superintendent Spangler*

*"Congratulations to our highly creative, energetic, caring CSDB staff. Super job and well done.*

*As always, Go Bulldogs!" ~ Community member*

*"We love the way our son LOVES that school! You guys are great with him." ~ Parent*

## School for the Blind



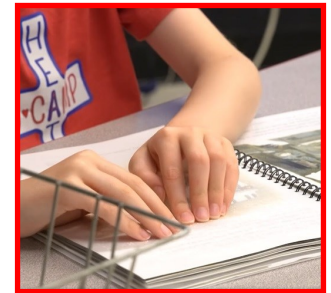
*Skiers with a guide*

CSDB believes that focused professional learning communities (PLCs) impact achievement. Our professional learning communities concentrated on literacy, numeracy, assistive technology and the Extended Evidence Outcome (EEO) and Functional Academics for students with additional disabilities. Some accomplishments included determining alternative assessments for students on EEO's, creating a document listing students' assistive technology needs, increased use of refreshable braille displays in all environments to help with improved literacy skills, leading contracted vs. uncontracted braille discussions at the national level, and rich discussion formed from the book study "Mathematical Mindsets".

CSDB offered three mental health workshops. These workshops covered the following topics: Zones of Regulation – Emotional Regulation and How to Use it at Home, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, and Executive Functioning and Routines. Our staff also held once a month Sunday Social Skill workshops for students and their siblings. These workshops covered many parts of the Expanded Core Curriculum to include social skills, recreation and leisure, independent living skills, and self-determination.



*Using a giant abacus*



*Reading braille*

*"In public elementary school, I got into a lot of trouble and had bad grades. After being here at CSDB, my parents see the change in me. Now I have technology experiences and music performance experiences that have focused the direction of my life. Within the music program, I am a part of something, having an opportunity I wouldn't have had at my old school. I didn't belong before. I didn't fit in. With new confidence in myself, I've become more independent and successful." ~CSDB School for the Blind Student*





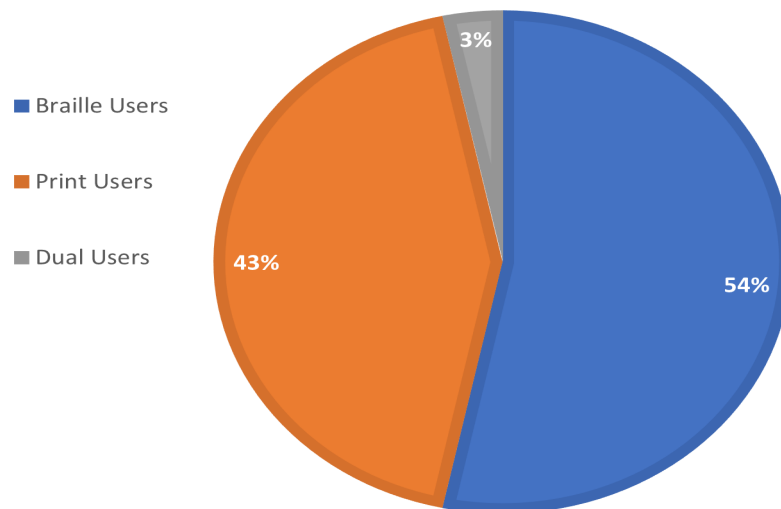
*Student with a white cane walks toward graduation*

Students have an identified primary modality(ies) in which they access literacy that is either Braille, Print, or Dual (Braille and Print offered simultaneously).

#### Other honors and achievements

- James Bristol – Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year
- Student-driven Bulldog Pop-up Shop to fundraise toward an accessible playground
- Students mentored by Avalanche hockey players
- Colorado Springs Police Department connected with students over goalball

#### STUDENTS' ON-CAMPUS LITERACY MODALITY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



## School for the Deaf



*Student with binoculars*

Curriculum work continues, with the literacy teachers working alongside our literacy and American Sign Language (ASL) coaches to ensure accessibility of the recently purchased Tier 1 literacy curriculums (Into Reading and Into Literature) by developing ASL translations of text and informational materials. In addition, the 2021-2022 school year was the first year of implementation for the Tier 1 math curriculum, Reveal Math. In our Early Education Center, we began offering full day preschool with options for morning half days. The preschool teachers were trained and began implementation of the new HighScope Curriculum. Finally, a committee met and reviewed options, moving forward with the purchase of a new Health and Wellness curriculum from McGraw Hill, including Teen Health and Glencoe Health and Human Sexuality.

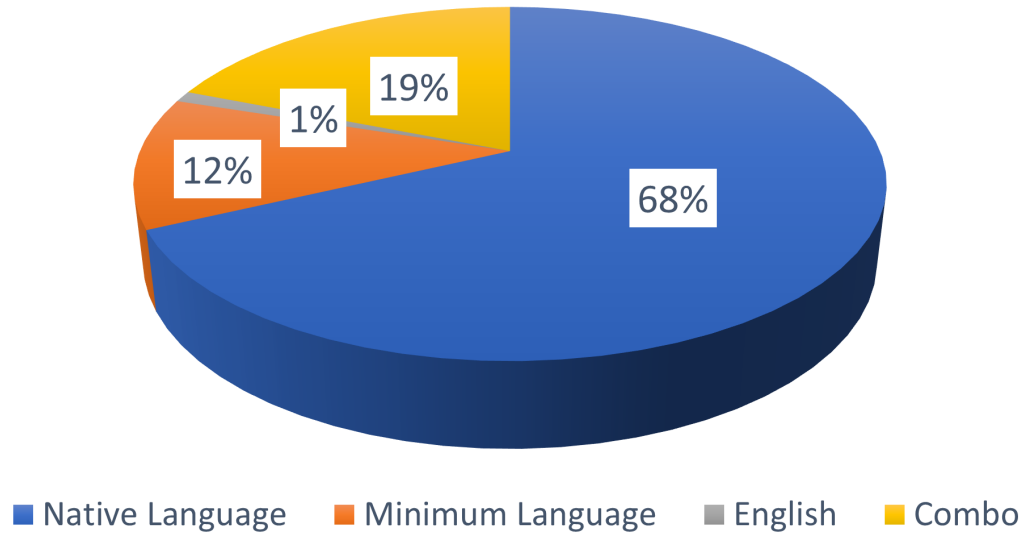
This school year, a priority focus was building a stronger, more inclusive culture. One major component of these efforts was increasing staff awareness of audism by providing a series of professional development presentations. The training included an introductory course, and additional topics in the areas of Deaf Education, Mental Health and Deafblind. These efforts will continue into the upcoming school years, as we begin setting up the structure to build a strong bilingual educational environment in the School for the Deaf. This will be supported by an additional Teacher of the Deaf, in the area of ASL, and the specific programming changes within our School for the Deaf preschool. The last week of school, the elementary department hosted our first ASL day, a small event that we are eager to expand, for the coming school year.

This summer, the CSDB ASL specialist and the early childhood teachers provided a literacy camp with the theme of “Community Helpers”. Kindergarten through fourth graders were invited to attend this summer event. Students played in the children’s village and took a field trip to the children’s museum. The focus for the camp was to increase literacy skills through a hands-on, fun experience.



*Drama class show mime skills*

## Communication Preference Students (on-campus) Deaf



*Academic Bowl Team*



*Celebrating Chinese New Year*

*"I came to CSDB as a sophomore. It's easier for me to focus here. Before, I went to a hearing school. I played around, got bad grades and was disrespectful. At the Deaf school, I have become someone who studies, shows respect and cares for others. The small class sizes and direct communication, using ASL, makes the difference." ~ CSDB School for the Deaf student*

## Employability Center

The Employability Center, serving students who are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deafblind, partnered with 42 on-campus and off-campus employers and community business partners to provide invaluable resources and hands-on work experiences for Bridges to Life (BtL) and high school seniors enrolled in our Post-Secondary Preparation (PSP) class. This school year, 100% of BtL and PSP students participated in work student placements and community service experiences.

Of our students who exited CSDB between 2019 and 2021, 88% were engaged in competitive employment or pursued higher education and training opportunities the year following their exit. In addition, over the last three years, CSDB experienced a 22% increase in students exiting CSDB to enroll in college and other post-secondary educational options. CSDB seniors and BtL students who exited school in 2022 left to pursue higher education or to enter the workforce.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Employability Center supported one student in taking college-level courses at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC). This student enrolled in an English course and received transferable college credit.

The Employability Center Transition Programs received two community awards for our school: Care and Share of the Pikes Peak Region Champion Award and the Habitat for Humanity Restore Volunteer Group of the Year Award. CSDB would like to thank these community partners, as well as all businesses, organizations, and agencies that helped make the 2021-2022 school such a success for our students!

This year, the Employability Center led the campus on our first ever senior Capstone projects to satisfy graduation requirements, as well as implementing and facilitating the CSDB campus-wide PRIDE store called the Bark Market.



*Student receives carpentry instruction*



*Student makes coffee during his Capstone project*



## Student Services

The Student Services team partners with instructional staff to help students meet their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. We focused on building skills that allow students to participate in instruction with their peers, as well as building skills to foster independence. Related services at CSDB include Speech Language, Audiology, Psychological and Counseling Services, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orientation and Mobility, and School Health Services. Coming out of the COVID pandemic, related services resumed on campus during the 2021-2022 school year. Service providers provided services by pushing into the classroom or seeing students individually or in groups, if appropriate. The Student Services department is a multidisciplinary, collaborative department that includes a diverse professional staff that can provide a wide range of services to meet the needs of our students.



*O&M provider with students*

The FM Loan Bank is housed in the Student Services department and provides hearing assistive technology systems (such as Phonak Roger and Oticon Amigo) to Colorado public school districts, that do not have the funds to purchase these devices. These systems are for students, who are hard of hearing, to help them hear spoken classroom lessons more clearly. For the school year 2021-2022, the FM Loan Bank served 35 Colorado school districts.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) continues to be a program on campus to help reinforce and support positive behavior from our students and our staff members. The students are recognized for demonstrating the behavior expectation of PRIDE (Positive Attitude, Respect, Independence, Determination, Excellence).

We also are continuing to utilize the Zones of Regulation in classrooms and various environments across campus. The Zones of Regulation is a program used to teach students to identify their feelings, be aware of what zone they are in, and then start to use tools to be in the appropriate zone for the moment. We have seen growth in our students and their ability to communicate about their emotional and behavioral needs using this program.



*Speech Language team poses on an antique firetruck*

## Student Life



*Cooking on the grill and dinner outside*

### Residential Students

COVID-19 limited off campus activities in the fall but by springtime, students were able to go off campus, again, as CDC health guidelines allowed. In the fall, we continued to cook dinner in the dorms, every night. Our students have become expert chefs learning how to prepare meals as a cohort group. By spring, we returned to eating in Argo Dining Hall and enjoyed coming together, once again.



*Gingerbread house*

We held our annual Gingerbread House competition between dorm units and displayed works of art for all the school to see. As COVID restrictions were lifted, we were able to go to indoor places like Springs Adventure Park, a popular place for our students to play 3D-Dodgeball, slam dunk a basketball or pretend to be a ninja warrior, all on trampolines.



*Students in a residence hall playing UNO*

### After-School Programs

This year, residential and day students participated in Outdoor Adventure Club, Hiking Club, Student Body Government, Academic Bowl, UNO tournaments, biking, and big screen movie nights. Campus events included trivia nights, karaoke nights, Holiday Bingo, a Halloween party/haunted house, and a St. Patrick's Day party. We also hosted Prom, Sam's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ and a special farewell event at the end of the school year.



*Tandem biking on campus*

## Athletics



*Basketball players in action*

Student athletes competed in the Black Forest League within 1A and 2A schools in middle school and high school volleyball, middle school and high school basketball, and high school track and field. We also offered goalball, Peewee basketball, and Special Olympics bowling, basketball, and track and field. Our student athletes played several home and away games and were able to show off their leadership and athletic skills on the court and on the field.

We hosted a full Homecoming week with a variety of Spirit Week activities and competitions, a pep rally, and then competed in basketball, academic bowl, and goalball with the Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Throughout the year, the Bulldog community enjoyed staff versus student friendly competitions in basketball, volleyball, and goalball.

Student Life and Athletics hosted a Mother's Day Craft Fair, as a fundraiser for athletics, where staff, members of the blind and deaf communities, and other local vendors sold their handmade items such as paintings and jewelry. Proceeds helped with out-of-state travel expenses.



*Goalball players block a shot*



*Homecoming Court*



*Collage of Senior Night photos*



## Outreach: Statewide Services



*Young families play with a parachute*

Outreach Programs are designed to meet the needs of students, who do not attend CSDB, their families and school district staff. A variety of services for students, birth through high school, who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind are available.

The American Sign Language (ASL) instructors taught 141 education professionals, parents, and community members in virtual and in-person classes. Seventy-eight professionals participated virtually in ASL Immersion classes.

Itinerant teachers served 163 school-age students in their home schools.

A collaboration with the Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS) supported 189 high school students, receiving instruction in American Sign Language (ASL), through online classes.

Outreach staff and the Pikes Peak Library District collaborated on a monthly series of ASL storytelling events for young children, ages birth-2 and 3-5 years old.

The 2022 Denver Metro Virtual Braille Challenge was hosted by Outreach, throughout the month of February, for students enrolled in Colorado public schools who are blind or visually impaired.

*"The Wednesday in the Park events were a great way for my toddler to meet and play with other kids with vision impairments, for me to connect with parents facing similar issues and for trained professionals to interact with all the kids in a relaxed and natural environment. I was able to get practical advice, support, and strategies unique to our situation, all while my daughter played." ~Parent*

*"The park events were amazing for our family. Our son was able to meet other kids who knew sign and I got to meet parents who had children with similar needs as my child. It was a wonderful experience, and my kids loved every minute of it." ~Parent*



*Girl and man examine a hand-held video magnifier*



## Outreach: Early Education

Colorado Regional Hearing Coordinators (CO-Hears), employed by CSDB, provided services to 578 children, birth to three years of age, who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their families.

Language and Literacy support was provided to 126 families, through the Colorado Shared Reading Project (CSRP).

A total of 50 infants/toddlers, who are blind or visually impaired, between the ages of newborn to three and their families, were supported in their homes through a collaboration with The Resource Exchange (TRE) and Colorado Blue Sky Enterprises, local early intervention programs, serving El Paso, Teller, Park and Pueblo counties.

A total of 17 early literacy events were offered. There were seven in-person events, six virtual events, three Metro community events, and one event in Grand Junction. Families attended events from the Denver Metro, Pikes Peak, North Central, Northwest, Southwest, and West Central regions of Colorado.

Outreach collaborated with Hands and Voices and Dr. Deborah Mood for the Deaf+Autism Day. Additionally, Outreach collaborated with Hands and Voices and Rocky Mountain Deaf School to bring families a holiday party, both in-person and virtually.

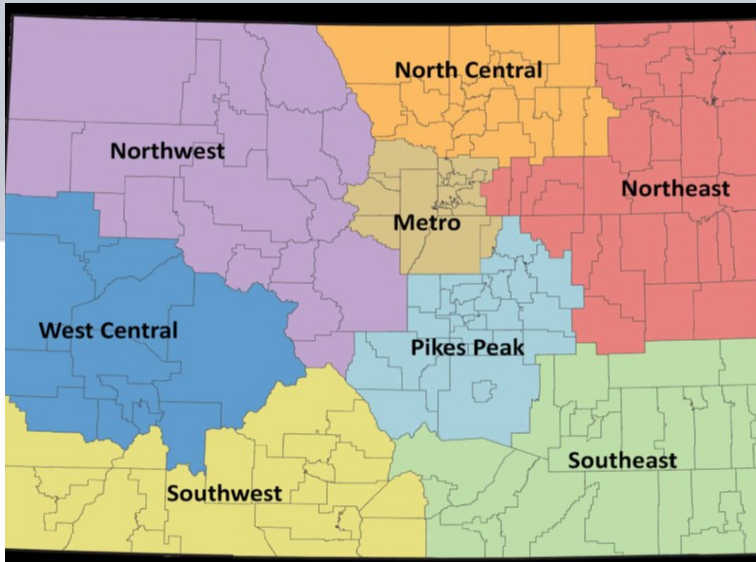
Outreach partnered with Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports (STARS) to provide a Family Ski Weekend for families who have children who are Deaf from birth to age 18. This was partially grant funded by the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind. There were six families with eight participants, two deaf adult role models, and two local families that joined for dinner, social time, and a professional panel.

A grant from Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) allowed Outreach to provide four professional development workshops for providers working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth to age 3. Sixty-eight professionals attended one or more of the workshops.



*Children enjoy a story during an event*

# Statewide Participation Summary—CSDB Outreach Programs



## Total Participants/Region

Regions	Deaf/HH	Blind/VI
Pikes Peak	304	101
Northeast	51	No service requested
Southeast	17	3
Metro Denver	516	3
North Central	80	1
Southwest	38	7
West Central	30	No service requested
Northwest	39	6

Numbers represent people served through Outreach Services, including family members, students, and professionals participating in activities such as the Colorado Shared Reading Project, Early Literacy activities, professional development, ASL family and community classes, school-age itinerant services, ASL Immersion activities, and early intervention services.

## Colorado Department of Education (CDE)/CSDB

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

The CIMC, funded by CDE, is housed on the campus of CSDB. CIMC provides braille and large print textbooks and novels, as well as instructional products, to licensed teachers of students with visual impairments. These products are used by students who have been identified as having “Visual Impairment Including Blindness (VIIB)”, in Colorado schools, at less than college level. The CIMC purchased books through funds provided by CDE and the APH Federal Quota Program.

#### School Year 2021-2022

- Students, age 0-21, identified with a qualifying educational disability of VIIB – 1,080
- Students, age 0-21, on the January Federal Quota count of eligible students who meet the definition of blindness – 840 (January 2021 count day)
- Textbook and novel requests fulfilled in braille and large print format – 393

During this year, Jim Olson, CIMC Supervisor II and CSDB employee for 26 years was awarded the Outstanding Provider of Outreach Services from the Council of Schools and Services for the Blind.

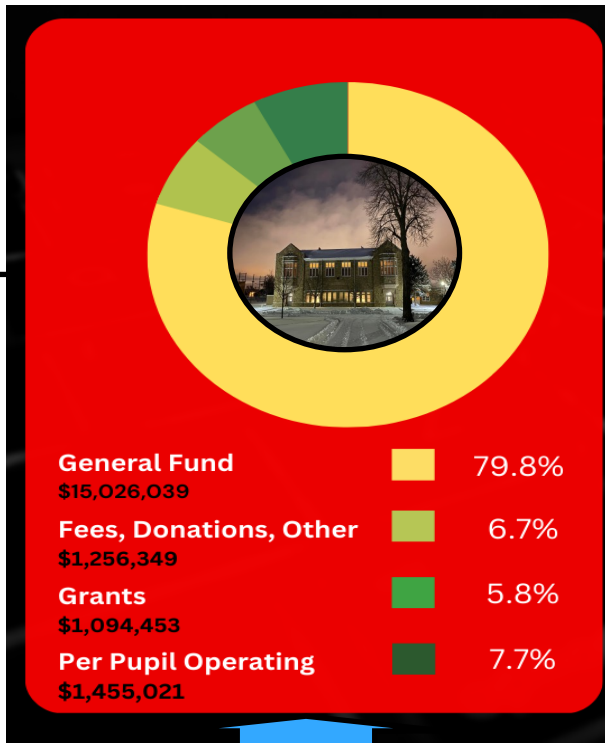


*Hands reading braille*

“The teachers and support staff, including the librarians, the technology teachers, and those who provide braille, do their best to help my son succeed. This is the most caring set of staff I have ever seen at a school! Thank you for the day in and day out dedication. Words will never be enough to express the impact you all make. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ “ ~Parent

# REVENUE

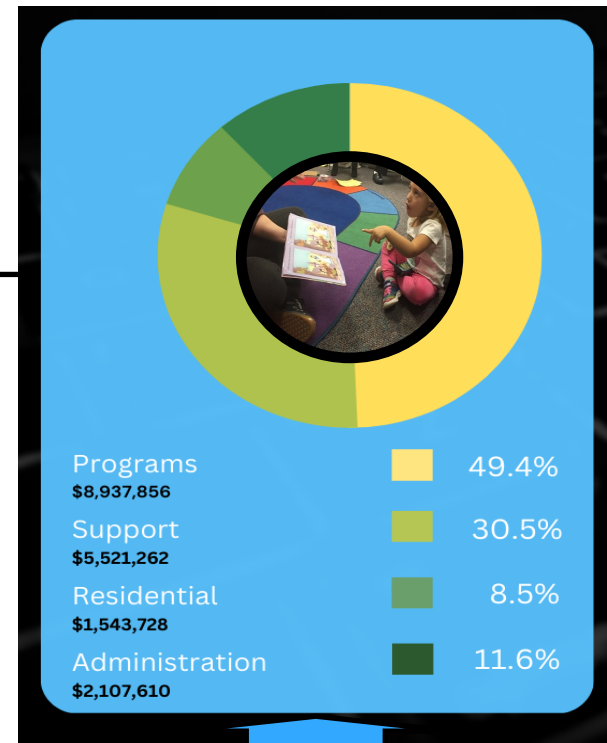
WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM



Annual revenue **\$18,931,882**

# EXPENSES

WHERE FUNDING GOES



Annual expenses **\$18,110,465**



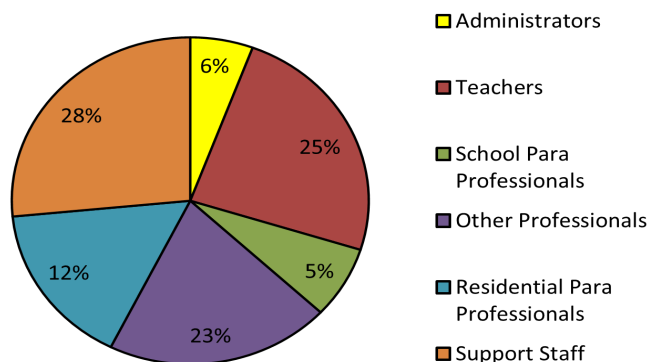


Two staff members give thumbs up



Four staff members on 100th day

## STAFF ALLOCATION



Two staff members smile

*"The work our children's teacher puts in within her preschool classroom doesn't go unnoticed. We are so thankful for how far our boys have come this school year. She is a fantastic resource to families as well, always available and willing to provide us with the appropriate tools to succeed."*  
~ Parent

## BUILDING A COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE

Facilities worked throughout the year on minor and major maintenance projects:

- Replacement of the campus domestic hot water system
- Repaired, sanded, and sealed Gym floor
- Stained football field wood bleachers
- Sealed all Gottlieb roof skylights
- Sealed and striped all parking lots

CSDB continued the implementation of a crisis management program that included procedures and practices for lockdown, shelter-in-place, evacuations, and reunification.

Facilities assisted with installation of five Children's Village buildings: Bistro, Barn, Clinic, Fire Station, and the Market.

In the Children's Village, young students are able to practice communication, math, and vocabulary skills while immersed in a play-based learning environment with their friends.



*Children's Village from above*



*Domestic Hot Water Heater*



*Wood bleachers newly stained*



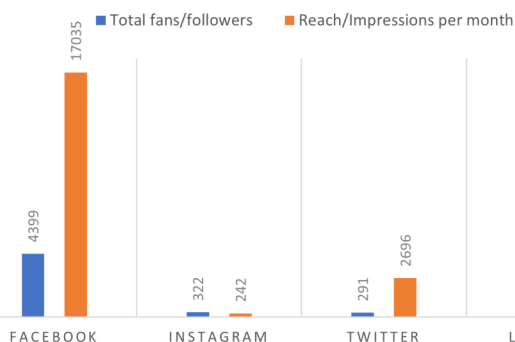
*Boys in firefighter clothing*

## TELLING THE STORIES

The Communications Department maximized the use of current platforms to disseminate stories through a variety of outlets including news releases, website, social media platforms and videos.

In 2021-22, the print and television media highlighted CSDB and its students in 53 stories.

### SOCIAL MEDIA



The CSDB website, between July 2021-June 2022, recorded 135,423 pageviews.

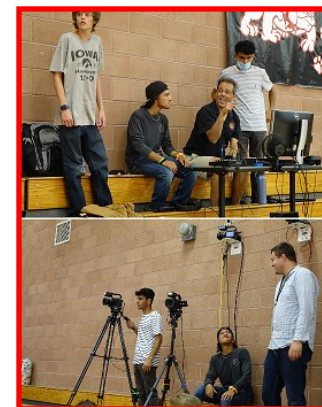
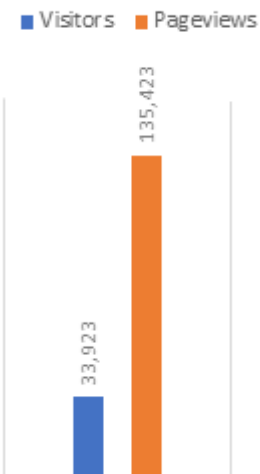
While all social media platforms experienced growth in the past year, we continue to experience the most engagement through Facebook (FB), followed by Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. We grew in the number of subscribers to our YouTube channel through the addition of accessible videos and corresponding email marketing, using Constant Contact. CSDB recorded 160,305 views for a total of 8,000 hours on the CSDB YouTube channel.

The Media Production Team produced more than thirty original videos for YouTube, forty-five original videos for the social media platforms and created twenty-one live broadcasts for use on the CSDB website, Comcast TV channels and social media platforms.

*"I have never 'written' you before, but I wanted to say I enjoy having discovered your FB page and learning more about your school. (Just started with FB a couple years ago). I think all the posts you share give a good window into the events and activities of students and staff, and I share them with my friends. Thank you!" ~Community member*



### WEBSITE



Teaching students to use livestream equipment

## STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS

1

### School Climate

- Equity
- Communication
- Morale
- Safety
- Recruitment

2

### Instruction

- Core Classroom Practices/Universal Prevention (Tier 1)
- Targeted Prevention/Group Intervention (Tier 2)
- Individualized Prevention/Intensive Intervention (Tier 3)
- On-line and Blended Learning
- Transition Education

3

### Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness

- Graduation Requirements
- Workforce Readiness
- Post-Secondary Education

4

### Learning and Living Beyond the Classroom

- Extra Curricular Programming
- Building Autonomy

5

### Statewide Services

- Trainings and Workshops
- Early Education Programs
- School-aged Services and Programming
- Collaboration and Resources

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) and its Board is 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, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, or marital 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, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, ancestry, veteran status, or marital status. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited in accordance with state and/or federal law.