

Editor:

Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.
CDE State Consultant on
Blindness / Low Vision

CO Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 503-4647 (cell)

E-mail:

anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children with Blindness, Low Vision CVI, or Deaf-Blindness—
August—September 2025



As we step into this new academic year, we bring with us the lessons, growth, and resilience of the past—and open our doors to fresh beginnings, new opportunities, and the incredible potential that each day holds to make a difference in the lives of our students, their families, our shared colleagues, and our own path as educators.

Whether you're reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting students for the first time, remember this: you have already made a lasting impact in so many lives. And for those just entering your educational care, the journey ahead holds endless chances to inspire, uplift, and shape their futures. Your teaching touches lives forever.

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Colorado Definitions, Resources, Professional Learning, and Support Activities Specific to Children and Youth with Blindness/Low Vision/ Deaf-Blind, Their Families and Service Providers for School Year 2025-2026

Compiled by Tanni Anthony

State Consultant on Blindness/Low Vision, Colorado Department of Education



Legend for Acronyms:

ASV	A Shared Vision
CCB	Colorado Center for the Blind
CDE	Colorado Department of Education
CIMC	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
CMAS	Colorado Measures of Academic Success
COMS	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
CSDB	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
ESSU	Exceptional Student Services Unit
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
TVI or TSVI	Teacher of students with visual impairments
UEB	Unified English Braille Code
USABA	United States Association of Blind Athletes

We have so many good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year! The following resources and activities are not exclusive to all that may be happening across the state in supporting children and youth with blindness/visual impairment, their families, and service providers. If there is a resource or activity that was missed on this list, please be in touch with Tanni to post it in future editions of the newsletter. Our communications and outcomes are greatly improved when we work together to make announcements, have celebrations, and share resources.

A Shared Vision: Colorado's leading provider of early intervention vision services for children who are blind or have low vision, continues to make significant strides in empowering families and children across the state. In 2024, they reached 211 children and their families through 1,890 home visits – a 24% increase in children served and a 2% increase in visits from the year prior. Growth was strongest in rural areas, where they served 43% more children than in 2023. Behind these numbers is the heart of their mission: a committed community of teachers who feel supported and empowered in their work with families. That sense of connection and

purpose is what makes ASV services not only effective but lasting. Please feel free to explore their [2024 Impact Report](#), which details the meaningful impact of services on families through education and support. Beyond their home-based services, their enhanced website has become a vital resource for families and other providers supporting very young children, and a monthly digital newsletter features many sensory-learning ideas developed by their teachers. This June, the team met at Paula Landry's home to make CVI-friendly pom-pom books, tactile cubes, and [choice cards] for their families. You can find the instructions for many of these projects on our website.

With the release of the updated vision screening protocol, ASV have led 21 training sessions to 115 professionals who support IFSP development and EI Eligibility identification. Developed with input from experts, including leading pediatric ophthalmologists and optometrists across Colorado, it is already improving early identification efforts across the state. In August, we will introduce a self-pace learning video for interested professionals.

ASV welcomed four new board members, each bringing deep insight and a strong connection to the work. Maggie Tucci and Kevin Gaertner are parents of children supported by A Shared Vision. Dr. Emily McCourt is a pediatric ophthalmologist at Children's Hospital. Samantha Thuis is a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments in the St. Vrain Valley school district and an EI-TVI with A Shared Vision. Together, they reflect the growing urgency and energy needed to ensure that every child with blindness or low vision receives the support they deserve.

For any questions about the programs or inquiries about joining our team, please reach out to Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org

Anchor Center for Blind Children: Headquartered in Denver for more than 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 pediatric ophthalmologists, 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 general family support, including programs for caregivers and siblings.

Anchor Center charges a nominal tuition fee for toddler and preschool programs, and financial assistance is available—no child is ever denied access to services based on the family's inability to pay. In the 2024-25 school year, Anchor Center served 450 children, caregivers, and siblings in home and community-based settings, and at their state-of-the-art facility in the Central Park neighborhood, located at: 2550 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO 80238. For more information, please visit the Anchor Center website at www.anchorcenter.org or call (303) 377-9732.

Aftersight: Aftersight uses audio information to serve people who are blind, low vision, or would benefit from alternatives to print for other reasons. Aftersight was formed In 1990 shortly after David Dawson moved to Colorado. When he arrived, he was stunned that there were no "reading services" in the area. Back east, he would use a reading service as it made local print accessible. The model was simple, volunteers would narrate

and record print, and people who were blind or low vision - people like David - could tune in to a broadcast for free. All kinds of print were available: local papers, grocery ads, magazines, transit schedules, etc. By 1991, David Dawson had replicated that model in Colorado. He'd built a team of volunteers to read and record Colorado print, and Rocky Mountain PBS was carrying a broadcast of those recordings. People would register, get a special receiver, and turn it on. Instant accessibility. After 35 years, Aftersight still offers this reading service, now called "Audio Editions." It's still completely free, and it's *still* extremely simple. Listeners ask their (free) smart speaker to play the local paper or favorite magazine (in English or Spanish). Others use their phone or computer and use Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and others. However people connect, over 100 titles are available thanks to ~130 volunteers who record 125 hours of content each week or about 6,500 hours per year. Aftersight now offers a small number of "Aftersight Original Podcasts" which are planned, hosted, and produced by people with vision loss or blindness. For example, Penn Street (or *The Blind Chick*) talks to people who are blind or have low vision about their experiences. Original Podcasts also cover topics that range from mental health to life skills. Finally, Aftersight also offers white canes and virtual groups - like a support group and a book club. If Aftersight doesn't have it, they'll try to connect you to someone who does. To learn more or to register, go to www.aftersight.org or call (303) 786-7777.

Blindness / Low Vision Coalition: The Blindness/Low Vision Coalition is a statewide advisory committee on educational and extracurricular activities for students with blindness/low vision, training and support activities for parents, and professional development and technical assistance activities specific for service providers. Members include Tanni Anthony (CDE ESSU), Michelle Chacon (Metro region), Chaz Davis (Colorado Center for the Blind), Abby Horner (Northern Region), Jonathon Karli (CSDB School for the Blind), Donna Keale (CSDB BVI Outreach), Paula Landry (A Shared Vision), Lori Mattick (Southern Region), Tammy Miller (Anchor Center for Blind Children, Michele Reed (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Jim Olson (Colorado Instructional Materials Center), Erin Schroeder (Western Region), and Chloann Woolley (CAER). The BLV Coalition meets three times a school year. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

Braille and Large Print Format Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Test Review: Selected Colorado TVIs / braillists can meet with the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and the CMAS publisher to review braille CMAS tests. There will be continued work specific to these assessments and educators are always needed. If you are interested in signing up for this specialized review pool for reviewing the state assessments, contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.

Colorado Administrative Units: The term "administrative Unit" (AU) means a school district, board of cooperative services, or the State Charter School Institute, which provides educational services to exceptional children and is responsible for the local administration of the Exceptional Children Education Act. For purposes of the education of school age (ages three through 21 years) children with visual impairment, including blindness, an administrative unit can be the family's local school district, as well as the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB). The vast majority (over 90%) of school-age students with visual impairments, including blindness and deaf-blindness are served in their neighborhood school district with a locally hired TVI and/or O&M Specialist. Some administrative units may use contract services for their TVI and/or O&M services.

For questions about main contact personnel for students with visual impairment, including blindness or deaf-blindness in each administrative unit (AU), contact Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

CAER - Colorado Chapter of AER: Is a professional organization that serves the community of individuals who are blind/visually impaired. Our chapter supports professionals through continuing education information, mini-grants and service recognition with our annual awards banquet. The Colorado Chapter of our national

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AERBVI) includes members from educators serving birth to adults in all settings from early childhood agencies, schools, vocational rehabilitation and veteran rehabilitation. Please join the board for the opportunity to receive ACVREP credit, as well as the opportunity to meet and collaborate with colleagues in the field. For more information about scheduled meetings and activities, for member benefits, or joining the board, please contact Chloann Woolley at caerboard@gmail.com or (719) 494-6337.

CAER Online Presence with a Website and a Facebook Page: Please go to the following website for updated information regarding Colorado AER: https://www.aerbvi.org/chapter_colorado Request to join and contribute to our Facebook group Colorado AER (CAER)

The CAER Annual Awards Banquet and Business Meeting occurs in conjunction with the annual CDE O&M Seminar in the spring. The banquet is a time to celebrate colleagues and friends and to announce the recipients of the following awards:

- ◆ President's Award: This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities. True to its name, the current President will select and present this award.
- ◆ Gary Schmidt Award: This award honors an AER member who works directly with students/clients. Nomination criteria include; ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board reviews the nominations for this award.
- ◆ Connections Award: This award recognizes cooperative efforts that cross organizational lines, perhaps even groups working collaboratively to benefit our field. The CAER Board considers the nominations.
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award: This award is presented to professionals who have given of themselves to students/clients throughout their career and are preparing for retirement.
- ◆ Ken Neve Award: This award is to recognize an AER professional in the area specific to orientation and mobility. The CAER Board considers the nominations.

CAER just celebrated their 2025 banquet in May, so look for future information in emails about the Annual Awards Banquet in 2026. Nominations for the awards will be due 8 weeks prior to the event and should be submitted to caerboard@gmail.com

CAER provides mini grants to current AER members or those sponsored by an AER member. The maximum amount of the funds available will vary, but the allotted amount per grant must not exceed \$300. Recipients are only eligible to receive a mini grant once every two years. Recipients need to fulfill their obligation to provide CAER with an agreed-upon presentation of how the mini-grant funds were used within 90 days of funds received. Applications are accepted throughout the year and are due November 1st for review.

Partial Reimbursement for ACVREP Certification:

- ◆ Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT®)
- ◆ Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS®)
- ◆ Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT®)
- ◆ Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist for Individuals with VI (CATIS™)

Reimbursement of \$100 for initial certification and a \$50 reimbursement for renewed certification is available to CO AER (CAER) members. After receiving your initial and/or renewal, please submit a copy of the certification

and letter requesting reimbursement to CAER at caerboard@gmail.com – must provide proof of AER membership.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Braille Competency Certification: Funds have been reserved for four braille proctors (Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein) to provide opportunities for TVIs / braillists to take the Colorado Braille Competency Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE braille renewal modules. For information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please [click here](#). For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

CDE Braille Competency Test: It is a requirement that all TVIs working in Colorado administrative units must demonstrate braille competency within their first year of employment. The CDE braille test has two components, a 100 multiple-choice test that addresses reading braille and knowing the rules of the UEB Code and (b) the production of a 3.5 page braille sample using a braille writing that addresses the ability to produce braille. TVIs taking the test for the first time should have taken their first university-level braille course or have evidence of an extensive other form of braille study. If braille competency is not completed in a timely manner, the AU(s) who employs the TVI will be cited for noncompliance.

CDE Braille Renewal Modules: All TVIs working in Colorado administrative units are required to renew their CDE Certificate of Braille Competency one time. Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the 15 renewal modules over the five-year-renewal period so that competency can be truly demonstrated across a period of five years. If the braille renewal modules are not completed in a timely manner, the AU(s) who employs the TVI will be cited for noncompliance.

CDE Brailist Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for school braillists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for braillists to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the brailist listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

CDE Braille Mentors: Our amazing CDE Braille Committee personnel (Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein) are available to provide one-time mentoring to TVIs who need support in preparing for a minimum of a second round of the Colorado Braille Competency Test. Mentoring assistance is reserved for TVIs in Colorado public schools who have failed the CDE Braille Test on the first occasion. Mentoring is reserved for up to ten hours and is not designed to teach the candidate the braille code, but to refresh skills using exercise and practices lessons for improvement. Contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647 for more information.

CDE CVI Protocol Training: A full-day training will be sponsored through the CO Deaf-Blind Project. The focus will be on training on the Perkins' CVI Protocol. It will be held November 12, 2025 at the Adams Conference Center in Thorton. For more information, reach out to Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CDE Keeping in Touch (KIT) Newsletter: The link to each e-newsletter is sent out to TVIs and O&M Specialists with the expectation that the weblink is forwarded to parents, braillists, and paraeducators working students with blindness/low vision. The KIT is posted on the CDE Blindness/ Low Vision website for people to download. The following e-editions are planned for this school year: August / September 2025, October 2025, November / December 2025, January / February 2025, March / April 2026, and May 2026. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647. The newsletter is posted [here](#).

CDE Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinics: We are excited for another year of regional clinics. Drs. Kara Hanson and David Simpson, and low vision therapists Jim Olson and Erika Andersen Ko are our LVE team for the 2025-26

school year. We will have regional clinics in Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Fort Collins, and Denver. The clinics are only open to Colorado public school students with low vision who have a current Individualized Education Program. Students will be accepted if paperwork is completed no later than two weeks of the LVE dates. A family member and the assigned TVI are expected to attend the LVE Clinic with each accepted student. TVIs and parents should come prepared with a plan for purchasing prescribed devices.

CDE O&M Seminar: The topic(s) and dates for this training have yet to be finalized. The goal will be an in-person late April or early May 2026 training. The contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 503-4647 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: This in-person conference will be held on October 23-24, 2025 the Lowry Conference Center. The featured speaker will be TVI and CVLT Erika Andersen Ko on the topic of *Functional ow Vision Assessment and Instructional Strategies*. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 503-4647 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CDE TVI COMS listserv: This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and O&M Specialists working in Colorado administrative units, A Shared Vision, and Anchor Center for Blind Children. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

CDE BVI Sound Bites: Sounds Bites will be offered one time a month via a zoom platform and will run on a given Wednesday of each month, beginning in September 2025 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Preregistration will be required through a sign-up process. The dates, topics (as they are established), and the registration link will be posted in the *Keeping in Touch* Calendar of Events section of the October edition. For more information, please be in touch with Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

CDE Web Pages Specific to Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blindness:

- ♦ Deaf-Blindness – <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-db>
- ♦ NIMAS / NIMC - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/nimas>
- ♦ Orientation and Mobility - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/rs-om>
- ♦ Visual Impairment, Including Blindness - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision>

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs: The Colorado Center for the Blind has brought high-quality, welcoming, and yet challenging programs and training for youth ages 4 to college since 1990. Whether it's CCB's year-round Fun Activities and Skills Training (FAST) program, mentoring for students attending the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), Career fairs for high school/college students, residential summer programs for teens, or partnering with organizations like the National Science Foundation for an astronomy camp experience, CCB is committed to creating opportunities that raise expectations for blind students and help them build the confidence to pursue their dreams as successful adults.

For more information on youth programs in Colorado or to stay up to date on our monthly youth activities, visit CCB's youth Programs page at <https://cocenter.org/our-programs/summer-youth/>, or contact Director of Youth Services, Chaz Davis at Cdavis@cocenter.org or by phone at (303) 778-1130.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille and large print textbooks and serve as a repository for APH educational materials for all

Colorado students ages birth through twelfth grade who are blind/visually impaired. The CIMC also houses a lending library of professional materials for access by TVIs.

The CIMC hosts an email distribution list for all braillists in Colorado, contact Jim Olson, jolson@csdb.org to be added to the group. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact CIMC staff: Jim Olson, Coordinator, jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195. The CIMC pilot number (719) 578-2196 rings all CIMC staff phones (on the Microsoft Teams platform) simultaneously but does not have voicemail capabilities. Danielle Steele (shipping/receiving, APH orders) dsteale@csdb.org or (719) 578-2198 / Maddee Durossette (your agency's statewide student registration database, federal quota census program), mdurossette@csdb.org or (719) 578-2199 / Debbie Haberkorn (CIMC braillist and braille book orders), dhaberkhorn@csdb.org or (719) 578-2197.

Our other email addresses: cimcaphorders@csdb.org and cimcbookorders@csdb.org cimcBrailTechSoftware@csdb.org and cimcregistrations@csdb.org The CIMC page of the CSDB website, [click here](#), select "Outreach"; from the drop-down menu, click on "CIMC-Colorado Instructional Materials Center."

CIMC First Friday Meetings: Contact CIMC staff for meeting times and Zoom meeting links. These online Zoom meetings are scheduled for the first Friday of the month, when possible; alternate Fridays are indicated below. There is no set agenda for this meeting, it is simply an opportunity to ask CIMC staff, and your colleagues around the state, any questions you may have in an informal setting. We try to feature information new APH products as they are announced. Meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year: September 12, 2025 (Second Friday); October 3, 2025; November 7, 2025; December 5, 2025; January 9, 2026 (second Friday); February 6, 2026; March 6, 2026; April 3, 2026; and May 1, 2026; and June 5, 2026. The times and Zoom links will be disseminated to CIMC's statewide email distribution lists.

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB): The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind is a state funded school within the Colorado Department of Education. The school was established for the purpose of providing comprehensive educational services for children, birth to age 21, who are blind/visually impaired and/or deaf/hard of hearing. Services are provided directly to students enrolled at the school, and outreach programs service students, staff, and families in communities throughout Colorado. There is no tuition charge for students to attend CSDB, which is located in Colorado Springs; however, there is a charge to districts receiving outreach services. CSDB is required to follow all state-education laws that apply to other public-school programs. Parents may inquire about enrolling their child with blindness/visual impairment after conversation about placement with their school district Special Education Director or Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

For more information about CSDB on-campus programs, contact Kathy Emter, CSDB Special Education Director at (719) 578-2177 or kemter@csdb.org For more information about CSDB outreach programs, contact csdboutreach@csdb.org

CSDB Lending Library: The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and service providers. Most items may be borrowed using the library's community use form. The libraries are open on Monday - Friday during the school year from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please email the media specialist before coming in person to either library. For more information, please refer to the CSDB website at csdb.colorado.gov

CSDB and CSDB Outreach National Braille Challenge: The Colorado regional contests will again be held at CSDB and the Colorado Center for the Blind during the 2025-2026 school year. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as

spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. Stay tuned for the dates when the Braille Challenge will be held on the campus of CSDB. The contact for the CSDB day is Jonathon Karli at jkarli@csdb.org

CSDB Outreach will co-host the Braille Challenge at the Colorado Center for the Blind on dates yet to be determined. Contact CIMC staff at (719) 578-2196. Please visit the CIMC page of the CSDB website and nwww.brailleinstitute.org for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

CSDB Specialized Assessments and Consultation: Specialized assessments; for example, functional vision, learning media, O&M, cognitive and social-emotional, may be provided to school districts, BOCES and charter schools to assist school staff in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service.

In addition to assessments and consultations, CSDB provides limited support from Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) specialists to local school districts. CSDB also partners with Local Early Intervention Brokers (LEIBs) to provide early intervention services for families and children ages 0–3, primarily in the Pikes Peak region. These services are offered on a fee-for-service basis. To request services or learn more, please contact csdboutreach@csdb.org

CSDB Role Model Videos: The CSDB Role Model Videos are designed to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents, and teachers with the opportunity to understand life experiences of successful adult role models who are blind and visually impaired. The role models speak to their vision conditions, use of adaptive devices, independence as an adult, thoughts for parents, interpersonal skills, and why they feel they are successful adults. <http://tinyurl.com/yamlqmag>

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project: We are starting the third of our currently funded five-year cycle, which began on October 1, 2023. There are currently 169 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Key activities include:

- ◆ Annual Child Count of CO children and youth, ages birth through 21 years,] with deaf-blindness.
- ◆ Free technical assistance is provided to the families and service providers of identified children
- ◆ Training and coaching for school-based interveners.
- ◆ Annual Webinar Series
- ◆ Annual Family Conference for parents and key caregivers.
- ◆ Annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of and intervention / instructional strategies for children and youth who are deaf-blind. and/or who have significant support needs.
- ◆ Website with over 100 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deaf-blindness.
- ◆ Lending library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 100 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloadable book loan order form.

For more information about the CO Deaf-Blind Project's free technical assistance services, contact Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6605. [Also check out the project's continually updated webpage.](#)

Colorado State Assessments: CMAS Assessments: 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 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.

CoAlt Assessments: 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.

Colorado Talking Book Library: For people who cannot read standard print, CTBL provides free audio, braille, and large print books. All services and materials are free, including accessible audio book players and braille e-readers. Books and magazines go through the mail postage paid. Audio and braille books are also available for download through the BARD mobile app. For more information, please contact the library via email at ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us or by phone toll free at 1-800-685-2136.

Community Intervener Program: The Community Intervener Program is housed under DeafBlind Programs at the Colorado Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CDDHHDB). The program offers Colorado infants, children and young adults who are DeafBlind 14 hours per month of 1:1 service with a trained Community Intervener. Some DeafBlind adults are also eligible for the program under certain specifications and guidelines. Services can be utilized within the home or out in the community, and the DeafBlind individual can participate meaningfully in their lives in ways they choose, including those they have not been able to before. For more information or to sign up, please contact Elli Streifer, the DeafBlind Programs Coordinator, at DBP.CDDHHDB@state.co.us

Eligibility – Deaf-Blindness: The determination of whether a school-age (ages three to 21 years) child meets the eligibility criteria as a “child with deaf-blindness” is the responsibility of the local administrative unit’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the child’s parents, and is based on state approved eligibility criteria. To be eligible, the child does not need to meet the full eligibility criteria for hearing impairment, including deafness and visual impairment, including blindness. This is outlined on eligibility checklists.

For children who are entering the public-school district from an early intervention program or a private early childhood program, eligibility for school-based special education services and supports is not determined by personnel associated with these early-years programs. It is critical that parents are given accurate information about the eligibility process with school district staff. It is the IEP team who will further determine the need for an intervener. If there are questions about the school-age special education eligibility criteria and/or a request for training, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

Eligibility – Visual Impairment, Including Blindness: The determination of whether a school-age child meets the eligibility criteria as a “child with visual impairment, including blindness” is the responsibility of the local administrative unit’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the child’s parents, and is based on state approved eligibility criteria that document adverse educational impact and the need for specially designed instruction.

For children who are entering the public-school district from an early intervention program or a private early childhood program, eligibility for school-based special education services and supports is not determined by personnel associated with the early intervention / private early childhood programs. It is critical that parents

are given accurate information about the eligibility process with administrative unit staff. If there are questions about the school-age special education eligibility criteria and/or a request for training, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 503-4647.

Foresight Adventure Guides for the Blind: Foresight provides goal-oriented outdoor adaptive recreation experiences for students with low vision and blindness. Students have two opportunities to participate in Foresight's fun, safe and transformative programs. The winter Learn to Ski/Snowboard program and the *Summer Camp for Blind Youth*. Both programs use outdoor recreation to promote self-confidence, independence, and personal growth for students who are blind or experiencing low vision.

Each winter, students from a half dozen Colorado school districts plus Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind travel to Vail with teacher chaperones for two days of skiing/snowboarding. Returning students who have mastered basic skiing/snowboarding skills are paired with a Foresight guide and shadow to practice their skills and explore Vail's varied terrain. Students new to the sport receive professional ski or snowboard instruction from Vail's Adaptive Ski School. All the students experience the joy and freedom of skiing blind! Foresight provides the students with roundtrip transportation to Vail, lift tickets, ski or snowboard equipment, professional instruction (if needed), two days of lunch, and one-night lodging, for a requested minimum donation of \$50. However, Foresight will not turn any student away if they cannot pay the suggested donation.

Foresight's *Summer Camp for Blind Youth* offers students three days and two nights of fun outdoor experiences in the Vail Valley. Campers participate in stand-up paddle boarding, horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, rafting and more. Team building and leadership activities are also incorporated into the camp. Foresight provides two nights' lodging, daily lunch, one dinner, and all activities for a requested minimum donation of \$50. Again, students will not be turned away if they cannot pay. Camps take place in mid-June and mid-July.

Both the Learn to Ski program and summer camps promote components of the National Federation for the Blind's Expanded Core Curriculum. Foresight's programs reinforce elements such as socialization, self-determination, orientation and mobility, and, of course, sports /recreation skills development. Participants also report developing close friendships with people "just like them." Send your students to Vail to learn important life skills all while mastering activities they can safely enjoy with friends and family throughout their lives.

Please contact Christine Holmberg, Foresight Executive Director, at (303) 506-3859, or email her at christine@foresightskiguides.org for more information on the summer camp, and to get on the calendar for the upcoming ski season. You can also follow Foresight Ski Guides on Facebook and Instagram, and visit their website at www.foresightskiguides.org

Helen Keller National Center – Serving Colorado: Jonathon Pringle our regional representative. His regions includes AZ, UT, CO, ND, and SD. The website for more information is <https://www.helenkeller.org/locations/rocky-mountain-region/>.

HKNC is currently working with Colorado state and local providers related to DeafBlind services, advocacy, and outreach. Jonathon has a background with Vocational Services and specializes in working with Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as Blind Services.

HKNC continues to expand and update our Summer Youth programs to now include a targeted Braille workshop for individuals who use Sign Language to communicate and Programs targeting the STEAM programs in employment and education. They offer our traditional Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) and the My Pursuit of Work, Empowerment and Resources (M-Power). Check out these opportunities here

<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/youth-programs/> HKNC is also currently able to offer their DeafBlind Immersion Experience (DBIE) For individuals with complex needs in the home community as well as at the center in NY. Please reach out with any questions related to combined Vision and Hearing loss. Jonathon's phone is 1-516-417-1165 and his email is jpringle@helenkeller.org

Metro Region TVI/O&M Meetings: The meetings will be held virtually throughout the school year. For more information, please be in touch with Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreakschools.org Stay tuned for the meeting dates / locations, topics for this school year.

National Instructional Materials Standards (NIMAS:) NIMAS is the national source file format created by IDEA 2004 for use in the production of accessible formats, such as braille, large print, and digital text, for K-12 instructional materials. Publishers submit files in the NIMAS format to the NIMAC in accordance with state and district procurement contracts. Designated users in the states can then download the files for use in producing accessible formats on behalf of qualifying students. NIMAS files require further conversion work before use. They are not distributed directly to students but make it possible for students who require an accessible format to receive it in a timely manner. The NIMAC receives a wide range of student-facing instructional materials. Under IDEA 2004, states and districts can require NIMAS from publishers for "textbooks and related printed core materials." This means materials written and published primarily for use in elementary school and secondary school instruction and required by a State Education Agency or a Local Education Agency for use by students in the classroom. Some materials, such as trade books (e.g., novels), are exempt from NIMAS requirements.

In May of 2020, the U.S. Department of Education clarified that the term "print instructional materials," regarding the scope of NIMAS in IDEA 2004, includes digital instructional materials if those materials can be produced in valid NIMAS format. For more information, visit the **NIMAS and Digital Materials FAQ** on the NIMAC's website or the **Notice of Interpretation FAQ** from the National AEM Center.

Eligibility for NIMAS: Under IDEA 2004 Part D, Section 674 (e)(3)(A), to qualify for materials produced with NIMAS files, students must have both an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and a qualifying disability under the eligibility guidelines of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS): An "eligible person," is defined as someone who is blind; has a visual impairment or perceptual or reading disability that cannot be improved to give visual function substantially equivalent to that of a person who has no such impairment or disability and so is unable to read printed works to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability; or is otherwise unable, through physical disability, to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes to the extent that would be normally acceptable for reading.

Eligibility must be certified by one of the following: Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, ophthalmologist, optometrist, psychologist, registered nurse, therapist, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI), a social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian).

For more information about NIMAS and Colorado's authorized users, please go to:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/nimas>

Northern TVI / O&M Specialists Meetings: The meetings will be held periodically throughout the school year. For more information, please be in touch with Aryn McNichol at (303) 702-8354 x58354 or mcnichol_aryn@svvdsd.org Stay tuned for the meetings dates / locations for this school year.

Southern Region TVI/DVR Meetings: The meetings will be offered throughout the school year with different hosts, locations, and topics. Contact Jim Olson (jolson@csdb.org) for more information. The dates are on the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter Calendar of Events for this school year.

READ Act: The Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act), passed by the Colorado legislature in 2012, focuses on early literacy development for all students and especially for students at risk to not read at grade level by the end of the third grade. The READ Act focuses on literacy development for kindergarteners through third-graders. Students are evaluated for reading skills, and those who are not reading with an appropriate grade level are given individual READ plans. Children with READ Plans have significant reading deficiencies (SRDs). TVIs should collaborate closely with general educators / literacy specialists on the READ Act screening, and if needed, diagnostic procedures to assure accessibility. This may include preparing materials in braille, utilizing commercial screening tools in braille format, assisting with magnification and other low vision needs of the visual presentation of the screening / assessment materials. The TVI may provide consultation to assist with the interpretation of results on timed screening / screening or diagnostic procedures for learners using braille materials where normed testing was based on print readers.

The READ Act is critical to all Colorado learners who are learning to read. For our learners, this is especially important that careful screening leads to an accurate result as to whether the child has a significant reading deficiency that requires a READ Plan. What must be assured is that the child with a SRD truly needs a strengthened reading plan or if this is a singular artifact of learning braille. Learning braille is not a deficit in reading knowledge and skills. The goal of the READ Act is to screen for true challenges tied to the Science of Reading. It takes a team to ensure there is proper screening, possible diagnostics, and an appropriate reading program for our learners. Tanni Anthony and Debbie Mendoza are in the process of updating READ Act guidance specific to the differentiated pathway for learners with blindness/low vision. Stay tuned!

The SEE THE FUTURE (STF) Fund - Celebrating 29 Years! www.seethefuture.org

STF 'Tools for Life (TFL)' Program—Application Deadlines: November 30, 2025 & April 15, 2026.

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund's 'Tools for Life' scholarships provide financial assistance to the families of blind/visually impaired students (PreK – Transition) who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is to help purchase necessary low vision devices, which students may own and use in their home and community. These tools will support literacy and the pursuit of higher education. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need. **For** more TFL information, [Click Here](#).

STF 'Education for Life (EFL)' Program—Application Deadline: March 1, 2026

The STF 'Education for Life' program awards scholarships for post-secondary education to qualified Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired. The scholarships may support Certificate Programs (such as massage therapy), Associate 2 year degree, BA degree, MA degree, or a doctoral degree. Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, school and community service, and individual need.

For more EFL information, [Click Here](#)

To Meet our STF 2025 EFL Recipients, [Click Here](#)

For more information, please contact: Thomas Theune, OD, STF Founder & Chairperson, at (709) 640.0997 or twtheune@comcast.net

UEB Technical versus Nemeth Code: The Braille Authority of North America has recognized both UEB Technical and the Nemeth Codes as approved braille math codes. As such, the decision of which code will be used for a child who is a beginner through an advanced braille reader is determined by the local Individual Education Program team. Textbooks can be ordered in both codes, the CMAS State Assessments are offered in both codes, and there are procedures to order College Board tests in either code.

University of Northern Colorado VI Program: The University of Northern Colorado offers an Online Master of Arts Degree Program / Visual Impairment. This program provides teacher candidates with the skills and knowledge to help students with visual impairments meet their potential in academic and social areas of their lives and prepares teachers-in-training to work with students from birth to age 21 with a special emphasis on the needs of early childhood and elementary-aged students. This program has been a bedrock for filling Colorado TVI positions. Dr. Paula Conroy is the Program Coordinator. [For more information, please click here.](#)

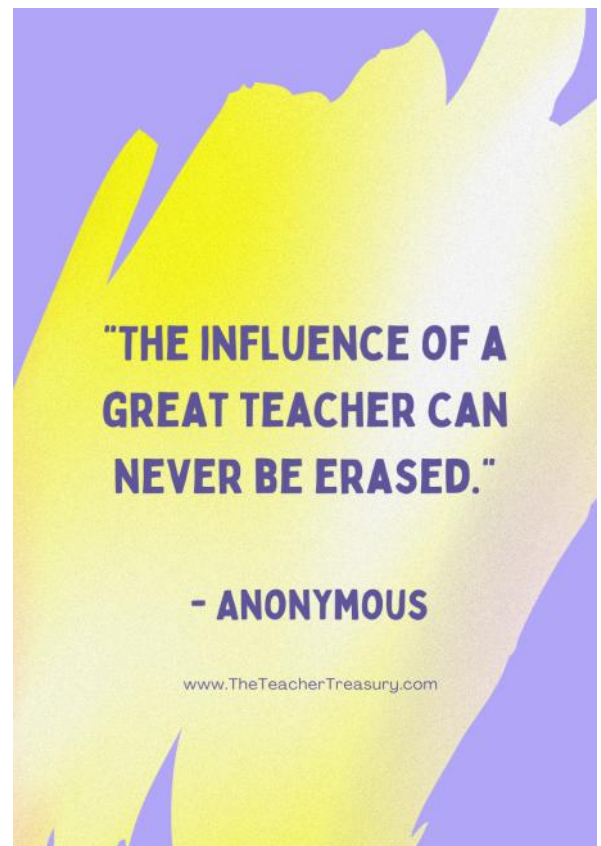
UNC Non-degree Licensure Orientation and Mobility Program: The program provides endorsement in orientation and mobility. Approved by the national accreditation body, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (AVREP), the Orientation and Mobility endorsement program is for students who have a master's degree in visual impairment or who are in the process of obtaining a Master of Arts in visual impairment. There is one on-campus course requirement for one summer. Dr. Paula Conroy is the Program Coordinator. [For more information, click here.](#)

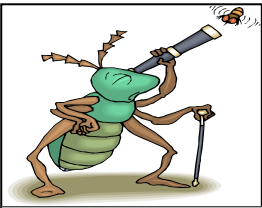
United States Association of Blind Athletes: USABA is a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) organization that provides life-enriching sports opportunities for every individual with a visual impairment. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, USABA provides athletic opportunities in various sports including, but not limited to track and field, nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, judo, wrestling, swimming, tandem cycling, powerlifting, and goalball (a team sport for the blind and visually impaired). For activities specific to Colorado outreach activities, please contact USABA at (719) 866-3224.

Western Slope TVI / O&M Specialists Meetings: The meetings will be held periodically throughout the school year. For more information, please be in touch with Erin Schroeder at (970) 254-5414 or erin.schroeder@d51schools.org. Due to distance across the Western Slope, meetings are held virtually.

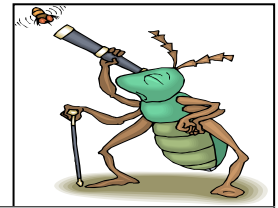
White Cane Day: October 15th of each year marks White Cane Day across the country. There may well be celebrations across the state in a variety of school districts. As celebrations are planned, we will work to disseminate information. Time to raise a little or a big cane!

Wow—that is a lot happening in our beautiful state. Be sure to be in the know about key resources and state definitions that will support students with blindness, low vision, and deaf-blindness, their families, and service providers.





LOW VISION NEWS



2025-26 Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

Clinic Region / Site	Clinic Date(s)	Paperwork Due Date	Site Coordinator(s)
Southern LVE Clinic CSDB	September 4-5, 2025	August 15, 2025	Jim Olson
Western LVE Clinic Mesa School District	October 3, 2025	September 19, 2025	Angela Sims / Erin Schroeder
Northern LVE Clinic Ensign Center	November 13-14, 2025	October 31, 2025	Samantha Thuis
Metro LVE Clinic Anchor Center	February 19-21, 2026	February 5, 2026	Tanni Anthony

Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics are Coming Your Way!

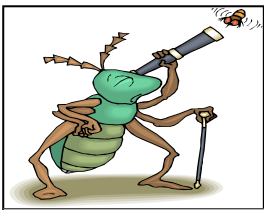
We are so happy that our regional LVE Clinics are funded and full staff for this school year. We are thrilled to have returning optometrists Drs. Kara Hanson and David Simpson and low vision therapist Jim Olson on board. And we welcome new low vision therapist Erika Anderson Ko. We will have all four regional clinics this year. The Southern LVE Clinic will include Dr. Kara Hanson and Jim Olson. The Western Clinic will include Dr. David Simpson and Erika Anderson Ko. The Northern Clinic will include Dr. Karen Hanson and Erika Anderson Ko and the Metro Clinic will include Dr. David Simpson and Erika Anderson Ko.

TVIs, your work is now to fill the clinics, which are reserved for school-age learners who have a good likelihood of benefiting from magnification tools during their school day, at home, and in the community.

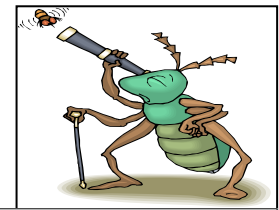
It is a requirement of the clinic that eligible children and youth must have an active IEP and be served by a teacher of students with visual impairments. Both the TVI and a parent **must** attend the clinic with the child.

There is no cost for the clinic evaluation. Device costs are the responsibility of the family and/or administrative unit. We ask that a fiscal plan be discussed ahead of the clinic in anticipation of prescribed devices. It is the TVI's responsibility to review the LVE report with the family and student, and to train the child on the ordered devices. The clinic reports will be sent to the TVI three weeks following the clinic through a secure portal.

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



LOW VISION NEWS



TVI Feedback on the 2024-25 Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

Thanks to the following wonderful TVIs who took the time to complete the 2024-25 Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Survey: **Cheryl Austin, Jill Bookwalter, Sasmita Bisoi, Danielle Burden, Sally Burch, Meghan Crosby, Morgan Harrington, Abby Horner, Anahit LaBarre, Jeannie Lei, Lori Mattick, Margi Moldane, Beth Myers, Mike Plansker, Anitha Muthukumaran, Erin Schroeder, Elizabeth Webb, and Liz Weider.** We appreciate the feedback!

Follow Up Questions Based on Likert Rating

A 5-point Likert Scale (5 = strongly agree – 1 = strongly disagree) was used to rate the following areas with the noted results in a mean score:

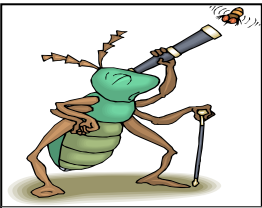
- Participating in the low vision clinic improved my understanding of my student's functional vision / low vision needs **4.6**
- How comfortable did you feel asking the clinic optometrist/ low vision therapist questions about your student's functional vision /low vision needs? **4.8**
- After attending the clinic, have you noticed improved student engagement or performance related to visual tasks? **3.9**
- I would recommend participation in this clinic to others **4.6**
- I have made changes in my practice to support the student's needs as a low vision learner as a result of the clinic? **4.0**
- The clinic provided valuable information for instructional planning **4.6**

Follow Up Questions Based on Percentages

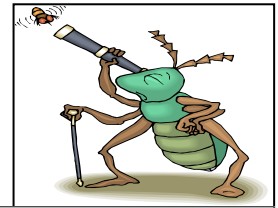
- Have you reviewed the low vision report findings with the student and/or their family?
6% No, 89% Yes, 5% Not Yet
- Were low vision devices prescribed at the clinic? **11% No, 89% Yes**
- If magnification devices were prescribed, were they purchased for the student?
39% No, 45% Yes, 16% N/A
- If a low vision piece of equipment was recommended that could be borrowed from the CIMC, was a loan request made for this equipment? **11% No, 44% Yes, 45% N/A**
- I have followed through with explaining the report to the family and my student. **6% N/A, 94% Yes**

Rank order statements of what was the most helpful:

- (1) receiving detailed information about student;
- (2) observing during the clinic and watching what my child can do, and
- (3) recommendations for glasses and optical devices,
- (4) the opportunity to ask the low vision team questions.



LOW VISION NEWS



Parent Feedback on the 2024-25 Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

At the end of last school year, a survey link was sent out to the TVIs who had a family whose child participated in a 2024-25 Regional Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinic. The TVIs were asked to share the link with their participating family(ies) with a request to complete the survey.

In total, there were 9 respondents: three from the Western Region LVE Clinic, two from the Southern Region LVE Clinic, four from the Northern Region LVE Clinic, and none from the Metro LVE Clinic. The age range of the children represented was between the ages of 6-17.

Results were as follows:

Follow Up Questions Based on Likert Rating

A 5-point Likert Scale (5 = strongly agree – 1 = strongly disagree) was used to rate the following areas with the noted results in a mean score:

- Participating in the low vision clinic increased my understanding of my child's low vision needs **4.6**
- My comfort asking the low vision doctor / low vision therapist questions about my child's functional vision / low vision needs? **4.7**
- The LVE Clinic team provided information that has helped to support my child's learning at home? **4.6**
- I feel better equipped to advocate for my child's visual needs after attending the clinic **4.3**
- I would recommend participation in this clinic to other teachers with students who have visual impairments **4.9**

Follow Up Questions Based on Percentages

- Did you purchase any low vision devices (e.g., magnifiers, telescopes, etc.) recommended during the clinic? **Not yet: 67%; No: 11; Yes: 23%**
- Have you discussed the results and recommendations from the low vision report with your child's teacher or school team? **No: 11%; Yes: 89%**

Rank order statements of what was the most helpful:

- (1) receiving detailed information about my child;
- (2) recommendations for glasses and optical devices,
- (3) observing during the clinic and watching what my child can do, and;
- (4) the opportunity to ask the low vision team questions.



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) is closing its second 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. The project has four CDE employees (Project Co-Directors **Tanni Anthony** and **Gina Herrera**, TA Specialist **Jessica Meisel**, and Program Support Assistant **TBD** and a contracted Family Engagement Specialist **Cindy Colwell**. We thank **Berta Schlachet** for her program assistance support to the project from February through mid-August. For training, support documents and resources, please [check out the Deaf-Blind website](#).

A big thank you to all of the people who assisted in updating and/or completing the Colorado Deaf-Blind Child Count Forms for our December 1, 2024 Count. You, and others, have contributed to the 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. Cohorts begin in August and January, with the next cohort beginning August 29, 2025. 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? Are you still looking for an intervener who will need this training? For more information and to register, please contact Jessica Meisel at Meisel_j@cde.co.state.us

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project News

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
- workshops sponsored by the project across the state
- 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](#). Return this form as an email attachment to Gina Herrera at Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us or call at 303-253-0451. Or [fill out our new Google Form for Technical Assistance](#).

Community Intervener Program

The Community Intervener Program is under the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB). The program offers Colorado infants, children and young adults who are DeafBlind 14 hours per month of 1:1 services with a trained Community Intervener. Some DeafBlind adults are also eligible for the program under certain specifications and guidelines. Services can be utilized within the home or out in the community, and the DeafBlind individual can participate in ways they have not been able to before. For more information or to sign up, please contact Program Manager Elli Streifer at elli.streifer@state.co.us

2023 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Report



The [2023 National Deafblind Child Count Report](#) has been released. It offers extensive information on the population of children in the U.S. who are identified with deafblindness, ages birth through 21. Included are state and national data on population demographics, type and severity of vision and hearing loss, and causes of deafblindness. For background information on the child count and reports from previous years, visit the [National Child Count page](#).

Changes to OHOA Modules

NCDB is excited to announce that we have completed revisions to *An Overview of Deafblindness and Instructional Strategies* in the *Open Hands, Open Access: Deafblind Intervener Learning Modules* series. The changes involve updates to formatting, references, and content that had become outdated.

These changes should not affect syllabi for those using the module for formal training. To learn more, visit [OHOA Overview Module 2025 Revisions](#).

Resources and Materials

Helen Keller's Legacy: A Life of Impact and Influence

Think you know Helen Keller? Discover the extraordinary details of her adult life, advocacy, and the preservation of her legacy in this newly updated post. Learn how her impact continues today through digital archives and museum collections [Celebrating Helen Keller - Her Life, Achievements and Indelible Influence](#).

Cedric's Cartesian Quest App by APH

Take a look at the latest free APH app called **Cedric's Cartesian Quest**, which is gamified learning at its finest, turning coordinate grids and early algebra into an epic adventure for students with visual impairments!

<https://www.perkins.org/resource/cedric-s-cartesian-quest-math-app-part-1/>

American Printing House for the Blind Apps

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is truly a game changer with the release of their two latest apps—**Cosmic Number Lines** and **Cedric's Cartesian Quest**! These tools are revolutionizing how students who are blind or low vision interact with foundational math content—from early number sense on the number line to deeper exploration of coordinate planes and algebraic thinking. With built-in accessibility, engaging themes, and smart design, they not only make math more inclusive—they make it *fun*. These apps are setting a new standard for accessible, high-quality digital math learning!

The Dignity of Risk Course for Parents and Professionals

This free course was developed by Vanderbilt University's Department of Special Education in partnership with EMPOWERing Youth with VI (empowervi.org), is now live. A Colorado parent, Rob Harris, had the privilege of authoring Lesson #3 A Father's Perspective

The *dignity of risk* is a vital concept for educators, professionals, families, and advocates. It challenges us to remember that taking risks, making decisions, and sometimes making mistakes are not things to be prevented — they are essential steps in learning, growing, and living fully.

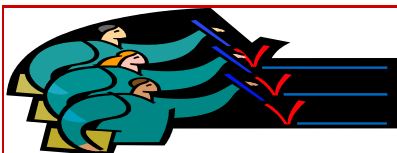
About EMPOWERing Youth with VI:

This national program equips blind and visually impaired youth with the skills, confidence, and leadership tools they need for adulthood and active community participation.

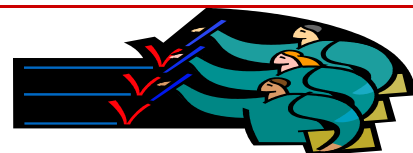
📄 **Take the course here:** <https://rise.articulate.com/share/ShJIZxblverQK5WF9UjIV98ZkV4rH0if>

Please complete the feedback survey at the end — your insights will help shape future resources and support the grant that made this course possible.





CHECK IT OUT!



Southwest Center for Assistive Technology Training (CATT) Program

CATT offers complimentary training in Assistive Technology for Teachers, parents, and students. CATT's emphasis is on the "train the trainer" approach, with a special focus on products tailored for individuals with visual impairments or blindness. For more information or to book a training, visit <https://seeitourway.org/services/catt/> or call 602-337-8243. Our regional CATT contact is Niraj Parikh.



Browse APH ConnectCenter's Latest Content

[A Guide to Living with Glaucoma](#)

[A Guide for Educational Services: Blind and Low Vision Children](#)

[Accessible Teaching Strategies for Blind College Students](#)

[Accessible Workplaces for Blind and Low Vision Employees](#)

[Back-to-School Checklist for Your Child with a Visual Impairment](#)

[Career Education Skills for Toddlers to Teenagers](#)

[Caring Without Assumptions: A Call to Medical Professionals](#)

[Concept Development at Home for Your Child with Blindness](#)

[Guide Dogs in the Workplace: Practical Tips for Handlers](#)

[Labeling and Marking: A Guide for Low Vision and Blindness](#)

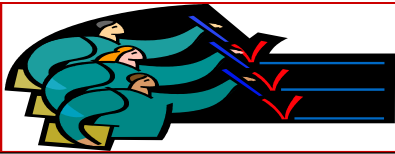
[Max, My Son Who Is DeafBlind](#)

[Your Rights: Practicing Self-Advocacy](#)

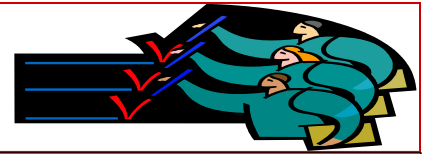
Bresnahan-Halstead Center Teacher Grant

The Bresnahan-Halstead Center is excited to provide up to \$500 in financial support for educators (who serve birth-21) to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. Examples can include, but are not limited to, professional development/training, conference registration, and classroom materials.

Contact Dr. Tracy Gershwin at Tracy.gershwin@unco.edu for more details.



CHECK IT OUT!



A Few of the OSEP-Funded TA Centers

** Early Childhood

The [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) is providing 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](#) has compiled and organized [Resources for Providing Technical Assistance During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). It covers OSEP guidance, distance TA, resources for families and service providers, and online learning for proficient communicators who are deaf-blind. The page is being 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. Current resources include:



** Accessible Materials and Technologies

The [National AEM Center at CAST](#) has provides TA, coaching, and resources 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 national center dedicated to improving education outcomes for all children, especially those with disabilities birth through age twenty-one, 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





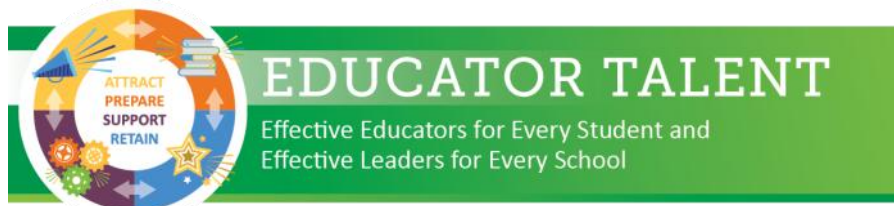
Initial Licensure and Endorsement Specific to Special Education Specialist: VI

For information about the endorsement requirements for the Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>.

Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21: (9.02)	<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: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>.

School Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ages 0-21: (11.03)	<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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Check out the **Educator Talent website**! Their mission is to develop, deploy, and support talent management and human capital development strategies for districts and schools so that the most effective educators are in every school and classroom and all students are prepared for college, career, and life. Check it out [Educator Talent webpage](#) for resources and tools.



Assessment Results Interpretation Resources are Available to Support Educators and Families

Guides and resources are available for each assessment to help Colorado stakeholders understand assessment results and support meaningful interpretation and action.

Assessment	Interpretation Resource
ACCESS for ELLs	<p>Parents Student Performance Report Guides - ACCESS/ Alternate ACCESS</p> <p>Educators Interpretive Guide to Reports - ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS</p>
CMAS (All Content Areas)/CoAlt (Science and Social Studies)	<p>Parents State Assessment Fact Sheet - English /Spanish Student Performance Report Guide English/Spanish Student Performance Report Videos Guide for Parents English/Spanish</p> <p>Educators CMAS and CoAlt Interpretive Guide to Assessment Reports</p>
PSAT/SAT	<p>Parents Understanding Scores for Students and Families</p> <p>Educators Comprehensive Guide to Scores for Educators</p>
CoAlt DLM	<p>Parents Understanding your Child's Score Report</p> <p>Educators School Aggregate Report Guide District Aggregate Report Guide</p>

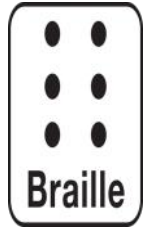
Paper CMAS Assessments Limited to Accommodations in 2026

Beginning in Spring 2026, paper-pencil format for CMAS assessments will only be available as an accommodation for students with a paper administration mode need directly tied to a disability documented in their IEP or 504 plan. This change is reflected in CO's Education Accountability System bill, [HB 25-1278](#), which was signed into law by Governor Polis in May. **TVIs, it is critical to have the need for a paper test to be documented in your students' IEP, as this is appropriate.**

The Colorado Spanish Language Arts assessment (CSLA), will also transition to an online assessment next spring. The Assessment Division has developed a plan to support districts through this transition which includes technology training and administration considerations for back-to-online districts and optional technology site visits



Licensure Requirements for TVIs and Orientation and Mobility Specialists Colorado Initial Licensure in the Endorsement Area of Visual Impairment



For information about Colorado licensing requirements in the area of Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment and/or School O&M Specialist, please refer to the information contained within [Educator Licensing's Endorsement Requirements page at this link](#).

Initial CDE Braille Competency Testing Requirements

Initial CDE Braille Competency Certificate: All licensed teachers endorsed in the area of visual impairment, including those individuals employed on a temporary (Temporary Educator Eligibility-TEE) or emergency credential who are completing their university program in visual impairment, must have a valid CDE Certificate of Braille Competency or a CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency on file with their current administrative unit of employment. The initial certificate expires five years from its initial issue from CDE.

The CDE Certificate of Braille Competency must be earned no later than May 31st of the first instructional year of teacher of students with visual impairments in a Colorado administrative unit. If a TVI moves from one Colorado administrative unit to another, the expectation of first-year braille competency demonstration does not “reactivate” from year-to-year. The testing clock begins with the first day of Colorado employment as a TVI. TVIs must have taken a university-level braille course or have sufficient documentation of UEB training before they can take the initial CDE Braille Competency Test. The initial CDE Braille Competency Certificate expires 5 years from its date of issue.

Renewal CDE Braille Competency Certificate

There is a one time expectation to renew the initial CDE certificate five years after its initial issue. This is accomplished by completing 15 renewal modules across the five year renewal period. These modules must be taken with one of the CDE Braille Proctors. Candidates who are in the renewal process should plan on completing three braille renewal modules during each of the five year renewal requirement.

For more information about Colorado's braille competency requirements, please go to:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

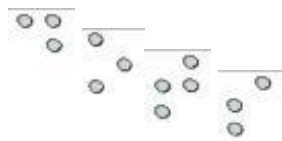


It is Our Profession! CEC Specialty Set Competency Standards

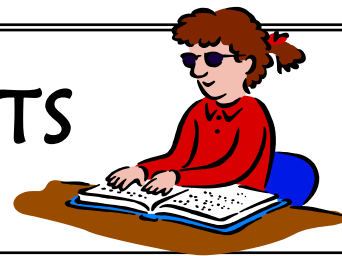
- [Initial Specialty Set: Blind and Visual Impairments](#)
- [Initial Specialty Set: Deafblindness](#)
- [Initial Specialty Set: Intervener](#)

Educators May Add Licenses and Certifications to myColorado App

CDE has partnered with the [myColorado app](#) to provide certified educators access to digital versions of their credentials. Download the myColorado app, create an account and download certificates into the myColorado wallet. [To learn more about myColorado and the Educator Certificates, visit the myColorado FAQ page.](#)



CONNECTING THE DOTS



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 committee consists currently of the following individuals:

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—that information and other resources can be found [at this link](#).

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. Two math codes are approved by the Braille Authority of North America. 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.

To enroll, go to: <https://community.aphhive.org/t/teaching-graphicacy-skills-general-discussion/2215>

Braille Authority of North America (BANA) Press Release

At its face-to-face meeting in May 2025, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) approved a position statement, *Accessible Tests are Required for Braille Readers*. This document is now available on the [BANA website found at this link](#).

Prompted by persistent misperceptions about current braille codes, the position statement addresses general inaccuracies that lead to inaccessible tests for students at the national, state and local levels. In the document BANA reaffirms that English Braille American Edition (EBAE) is no longer supported. The official braille codes for use in the United States are Unified English Braille (UEB), The Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics and Science Notation 2022, Music Braille Code, and International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Students may use UEB or Nemeth Code for technical subjects like math and science, as determined by their IEP or 504 Plan. Testing materials must match the braille code and accommodations students use during instruction. States, educators, and test developers must ensure that all assessments and instructional materials comply with these guidelines to support equitable access for students who are blind or low vision

BANA Position Statements and Fact Sheets

[Accessible Tests are Required for Braille Readers](#) Approved May 2025 also in [BRF](#)

Importance of The No Translation Option in Screen Readers in [PDF](#) and [BRF](#)

[Terminology: UEB Math/Science and UEB with Nemeth](#) in [PDF](#) and [BRF](#)

BANA Positions on Computer Braille Code and Braille ASCII in [PDF](#) and [BRF](#)

[A Brailist's Pledge of Professional Ethics](#) also in [PDF](#) and [BRF](#)

[The Use of the Braille Slate and Stylus](#) also in [PDF](#)

[Capitalization Style for the Word "braille"](#) also in [PDF](#)

[Braille is NOT a Language](#) also in [PDF](#) and [BRF](#)

[Terminology: Contracted and Uncontracted Braille](#) also in [PDF](#)





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 both in their [webinars archive](#) and on their [Web-Based Learning Page](#).
- The [Primary Maths 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. Kyle would recommend visiting [Project INSPIRE's microsite on Paths to Literacy](#)



You can do it !





Multilingual Learners

Identified or Suspected of
Having Educational Disabilities



Multilingual Matters: Multilingual Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Heads up on a helpful resource from WIDA designed to support our understanding of the individual communication profiles of students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities who are also Multilingual Learners. You can find it here:

The new [Tell Us About Your Child Survey](#) (available in 17 languages!) is a questionnaire that educators can give to families or caregivers of multilingual learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities to better understand a student's language and communication needs. In the survey, families or caregivers will answer questions about a student's method of communication and language, their ability to understand communication and their preferred communication supports.

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! Sessions run from 8:30–9:30 on a.m. on August 21, September 4, September 25, October 22, October 30, November 20, and December 11 (2025), and February 19 and March 5 (2026).

[Webinar Series Informational Booklet](#)

[Registration Link](#)

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.

An Important Resource

- The CDE's [Linguistically Responsive Data-Based Instructional Decision-Making for K-12 Multilingual Learners](#)

Opportunities that offer Special Education Recertification Credit:

- The CDE's [Culturally Responsive School-Based Family Interviewing: Engaging in Empathic Family Partnerships](#)
- The CDE's [Indigenous Students and Those with Exceptionalities Modules](#)



Calendar of Events

2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025

September 5-6	Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org
September 12	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org
September 17	Blindness/Low Vision Coalition—virtual meeting <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
Sept 23-24	Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) – Albuquerque, NM <u>Registration:</u> http://www.wreic.org/
September 25	Career Fair (Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton) Charles Bennett at cbennett@cocenter.org
September 26	2025 Colorado Assistive Technology Expo RSVP to attend the expo
October 3	Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic—Grand Junction <u>Contact:</u> Angela Sims at angela.sims@d51schools.org
October 3	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org
October 15-17	American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting – Louisville, KY <u>Contact:</u> www.APH.org
October 23-24	CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision—Lowry Campus <u>Registration:</u> https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3fca438dd1b04870a9e693ead98a5cca
November 5-8	Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference—Huntsville, AL <u>Registration:</u> https://www.gitwl.org/register
November 6-8	Southwest O&M Conference—virtual <u>Register:</u> Conference
November 7	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org
November 13-14	Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic—Fort Collins <u>Contact:</u> Sam Thuis at thuis_samantha@svvsd.org





COLORADO

Department of Education

Dates: October 23-24, 2025

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM both days

Location: LOWRY CONFERENCE CENTER
1061 AKRON WAY, DENVER CO 80230

**** PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN COLORADO SCHOOL BASED TVIS. THIS TRAINING IS NOT OPEN TO OUT OF STATE REGISTRANTS.**

Functional Low Vision Assessment and Strategies

TRAINING DESCRIPTION:

This two-day session will cover comprehensive functional low vision assessments procedures and tools, skills for interpreting medical reports, psychosocial considerations, optical device training, instructional strategies, and key equipment and resources to address the near and distance vision, contrast sensitivity, and field loss needs of students with low vision

Learning objectives:

- Identifying tools and procedures to complete a comprehensive functional low vision assessment and identifying the need for and interpretation of a low vision exam;
Interpreting assessment / low vision exam information for IEP development;
Determining and implementing appropriate SDI to address education needs

If you have questions please contact Tanny Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Presenter: For over twenty years, Erika Andersen Ko has specialized in helping students, families and practitioners optimize visual function and quality of life by focusing on a whole person approach to low vision. Erika holds a master's degree in visual disabilities, is a certified low vision specialist, and an ACVREP subject matter expert. She presents nationally and internationally, serves as a low vision consultant, and most recently co-authored. "Literacy and Optical Devices" in the upcoming 3rd Edition of Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives.

Registration Open until:

October 4, 2025





Calendar of Events

2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026
November 30	Tools for Life Applications Due For more TFL information: Click Here.											
January 9	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											
Jan 12- Feb 13	Administration Window for ACCESS Testing											
Jan 26- March 20	Administration Window for NAEP Testing for selected 4 th / 8 th Grade Students in ELA and Math											
February 6	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											
February 19-21	Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic —Anchor Center for Blind Children Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us											
March 1	Education Life Scholarships Due For more EFL information, Click Here											
March 6	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											
April 3	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											
April 6-24	Administration Window for CMAS Testing											
April 13 -24	Administration Window for SAT college entrance exam to all 11th grade students and PSAT to 9th and 10th grade students.											
April 13-24	Administration Window for CoAlt Assessments											
April 15	Tools for Life Applications Due For more TFL information: Click Here.											
May 1	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											
June 5	First Friday CIMC Virtual Call from 2:30—3:30 p.m. Contact: Jim Olson at Jolson@csdb.org											



Registration is Open!



~Many People, One Heart~



Western Regional Early Intervention Conference

Hosted by the New Mexico School for the Deaf,
the Project for New Mexico Children & Youth Who Are Deaf-Blind,
and the New Mexico School for the Blind

held at the

Sheraton Uptown Hotel



Albuquerque, New Mexico



Pre-conference: September 22, 2025; Conference: September 23-24, 2025

- Early bird registration on or before July 18, 2025-Preconference only \$130; Conference only \$260; Both Preconference and Conference \$380
- Registration on or after July 19, 2025- Preconference only \$145; Conference only \$295; Both Preconference and Conference \$425
- Registration closes September 8, 2025

Presenters Include: Dr. Rachel Pilling Pediatric Ophthalmologist from the United Kingdom, Dr. Wyatt Hall University of Rochester Medical Center and Gallaudet's Child Resilience Center, Maurice Belote-Closure Co-Chair of the National Deaf-Blind Coalition, and many more.

For more details:

- The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference website address is: <http://www.wreic.org>
- For additional questions or information, please email us at: WREICinformation@gmail.com



We Hope To See You There!!





Orientation & Mobility

SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 2026!

The excitement is already building up for the Orientation and Mobility Opus to end all Opus' - this will be one for the O&M history books! Lynn Gautreaux, the conference chair for 2026, is already hard at work planning for it. He says, "We will have an O&M program that will be remembered for years to come, with a wide variety of O&M sessions and various tracks, lots of exhibitors, and a location venue extraordinaire in New Orleans, LA!" Specific dates in December 2026, conference hotel, and other details will be forthcoming, so, mark your calendars and start planning to attend this national 2026 O&M conference!

2025 Southwest Orientation & Mobility Conference Hosted via Zoom on November 6-8, 2025

The Southwest Orientation & Mobility Conference will be in a virtual format via Zoom. . This year's theme is *"Transitions: How We Support the Various Stages of Life."* Over **13 hours** of CEU's (ACVREP and SBEC) are available.

Conference Dates:

November 6th: Pre-Conference (Optional)

November 7th - 8th: Main Conference

Registration Fees:

Professionals - \$100 (Early) & \$125 (Late)

Family Members, University students, & Paras - \$25 (Early) & \$50 (Late)

Late registration begins **October 1, 2025 @ 5:00 PM Central!**

Registration closes on **October 25, 2025 @ 5:00 PM Central!**

Register: https://txtsbvi.escworks.net/catalog/conference.aspx?conference_id=42278

Notice: A late cancellation/no-show fee of \$25 may be applied to registrations that are not cancelled by October 25, 2025 @ 5:00 PM Central Time. This includes "no-calls and no-shows." If you suspect that you are unable to attend, please log into your account to cancel your registration or contact the hosts ASAP to avoid this charge.

Information about this conference can also be found on the [SWOMA Conference Page](#). Please contact [Scott Turner](#), Statewide Orientation & Mobility Consultant for Outreach Programs or [Morgan Fayard](#), Administrative Assistant if you have any questions.

Visual Impairment, including Blindness

Effective as of June 2023.

The updated eligibility criteria can be found in the [Rules for Administration of the Exceptional Children Education Act](#).

2.08(11) A child with a Visual Impairment, Including Blindness has an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects the child's educational performance and that requires specialized instruction. The term includes low vision, blindness and/or progressive vision loss.

2.08(11)(a) A determination that a child is an eligible child with a Visual Impairment, Including Blindness may include but not be limited to:

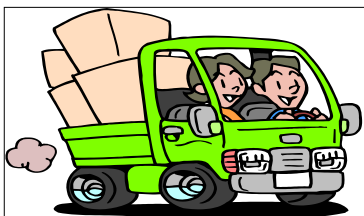
2.08 (11) (a) (i) Visual acuity of no better than 20/70 in the better eye after correction;

2.08 (11) (a) (ii) Visual field restriction to 20 degrees or less; and/or

2.08(11) (a) (iii) A physical condition of visual system which cannot be medically corrected and, as such, affects visual functioning to the extent that specially designed instruction is needed.

These criteria are reserved for special situations such as, but not restricted to cortical visual impairment and/or a progressive visual loss where field and/or acuity deficits alone may not meet the aforementioned criteria.





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Important CO DVR Update

The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) currently operates under an Order of Selection system, as designated by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This system is necessary when there are not enough financial or staff resources to provide services to everyone who needs them. When DVR determines it has limited resources, it will create waitlists based on priority categories. [Order of Selection Information | Rehabilitation Services Administration](#)

DVR has recently identified the need to implement a wait list, because of insufficient federal and state resources.

For more information, contact: [Email the Communications Manager DVR Website](#)

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program – Spring & Summer Update by Chaz Davis

This spring, our youth program was full of energy, growth, and memorable experiences. In mid-May, we hosted our second annual Youth Family Retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Over the course of the weekend, eight families and nine blind mentors came together to learn, connect, and explore the great outdoors. Families stayed in two spacious eight-bedroom cabins where everyone pitched in to prepare meals and share in daily routines. Together, they practiced essential non-visual skills such as mobility, home management, and braille literacy, while also trying their hands at recreational activities like rock climbing, archery, and tactile arts and crafts.

Evenings around the campfire were a highlight, offering space for meaningful conversations and laughter. One young participant summed it up perfectly: “I always feel like the outcast at school, but this was so fun to be around other kids like me.” Families repeatedly expressed how valuable it was to connect informally with others facing similar experiences, forming friendships and exchanging ideas that will last far beyond the weekend. The retreat continues to be one of the most impactful traditions of our program and leaves everyone feeling inspired and supported.

In June, we held our monthlong No Limits to Learning residential program, welcoming 17 students from 10 states and three countries. This program is designed to challenge blind youth to strengthen practical skills in home management, braille literacy, cane travel, and assistive technology—while also embracing a positive philosophy about blindness. At the heart of our work is the belief that blind individuals can and do lead successful, fulfilling lives, and every element of the program reinforces that message.

A cornerstone of the summer program is our “Philosophy Class,” held three times a week. These open discussions tackle topics like media portrayals of blindness, low societal expectations, transitioning to college, and real-world self-advocacy. Students learn to think critically about their experiences and explore strategies for continued personal growth beyond our program.

Career readiness is another major focus of No Limits to Learning. Through interactive workshops, students practiced interviewing and networking, explored workplace expectations like professional attire and hygiene, and honed both hard and soft skills. We also hosted a university readiness session led by a blind professional with extensive experience in disability services. This workshop addressed the differences between high school and college, equipping students with tools to navigate post-secondary education successfully.

just for PARENTS

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)

NFADB is the largest nonprofit organization serving families of individuals who are deaf-blind (combined vision and hearing loss). [Check out the NFADB website.](#)

The organization provides information on deaf-blindness, hosts webinars on a variety of topics, and is very involved in national conferences to support families of children with deaf-blindness.



National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

Founded in 1983, the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a membership organization of parents, educators, and friends of blind children reaching out to give each other vital support, encouragement, and information. They have thousands of members in all fifty states plus Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

The NOPBC offers hope, encouragement, information, and resources for parents of blind or low-vision children. NOPBC provides emotional support and a network for families. They also provide information, training, and resources to empower families to take an active role in guiding their child's development and education.

Their status as a division of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), an important organization of blind people in the world, provides many benefits. NFB provides its members information about the societal, legislative, and technological issues that affect blind people. One of their most exciting activities is their annual conference. Every year since it was established, the NOPBC has conducted an annual conference for parents and teachers of blind children as part of the national convention of the NFB.

The program has grown to include five exciting days of workshops, training sessions, activities for all family members, including sighted siblings, and countless opportunities to meet blind adults and other families and children from around the country. Most states have an NOPBC affiliate chapter. Colorado has one! For more information, call the Colorado Center for the Blind at (303) 778-1130.

Exceptional Parent Magazine

Did you know subscriptions to [Exceptional Parent Magazine](#) are free? This award-winning publication focuses on serving the special needs community.

[Sign up here](#) to receive a free monthly subscription.

Have a child with a Recent Eye Condition Diagnosis?

APH FamilyConnect's Getting Started Guides provide information about vision development, navigating IFSP and IEPs, braille literacy, and technology. They offer transition support, tips and ideas to support your child at home, as well as a wealth of additional resources to help you raise your child. [Access the Getting Started Guides here.](#)

Frequently Asked Questions: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, and Social Security Disability Insurance - Can I work if I receive social security benefits?

This FAQ provides people with disabilities and their families an overview on social security benefits and answers common questions about these benefits and employment.

Check out the [Financial Toolkit: Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource.

just for PARENTS



A Guide for Parents and Family Members of Students on IEPs

The CDE website has great information for parents. Go to this link for frequently asked questions. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/parent-faq>



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.

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

For questions, reach out to Pahmela Mendoza, Family School Program Specialist at mendoza_p@cde.state.co.us

Interested in attending the next PEP in the 2025-26 School Year?

Join the PEP Mailing List

[Add me to the PEP Mailing List](#)



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

We are facing some serious vacancies for Colorado TVIs (teachers of students with visual impairments) and Orientation and Mobility Specialists. Please keep in touch with Tanni about our 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 also 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 of our students.

Metro Region

- ♦ **1 FTE TVI (or part time)** TVI at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. For more information, please reach out to Tammy Miller at tmiller@anchorcenter.org
- ♦ **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist Position** in Littleton School District. Please contact Jennifer Templeton at jtempleton@lps.k12.co.us

Northern Region

- ♦ **1 FTE TVI and O&M Specialist** in Greeley Schools. For more information, please contact please contact Tabitha Miller at tmiller7@greeleyschools.org

Southern Region

- ♦ **Possibly for SY 26-27 1 FTE TVI and O&M Specialist** for Colorado Springs D11 School District. For more information, please contact Nancy Maresh-Melo at NANCY.MARESHMELO@d11.org or 719-520-2153.
- ♦ **1 FTE Teacher of the Visually Impaired: Secondary English Language Arts** position at CSDB. Please contact Jonathon Karlia for more information at jkarli@csdb.org

Statewide

- ♦ **1 FTE TVI / O&M Specialist** for CSDB Outreach. Please contact Jac Tyrcha at jtyrcha@csdb.org

Across Metro, Northern, and Western Regions

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





IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

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. This includes maintaining your ACVREP O&M certification.

Please keep in touch with Tanni, if you are interested in this type of work after your retirement! We are seeing many retired TVIs and O&M Specialists come back to contribute as subs for maternity leave, do contract work, and/or work at A Shared Vision. If you want to be on the CDE's TVI and/or O&M Specialist contractor list, please be in touch with Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



IMPORTANT RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY

AER's Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee (PPRC) is proud to announce the release of the long-awaited recruitment video: "Visual Impairment Professions." The 5-minute PBS Spotlight On video started airing nationwide between regular programming on September 30, 2024. It is expected to reach 3 million viewers in just the first 3 months. It will continue to air for a minimum of one year.

The links to access this video with and without audio description are:

Without audio description:

<https://youtu.be/I90UJSQNGU8>

With audio description:

<https://youtu.be/mGscr-DO0Eg>

Please use the video and spread the word. Everyone needs to help bring new people into our field!

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

- Steve Jobs



New Faces and New Places

- ♦ **Alissa ElTabib** is a new TVI with the Anchor Center for Blind Children. She recently completed her MA in Early Childhood Special Education from CU Denver and earned her TVI credentials (birth–5) through the University of Utah. Alissa previously worked in hospitality doing sales and events and ultimately decided to pursue her passion of working with children. While completing her MA, she did a practicum at the Anchor Center, which completely changed her path. That experience inspired her to become a TVI, so she could join the Anchor team. Outside of work, Alissa is a mom to two busy and adorable toddlers (3 and 1.5 years old). The family lives in Boulder and they love spending time outdoors—biking, hiking, and stopping at every playground possible. Alissa shares that she is excited for this new chapter in her career! So glad to have Alissa working in this role!
- ♦ **Dr. Jonathon Karli** is the new Principal of the School for the Blind. He holds a Master's degree in special education with a focus on Visual Impairment from Northern Illinois University, as well as a specialist degree in Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Education from Drake University. Most recently, he served as Chief Academic Officer at Iowa Educational Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired, after previously working as a Regional Director. Before moving into administrative roles, Jonathon spent nine years supporting students directly as a Teacher of Students with Visually Impairment (TVI) and Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialist. We welcome Jonathon to Colorado and to this new role!
- ♦ **Joe Odekerken** is the new teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI) serving Thompson School District in Northern Colorado. This is his first year in Colorado and his 11th as a TVI. Joe has spent the past ten years working as an itinerant TVI for the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, Arizona, where he served students and districts throughout the state providing instruction in areas such as braille, assistive technology, self-determination, independent living skill, among many other areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for students ranging in ages from 3-22. He also collaborated with classroom teachers, parents, and other service providers on an IEP team to help provide accessibility to materials and devices that each unique student may be using. He shares that it has been a very rewarding experience working with a wide variety of students across many backgrounds and cultures to provide for their individual visual needs. Joe received his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Arizona State University (Go Devils!) He received his Master's degree in Special Education: Visual Impairment Specialization from the University of Arizona. Attending two fierce football rivals created some interesting conflicts of interest (but really, Go Devils!), but both schools helped prepare him for this dynamic and rewarding field. Joe enjoys watching football, and is a long-suffering fan of Arizona Sports. He also enjoys camping, spending time with his family, and traveling on road trips. Welcome to CO, Joe!
- ♦ **Patience Piesecki** is a new virtual TVI working in Colorado Schools. She has been a Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired for over 12 years. Patience has worked in three schools for the blind, in the nonprofit sector as a specialist in early childhood, and as an itinerant teacher in public, private, and charter schools. She has done a combination of hybrid services for the past 5 years. She is an advocate for doing what is best for the child's independence. She believes in the "I do-we do-you do" model when beginning instruction on a new topic. Patience loves supporting accessibility, Braille, abacus skills, and students with cortical visual impairment. She described herself as a life-long learner who hopes to impact individuals around the world. She is the secretary of Tennessee AER. Patience is working with Elizabeth Webb to provide virtual services in Colorado.



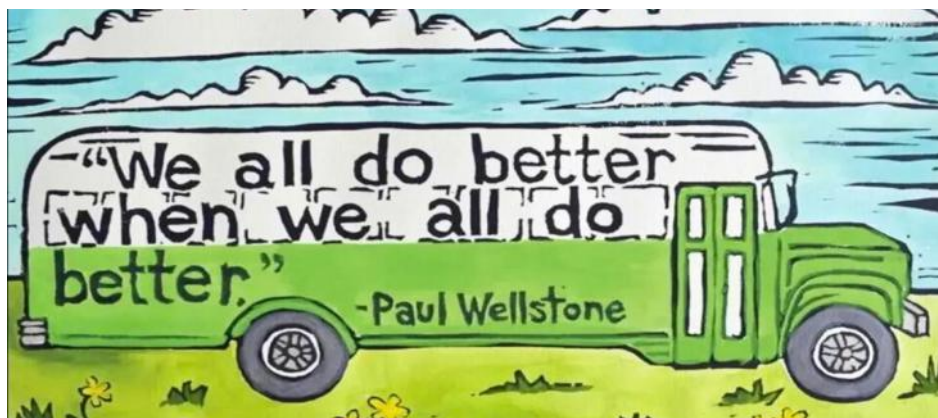
New Faces and New Places

- ♦ **Erin Rupe** is excited to be joining Anchor Center for Blind Children as a TSVI for the preschool program and as a home visit provider. Erin has worked in the special education field for 28 years serving as an ECSE, TVI, elementary and middle school special education teacher, learning specialist, and mentor teacher. Additionally, she works collaboratively with a team at the University of Oregon as a consultant and content creator for a new educational assistant professional development system. Erin is looking forward to working with children, families, and colleagues both at Anchor and in the field this year! We are thrilled to have Erin on board!
- ♦ **Juanita Veith** is a new para professional with Meghan Crosby working with students with blindness / visual impairments. She has been working at Montrose High School for 20 years as a paraeducator in the SSN room. Juanita worked in the Montrose County School District for 25 years. Previously, she was a preschool / toddler teacher for about 24 years. She brings many years of experience from different states and in different positions. Juanita shared that enjoys working with students with special needs and feels very rewarded when they reach their goals and accomplishments. She is looking forward to working with a new group of students and starting a new direction in her life. This is wonderful news for the students in Montrose!

If we missed some new people in CO roles, we have time to get them introduced. Please send Tanni an email with the needed details for future editions!

Familiar Faces in New Places

- ♦ **Sherry Bainbridge** is working as a TVI and O&M in Windsor School District.
- ♦ **Michelle Chacon** is working as a TVI and O&M Specialist in Adams 14 School District.
- ♦ **Lisa Hebbert** is working as a TVI and O&M Specialist in Littleton School District.
- ♦ **Amber Korben** is working as a TVI in Poudre School District.
- ♦ **Evan MacDonald** is working at CSDB in their Bridges to Life Program.
- ♦ **Ellen Wallis** is working in Centennial BOCES and Thompson School District.
- ♦ **Jared Walker** is subbing in Denver Public Schools





colorado connections

Braille Competency



- Congrats to **Jon Fisher** from the CSDB Bridges of Life Program, **Alex Padilla** from the CSDB School for the Blind, and **Tina Steveley**, a brailist with Poudre School District for earning their initial CDE Certificates of Braille Competency. Also, a big congratulations to **Michael Wright** of RE-3J School District and **Morgan Harrington** of Denver Public Schools for earning their CDE Renewal Braille Certificates. There was some great summer results!
- Kudos to **Julie Harrison, Morgan Harrington, Chris Kinney, Autumn Odette, Alyshia Shelton, Jared Walker, Elizabeth Webb, and Michael Wright** for completing braille renewal modules over the summer months. Thanks to **Chris Maynard, Nancy Cozart, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein** for their proctoring work. Thanks also to **Jo Pinto** for braille proofreading work.
- If you are a new 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!

Applause

- Our deepest congratulations to **Julie Deden**, Executive Director of the Colorado Center for the Blind, for being awarded the highest honor of the National Federation of the Blind, the Jacobus tenBroek Award. Dr. Jacobus tenBroek was one of the most influential minds in the field of civil rights. He was a staunch advocate, respected attorney, and legal scholar whose legacy continues more than five decades after his death. This is a great honor to Julie, who is so well deserving, for her leadership and commitment to offering and improving services to blind people. We are Colorado-proud!

Personnel

- We thank **Cheryl Austin** for her 3.5 years of services with CSDB. Cheryl worked at CSDB in a number of capacities, as the Outreach Coordinator, a Dean within School for the Blind, and, most recently, the interim Principal for the School for the Blind. Cheryl left CSDB at the end of June to pursue a different passion in the field of animal rescue/welfare. We wish Cheryl all the very best!

Professional Development

- A round of applause to **Nancy Steele**, who was our presenter and facilitator extraordinaire at the June 9-10, 2025 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness. Also to all of the attendees. We had 14 child-specific teams from A Shared Vision, Academy 20 School District (SD), Adams 12 SD, Adams 14 SD, Aurora SD, Brighton SD, CSDB Outreach, Littleton SD, Northeast BOCES, North Community Services Center, Resource Exchange, Rio Blanco BOCES, and St. Vrain SD/ The following TVIs were in attendance: **Tanni Anthony, Jenny Campbell, Donna Keale, Paula Landry, and Alyshia Shelton.**

Happy News!

- Happy new baby to **Jenny and Aaron Appel** on the birth of their daughter Della Katherine Appel, who was born July 17th. Stats include 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and two ecstatic parents. Congratulations!

Who Ya Gonna Call / Email / Text?

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment at www.ASharedVision.org

- For referrals – (upreferrals@ASharedVision.org (general mailbox)

Anchor Center for Blind Children at <https://anchorcenter.org/>

- For referrals or information on services / CVI Initiative contact (303) 337-9732

Tanni Anthony at (303) 503-4647 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- Blindness / Low Blindness/Low Vision Coalition (CDE State BLV Advisory)
- CDE Braille Competency Testing /Braille Certification Renewal
- CDE Initiatives specific to State Assessments, Standards, READ Act, Gifted Talented, etc.
- CDE Orientation and Mobility Seminar
- CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision
- CDE TVI / O&M and Brailist Specialist listservs
- CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deaf-Blindness, and Orientation & Mobility
- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- Deaf-Blind Webinar Series
- Eligibility of Learners with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness or Deaf-Blindness
- IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, specially designed instruction
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI, O&M Specialist, and brailist positions within Colorado
- *Keeping in Touch (KIT)* newsletter
- Licensure for TVIs and O&M Specialists
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BLV and/or deaf-blindness
- READ Act and guidance specific for learners with blindness/low vision or deafblindness
- Sound Bites (monthly virtual trainings)
- Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) at (719) 578-2196

- Braille Challenge – Metro Contest
- CIMC webpage: <https://csdb.colorado.gov/outreach/cimc-colorado-instructional-materials-center>
- Please encrypt all emails containing personally identifiable student information (PII) you send to the following email addresses:
- cimcaphorders@csdb.org for “APH Order Form” & “CIMC Professional Lending Library” submissions /questions
- cimcbookorders@csdb.org for braille and large print “Book Order Form” submissions, sourcing inquiries, and questions
- cimcBrailierTechSoftware@csdb.org for “Brailier-Tech-Software Order Form,” “Brailier Repair Form” and ?s
- cimcregistrations@csdb.org for submissions / ?s about “Parent Consent,” “Registration,” and “Exit” Forms
- (719) 578-2195 Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.org
- (719) 578-2196 CIMC pilot number (rings all CIMC computer-based phones simultaneously, no voicemail)
- (719) 578-2197 – Debbie Haberkorn, dhaberkorn@csdb.org (braille transcriber, braille book orders questions);
- (719) 578-2198 – Danielle Steele, dsteale@csdb.org (shipping & receiving questions, APH materials orders)
- (719) 578-2199 - Maddee Durossette, mdurossette@csdb.org (state / APH registrations, database reports, federal quota census, and related questions)
- Mailing Address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559

Michelle Chacon at (303) 507-6291 or mchacon@adams14.org

- Metro TVI / O&M Specialist Region representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Paula Conroy at (970) 351-1651 or paula.conroy@unco.edu

- UNC Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment / O&M Training Program
- UNC representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Nancy Cozart at (303) 905-4074 or cozart_n@cde.state.co.us

- CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Chaz Davis (303) 778-1130 or cdavis@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) Youth Programs
- CCB Youth Program Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Julie Deden at (303) 778-1130 or jdeden@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind Director

Kathy Emter at (719) 578-2177 or kemter@csdb.org

- CSDB Director of Special Education
- CSDB and Enrollment Questions

Christine Holmberg at (303) 506-3859 or christine@foresightskiguide.org

- Foresight Ski Guides

Gina Herrera at (303) 253-0451 or herrera_g@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project
- Free Technical for Learners with Deaf-Blindness, Their Families, and Service Providers
- Intervener Training and Support (with Jessica Meisel)

Abby Horner at (970) 348-1920 or ahorner2@greeleyschools.org

- Northern Region TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Jonathon Karli (719) 578-2108 or jkarli@csdb.org

- Braille Challenge – CSDB Regional Contest
- CSDB Adams' School for the Blind Principal
- CSDB School for the Blind representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition Meetings

Donna Keale at (719) 330-7387 or dkeale@csdb.org

- CSDB BVI Outreach Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Paula Landry at (303)-335-6554 or plandry@ASharedVision.org

- A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment
- A Shared Vision Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Jeannie Lei at (720) 810-1363 or jlei@cherrycreekschools.org

- Metro TVI / O & M Specialist Regional Meetings

Christine Maynard at (719) 229-4981 or maynard_c@cde.state.co.us

- Southern Region CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor



Aryn McNichol at (303) 702-8354 or mcnichol_aryn@svvdsd.org

- Northern TVI / O&M Specialist Regional Meetings

Tammy Miller at (303)-377-9732 or tmiller@anchorcenter.org

- Anchor Center for Blind Children Director of Children's Programs and Services Program Coordinator
- Anchor Center for Blind Children representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org

- **CIMC webpage:** <https://csdb.colorado.gov/> and click on "Outreach" tab, choose "CIMC" from drop-down menu.
- Authorized NIMAS file user for Colorado
- CIMC braille & large print book orders and APH loan materials
- CIMC First Friday Meetings
- CIMC Professional Lending Library
- CIMC Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings
- CIMC year-round registration of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired
- Federal Quota Census registration (first Monday in January annually)
- Ex Officio Trustee for the Colorado Department of Education Federal Quota Accounts
- Southern Region TVI-DVR Specialist Meetings
- School district orders of prescribed low-vision clinic devices

Michele Reed at (720) 883-7154 or michele.reed@state.co.us

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings

Erin Schroeder at (970) 254-5414 or Erin.schroeder@d51schools.org

- Western Slope TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings
- Western Slope TVI / O & M Specialist Regional Meetings

Brenda Shepard at (303) 995-7913 or shepard_b@cde.state.co.us

- CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Angela Sims at (970) 640-7096 or angela.sims@d51schools.org

- Site Coordinator for Western Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Tera Spangler at (719) 578-2102 or tspangler@csdb.org

- CSDB Superintendent

Lorrie Spoering at (303) 727-9277 or Spoering_l@cde.state.co.us

- Talking Book Library Outreach Librarian

Nicolle Steffen at (303) 727-9277 or Steffen_n@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Talking Book Library Director

Jaclyn Tyrcha at or jtyrcha@csdb.org

- Director of CSDB Outreach (BVI / DHH) Program

Samantha Thuis at (970) 685-8755 or thuis_samantha@svvdsd.org

- Site Coordinator for Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic



Kim Ann Wardlow at (303) 786-7777 x 101 or www.aftersight.org

- Aftersight (formerly) Audio Information Network of Colorado

Jacky Weatherup at (719) 578-2102 or jweatherup@csdb.org

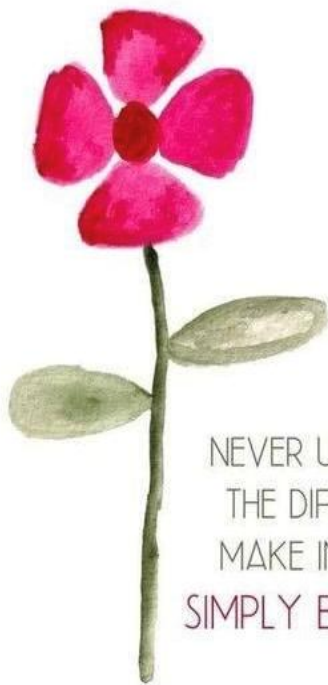
- Executive Assistant to the CSDB Superintendent and the CSDB Board of Trustees

Julie Wetzstein at (303) 216-6124 or Wetzstein_j@cde.state.co.us

- CDE Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Chloann Woolley at (719) 494-6337 or cwoolley@wpsdk12.org

- CAER Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition meetings
- CAER President
- Southern Region TVI / O&M Specialist Representative at Blindness/Low Vision Coalition Meetings



Welcome to a new school year!
I am looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision, at a Sound Bites session. or another in-person or virtual opportunity.

There is a lot to look forward to and accomplish on behalf of our students.

In Collaboration and Gratitude, Tanni.

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the United States Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

