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Keeping in Touch!

A Newsletter for **Parents and Service Providers of Colorado Children with Blindness, Low Vision, CVI, or Deaf-Blindness**

November - December 2026



Thank You!

To the Colorado she/heroes who work alongside students with blindness, low vision, and deaf-blindness. Your knowledge, dedication, and willingness to keep learning to ensure that students receive the instruction, access, and individualized support they need to make progress. Across age and grade bands, all development domains, all subjects, in homes/schools/communities, with a plethora of individualized technology and specialized materials, and across all sizes of campuses and weather-conditioned roads – you truly do it all, every school day and often over weekends. Your teaching encompasses academics, the Expanded Core Curriculum, and so much more. You help students develop practical life skills, build stamina, navigate their environments, communicate their needs, strengthen self-advocacy, and grow in confidence. These skills take intentional instruction, patience, and persistence, and their importance extends well beyond the school day.

Thank you for the many ways you contribute to students' learning, development, resilience, and future opportunities. Your work matters, your expertise is valued, and the difference you make is an important part of ensuring that students with sensory differences across Colorado have the opportunity to learn, grow, and belong in their school and neighborhood communities. **Thankful for each of you!**

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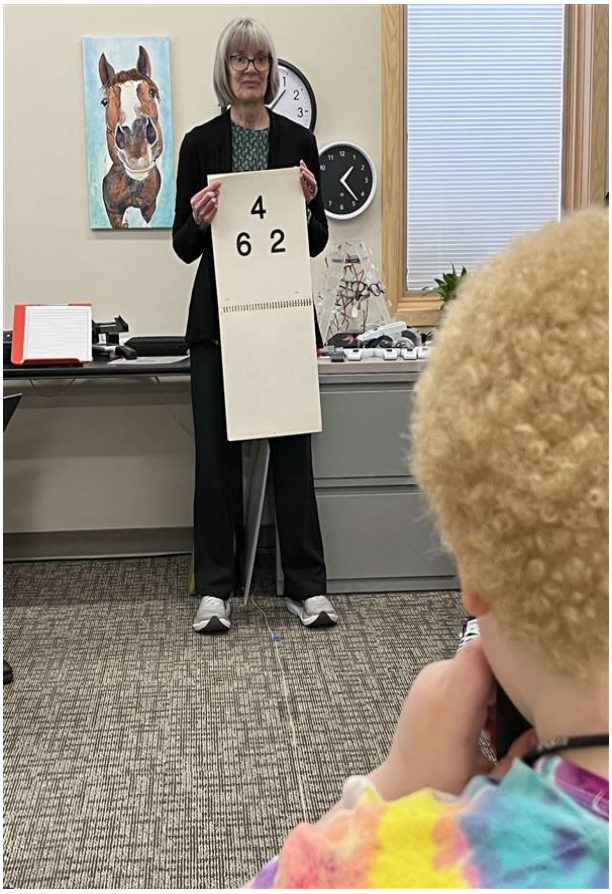
Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinic News

2026-2027 Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

Clinic	LVE Clinic Date(s)	Due Date for Paperwork	Site Coordinator
Southern LVE Clinic @ Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB)	December 3-4, 2026	November 19-20, 2026	Jim Olson jolson@csdb.org
Metro LVE Clinic @ Anchor Center for Blind Children	February 24-26, 2027	February 8, 2027	Krista Berkey Berkey_k@cde.state.co.us

Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics



We are so happy that our regional LVE Clinics are funded and full staff for this school year. We are thrilled to have our full team returning for this school year. This includes optometrists Drs. Kara Hanson and David Simpson and low vision therapists Jim Olson and Erika Andersen Ko. Also, Krista Berkey is back on board as our Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Coordinator.

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. Please be aware that the LVE Clinics are for students with low vision who will benefit from low vision accessibility tools. The clinic is reserved for students with Individualized Education Programs. It is not designed for students with cerebral / cortical visual impairment. 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. For virtual TVIs, please contact Tanni to work through how it may be possible to attend virtually.

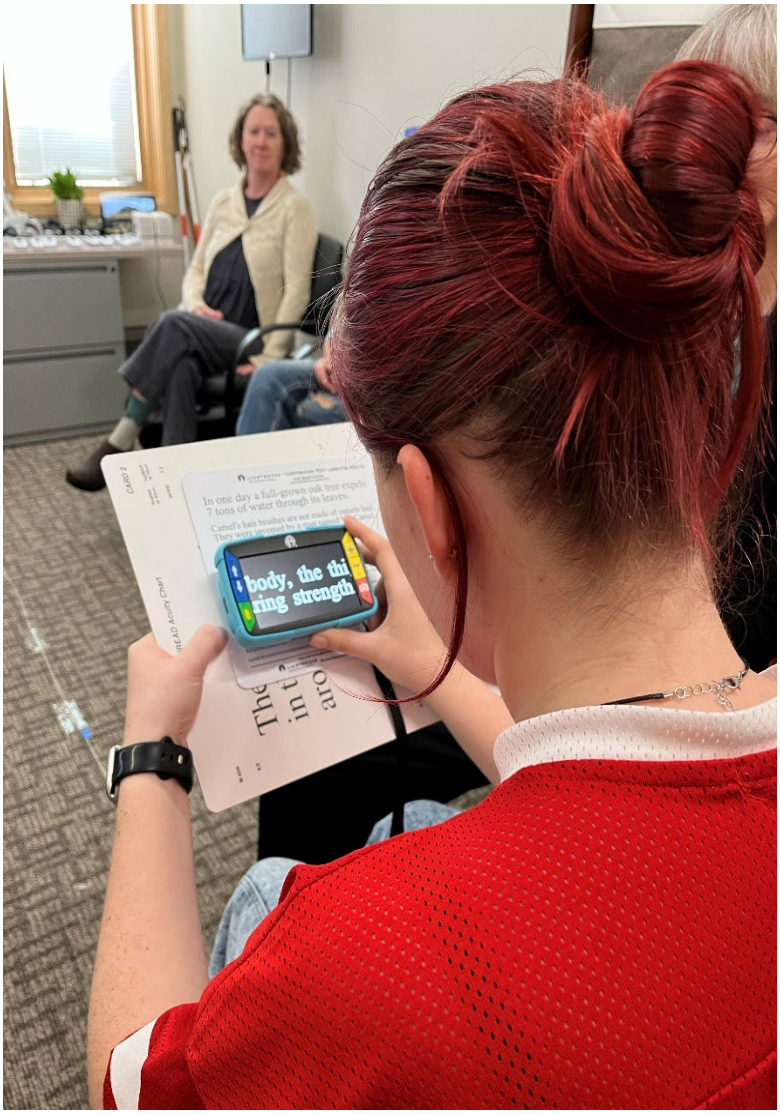
Heads up on getting your Parent / TVI information into the form – PLEASE ensure you have uploaded the eye doctor exam notes / report, your FVA report, and any information specific to visual performance.

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.



Northern Clinic News

The Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic was held at the wonderful Ensight Center on November 12. It was a one day clinic with 6 students. Thanks to Sam Thuis as our local site coordinator and to Krista Berkey as our statewide LVE Clinic Coordinator. Dr. Kara Hanson and low vision therapist Erika Andersen Ko were on board. We appreciated the chance to serve students from Johnstown Milliken, Poudre, St. Vrain, Westminster, and Windsor. thank the following TVIs for completing the paperwork, attending with their students, and for their commitment to the follow-up steps with their students: **Amber Korban, Jessica Meisel, Sarah Renbjor, Sherry Bainbridge,** and **Liz Wieder.** This was our first clinic of the school year, and we are grateful to the northern region for their commitment to their learners with low vision. It was a joy hearing the laughter in the clinic room, excited faces, and grateful parents. Thank you so much to our northern TVI, parents, and students! And, of course, to the amazing LVE Team!







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) will begin our fourth year of a five year cycle on October 1, 2026. 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 to provide tiered and customized technical assistance to families and/or service providers.

The project has four key 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 and lending library. We have four CDE staff (Project Co-Directors **Tanni Anthony** and **Gina Herrera,** TA Specialist **Jessica Meisel**, and Program Support Assistant **Krista Berkey**. We also have a contracted Family Engagement Specialist **Cindy Colwell.** For training, support documents and resources, please check out our Deaf-Blind website.

Colorado Deaf-Blind Project Offers Intervener Training

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. A new cohort began in August 2026. **The next one will begin in January 2027**. Be in touch if you are interested in learning more about being an intervener or working with a staff person to be trained for this important role.

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? For more information and to register, please contact Jessica Meisel at Meisel_j@cde.co.state.us.

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 per your request
- virtual workshops and state in-person trainings, including an annual Summer Institute
- 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. If you have questions, reach out to Gina Herrera at Herrera_G@cde.state.co.us or call at 303-253-0451.

New Professional Development Module: Focus On: Experience Stories

We are very excited to share a recent product release from our partner, The National Center on Deafblindness. They have created a short PD module about Experience Stories that is packed with the essential information needed to understand what an Experience Story is, its purpose, and how to create and use these stories with a learner who is deafblind. This brief module is packed with engaging video examples and guidance from a parent and literacy experts and includes additional resources and examples. Check out the Experience Stories module on the NCDB website.

Want to learn more about teaching children with deaf-blindness?

The National Center on Deafblindness has free online professional development for educators, with modules about learning, early intervention, communication, and transition for students with dual sensory impairments.

Reminder: Free TCDB Modules From HKNC

The HKNC Learning Center is offering NCDB's *Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind* modules for free. For each module, participants can earn either 2 ACVREP CEs or a certificate of completion for 2 contact hours. It's a great professional development opportunity for educators looking for practical strategies for working with children and youth who are deafblind. To find the series on the **HKNC course page**, look for the modules marked with the NCDB logo.

Promoting Literacy for All: Thinking Beyond Just Reading & Writing

This archived article from CDBS *reSources* (2017) also discusses the importance of meaningful opportunities to engage in literacy instruction and activities for all learners. This article highlights ways to adapt materials and lessons based on a learner's sensory access needs, embed literacy instruction in routines across the day, and use a learner's interest to promote engagement. It also includes links to additional useful literacy resources.

New Resource: Routines Toolkit

The Texas Deafblind Project has developed a **Routines Toolkit**, a resource to support those working with students who are deafblind in creating and implementing routines. The toolkit includes a workbook and inventory, example videos and routine sheets, and customizable templates.

Courses on Deafblindness and High Intensity Support Needs

The University of South Dakota and the South Dakota DeafBlind Project are offering two courses in Spring 2027 as part of their "Professional Development Series for Educators and Related Service Providers: Concentration in Deafblindness and High Intensity Support Needs." The courses will run from January 6 to April 14, 2027.

For more information and to register, please visit the Eventbrite page.

Congenital Cytomegalovirus Educational Checklist

The Texas Deafblind Project and the Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School for the Deaf have released a new **Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) Educational Checklist**. It highlights key developmental and educational areas impacted by cCMV and outlines actionable strategies for educational teams.

HKNC Professional Development Courses

The Helen Keller National Center offers self-paced online courses for professionals who support deafblind individuals. Recent offerings include **Understanding and Supporting the Unique Emotional Resilience and Identity Formation of DeafBlind Consumers** and **Work Readiness**.

Remembering Barbara Miles: Teacher, Mentor Author



In early September, beloved educator, author, and artist Barbara Miles passed away. Barbara was a teacher for decades at the Perkins School for the Blind in the Deafblind Program and offered training and guidance to thousands of education professionals and families around the world. She was a CO Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness speaker in 2000 – over 26 years ago, she graced Colorado and forever changed how we work with children with deaf-blindness.

Her impact on our field's understanding of how to interact and communicate through touch and to play and learn through shared interest and joint attention cannot be overstated. Barbara's gift for writing allowed her to share her intuitive knowledge clearly and beautifully about children and youth who are deafblind and their unique needs. Her respect for each child and what they had to say was legendary. Fortunately, we can still learn from her collection of writings which has been translated into many languages. One of her most appreciated articles was ***Talking the Language of the Hands to the Hands*** and we hope you enjoy reading or re-reading it and share it with others. We are hopeful that the book that she co-authored with Marianne Riggio, who we also lost this year (Remarkable Conversations) will be updated. Currently it is out of print though we have two copies in our DB Project's Lending Library. Tanni was given a PDF of the book for her East Carolina University DB course this past year. We thank both Marianne and Barbara for this fantastic gift to the field.

Check It Out

SWAAAC AT Loan Library

The Center for Innovative Design and Engineering (CIDE) and its Statewide Assistive Technology, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (SWAAAC) program receives significant funding from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) through targeted structural frameworks designed to provide assistive technology (AT) in Colorado public schools.

One key activity is the amazing Assistive Technology Loan Library: The CDE acts as the primary sponsor for the CIDE AT Loan Library. This financial backing allows over 60 Colorado public school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to borrow from a fleet of more than 1,500 specialized items—such as AAC devices, switches, and executive function supports—for short-term classroom student trials.

Are you looking to expand your assistive technology and/or augmentative alternative communication assessment toolbox? The SWAAAC loan library can help! They have a great collection of tests and protocols available for loan. Check them out for a thorough review before making purchasing decisions. Here's how to find the collection:

Visit the SWAAAC AT Loan Library website. Select Explore, Books and Resources, then Assessment Tools.

Don't see what you're looking for? Email Christina Perkins with a request. They are always looking for new ideas and products to expand the library.

Assistive Technology Resources

The **CATT AT Resources site**, created by the Center for Assistive Technology Training in partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind, offers free how-to guides, videos, lesson plans, and IEP goals. The site includes resources on braille displays, tactile learning, and tools for learners with extensive support needs.

Administrator's Toolbox in Visual Impairment

The Texas Administrator's Toolbox in Visual Impairment was created to assist Texas administrators in using disability-specific resources and data for hiring and supervising VI professionals, including TVIs, TDBs, COMS, braillists, and deafblind interveners. Additionally, it defines and describes the population of students who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision, as well as the individuals who are certified to work with them.

Each chapter in the toolbox expands on current information supported by legal citations. Strategies and resources are included to support the VI program. The toolbox provides definitions of a variety of VI positions, with interview questions and possible candidate responses. Caseload and workload tools are defined so that local programs can determine what constitutes a viable VI program, contributing to personnel retention

The new **Administrator's Toolbox** is live! Explore this detailed resource from TSBVI Outreach for key tools and guidance to support, evaluate, and advocate for professional staff serving blind, deafblind, or low vision students. Check it out and let Tanni know if this should be a project for Colorado.

Ten Years of the National Center on Improving Literacy— the Next Chapter

The National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) has worked for the past decade toward a simple but ambitious goal: ensuring that every child can become a successful reader.

As the federal cooperative agreement that supported our work from 2016–2026 concludes, we made the decision not to compete for the next federal award under its new configuration and instead pursue opportunities that allow us to continue investing deeply in implementation and lasting change. Immediately, our website, tools, products, and services will continue to be accessible for your use. This is not the end of the National Center on Improving Literacy—it is the beginning of our next chapter.

Federal funding made the first decade of the National Center on Improving Literacy possible. We will build on what we have learned while affording new opportunities to extend our work moving forward—through research, partnerships, innovation, professional learning, and continued development and dissemination of resources that help educators and families turn evidence into action. Over the next few months, we'll share more information with you about the center and its services. We're excited about what comes next and can't wait for you to be a part of it.

Check out current resources at the National Center on Improving Literacy website.

Does Your Student Use a Lightbox?

Here are three websites with different ways to use a lightbox in the classroom!

- 50 Ways to Use a Light Box
- 10 Easy Play Ideas for Kids Using a Light Table/Panel
- Lightbox Story Hour: A Tool to Provide Access to Literacy

Colorado Visionaries: Blind/Visually Impaired Hockey and Ice Skating Team

- **Our Goal:** The Colorado Visionaries is a blind hockey team in Colorado, and we want you to participate. If you want to play, we'd love you to join our team!

- **Who Can Play:** Blind hockey is a fun and accessible sport for blind and visually impaired individuals of all ages with teams across the country, and our team is open to YOU! All levels are welcome! Come put skates on for the first time and learn to skate, or play hockey. We can adapt to your needs.

- **Contact:** If you are interested, have questions, or just want to connect, please contact us at 740-580-2048, Facebook/Instagram, or at coloradovisionaries@gmail.com.

- **Upcoming Event:** February 20, 2027

OSEP-Funded TA Centers

** Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center provides 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 covers OSEP guidance, technical assistance, resources for families and service providers, and learning for proficient communicators who are deaf-blind. The website is 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.

** Accessible Materials and Technologies

The National AEM Center at CAST has provides TA, coaching, and resources that 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 dedicated to improving education outcomes for all children, especially those with disabilities who are birth through age 21 through the use of effective evidence-based practices and interventions.

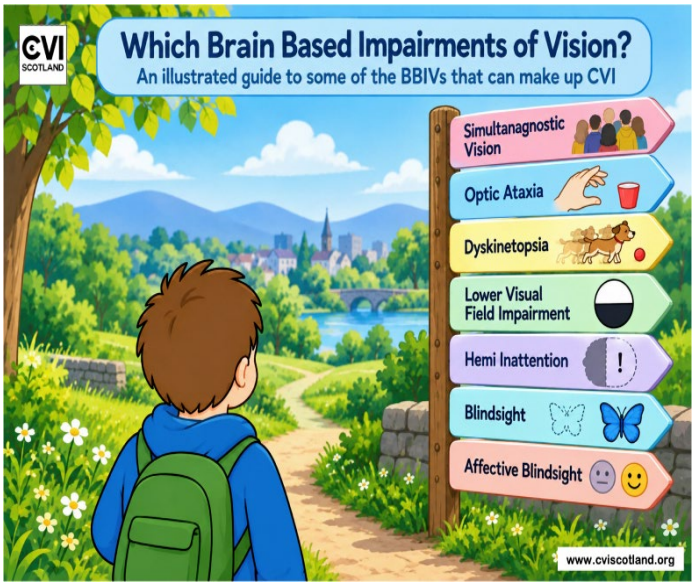
*** Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR)

CPIR is the hub of valuable information and products specifically designed for the network of Parent Centers serving families of children with disabilities.

Cortical / Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) Resources

Perkins CVI Assessment Report

A Perkins CVI Assessment Report is a detailed, individualized evaluation created using The Perkins CVI Protocol to document how Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) impacts a student's functional vision and learning. Using the Perkins CVI Protocol templates and real report excerpts, the article shows how a well-organized report can guide accessible learning and instruction.



CVI Scotland Resources

Which Brain Based Visual Impairments of Vision?

We know that many with CVI, whether CVI is confirmed with a diagnosis or suspected, have not been provided with the names of the BBIVs that make up their CVI. For this guide we have selected a few BBIVs that are common in children with CVI from birth and are not picked up during routine sight tests. If you think you or the person you support may be affected, click on the links to learn more. These include further examples and many suggestions for support

Cerebral visual impairment (CVI also called cortical visual impairment) is an umbrella term for many different brain based impairments of vision (BBIV). A person can be affected by one or more than one, from birth or acquired at any time in life. A PDF version of this guide is available for download for free.

CVI Brain Event

This webpage lists the names of events causing brain injury or brain function abnormalities, which can lead to cerebral visual impairments (CVIs). It is estimated that 40% of the brain across many different brain areas is dedicated to visual processing, so many brain altering events could potentially impact on a part of the brain responsible for visual processing.

They have not listed every possible brain event that can cause brain related visual processing difficulties, as the list would be enormous. For more information, an internet search will show many further on-line resources.

Take some time to read through this important information.

CDE Happenings

Key State Assessment News: Assessment Reporting

September marked the transition from publicly reporting 2026 results to building toward the 2027 assessment and accountability cycle. Across the AAA Division, teams supported districts as they began preparing for spring testing, advanced significant changes for 2027, and continued helping educators and leaders understand and use assessment, growth, and accountability information.

Three Things to Know

1. **2027 assessment preparations are underway**: District Assessment Coordinators kicked off the new cycle with resources, training, timelines, and administration information across state assessment programs.
2. **Several important changes are coming for spring 2027**: Work is underway to improve student, school, and district experiences in 2027. Details about some of these changes are included in the spotlight section below.
3. **All preliminary performance frameworks are now available**: With the September release of preliminary Alternative Education Campus (AEC) frameworks, all 2026 preliminary school and district performance frameworks are now available.

What is New in State Assessments?

- **ACCESS testing time boundaries:** ACCESS assessments will include evidence-based time boundaries to protect and prioritize instructional time for multilingual learners.
- **Less time on CMAS:** Spring 2027 updates include reductions in CMAS testing time and fewer testing units while protecting the assessments' content coverage, technical quality, and reporting utility.
- **New administration platform**: CMAS and CoAlt science and social studies will move from PearsonAccessnext to LaunchPad/ADAM. Students will continue to use the TestNav platform for online assessments.
- **Modified Social Studies:** CMAS and CoAlt social studies assessments will be administered to all 7th grade students. Fourth grade social studies assessments have been eliminated.
- **Improved PSAT/SAT practice test availability***:* Educators can automatically access practice test results in the K–12 Reporting Portal for students who use school-based sign-in tickets.

Educator Retention Tool

Educator retention is a key factor in understanding workforce stability across Colorado Public Schools, especially amid ongoing staffing challenges. This dashboard provides a data-driven view of statewide retention patterns using annual HR and licensing data to support informed decision-making. Please take some time to check out the Educator retention Dashboard for trend and current data on retention activity across Colorado / school districts. **A video tour and overview is available**. While the dashboard highlights trends and relationships in the data, these correlations should not be interpreted as evidence of causation. To explore the underlying data used in this dashboard, you can access the **dataset workbook [Excel]**. There is also a **retention dashboard facilitation guide** that can be used to help guide conversations in your context about the implications of the data. Questions may be directed to **EdTalentResearch@cde.state.co.us**.

Accommodations Finder

CDE's new **Accommodations Finder** is an interactive tool designed to help teams explore accommodations based on a student's individual needs. Instead of starting with a disability category, you can begin with a characteristic or area of need and then narrow the results using additional characteristics and optional filters.

You can filter by: (a) Additional areas of student need (b) disability category; (c) accommodation type: presentation, response, setting, or timing/schedule; and (d) Instruction or assessment

The results update automatically as you make selections, and you can export the complete list of matching accommodations for team discussion or planning. This tool is intended to support professional decision-making, not replace it. The accommodations identified are options to consider, and decisions should still be individualized based on the student's unique needs and barriers to access. It is imperative to ensure that a proposed accommodation is an actual fit for a student. The accommodation will need to be taught to the student for its use / advocacy and there should be progress monitoring metrics in place to ensure it is an effective instructional accommodation.

Please take a few minutes to open it, work with it, and see what you think. Try a few different student characteristics, add or remove filters, and explore how the results change. I think this could be a really helpful tool for generating ideas and supporting conversations during evaluation and IEP planning.

CDE Special Education Instructional Accommodations Website

CDE Accommodations Finder Tool

There is also an Accommodations Finder User Guide available on CDE's Instructional Accommodations webpage if you want step-by-step directions.

Accommodations for students with blindness/low vision were updated by **Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart,** and **Jim Olson**. If you believe something is in error or missing for our students with blindness/low vision or deaf-blindness, please let Tanni know your recommendations.

What is Best First Instruction?

Best, First Instruction (BFI), as defined by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), is the universal, Tier 1 instruction that gives all students the best opportunity to learn grade-level, standards-based content and skills the very first time they are taught. Rather than relying heavily on heavy remediation or reteaching later, BFI focuses its initial energy on the science of learning and teaching to convert new concepts into long-term memory. The Core Pillars of BFI include Building Relationships**:** Deepening student agency through caring, positive connections; Meeting the Needs of All Students: Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) rather than rigid tracking or ability grouping; Creating Relevancy: Connecting lessons to authentic, real-world work.; and Fostering Disciplinary Literacy: Helping students think, talk, and read like experts in specific academic fields.

The Best First Instruction Sequence: Instructional frameworks break BFI down into logical phases:

1. **Activate / Become Interested:** Use cognitive interest cues, fill knowledge gaps, and hook curiosity.
2. **Commit to Learning:** Set clear student mastery goals and relevance statements ("Why is this important?").
3. **Focus on New Knowledge:** Deliver targeted vocabulary instruction, strategy modeling, and visual examples.
4. **Make Sense of Learning:** Ask high-level questions, provide guided initial application with feedback, and use peer-assisted consolidation.
5. **Practice & Reflect:** Employ retrieval practice, spaced independent practice, and targeted scaffolds.
6. **Extend & Apply:** Use cognitive writing, guided investigations, and structured problem-solving.

CDE Early Child Special Education News

Hats off to our CDE Preschool Special Education Team who recently provided a deep dive into Best First Instruction (BFI) and an exploration of statewide language and literacy data. To support this work, they have developed a resource dashboard featuring curated materials focused on oral language and early literacy that can be readily implemented in preschool settings. **BFI Resources for Preschool**

New from the CDE Preschool Special Education Webpages:



Child Identification Obligations AU A/R FAQ (PDF)

Updated CDE Model Child Find Referral Form - A Model Child Find Referral Form: For children ages 3 through 5 years old (PDF) and Formulario de referencia para encontrar niños modelo: Para niños de 3 a 5 años (PDF)

IEP Parent Training

GOLD® Reports: What Special Education Teams Should Know to Enhance Their Work with Children

Updated Webcast: Results Matter and OSEP Indicator 7 Reporting

Program Spotlights: Practices in Action that improve Preschool Outcomes

Behavior 360 with Inclusive Schooling

Connecting the Dots: A Commitment to Braille

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 CDE Braille Specialists Committee consists currently of the following individuals:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
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.

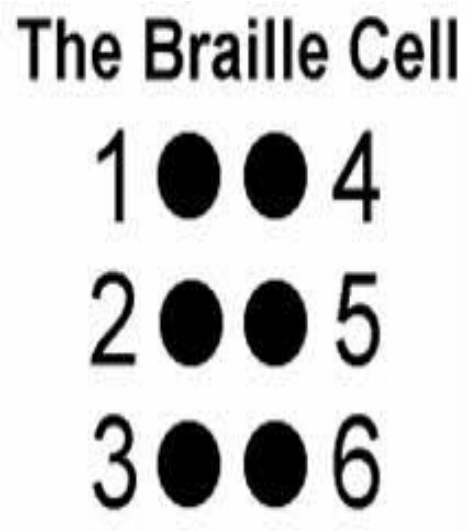
The updated Braille Competency Guidance documents can be found at: the braille competency webpage.

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. The Braille Authority of North America approves two math codes. 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 and email km2320@msn.com
- Mark Carpenter (719) 634-8720 and email carpdiane@yahoo.com

APH Embossable Word Search

Embossable Word Search is a FREE website that allows educators to create and customize their own braille word search puzzles.

Tactile Word Search

Check out this braille generator web page for tactile word searches! Makes braille word searches for a braille embosser.

Building on Patterns Survey

My name is Leslie Borton. I am a doctoral candidate in the Special Education Department at the University of South Carolina. I am conducting a survey on *Building on Patterns* as my final research for my dissertation. If you have used *Building on Patterns* in any capacity since fall 2024, please consider participating. You can access the Building on Patterns survey here.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete some survey questions. You will be asked questions about how you use *Building on Patterns.* You may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer.

Participation is anonymous, which means no one will be able to link your responses back to you. So, please do not place your name or other identifying information on any of the study materials.

I am happy to answer any questions you have about the study. You may contact me at 864-630-2215 or lborton@email.sc.edu or my faculty advisor, Mitchell Yell at myell@sc.edu. If you have concerns about your rights as a research subject, please contact the University of South Carolina's Office of Research Compliance (803) 777-6670.

With kind regards,

Leslie D. Borton

864-630-2215

lborton@email.sc.edu

Calendar of Events



Date	Event
November 30	**Tools for Life Application Deadline** TFL Information
December 2	**Sound Bites: Braille Display Decision-Making Tips with Eli Sanchez and Leslie Edmonds** – Virtual (4 – 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for Sound Bites
December 4	**CIMC First Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
December 5 – 8	**SOMA/SWOMA International O&M Conference** – New Orleans More information and registration on the SOMA/SWOMA website.
December 10	**DeafBlind Webinar Series: Capacity First: Redefining How We Assess and Support Deafblind Learners with Julie Maier** – Virtual (4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for the DeafBlind Webinar Series
January 8, 2027	**CIMC Second Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
Jan 11 – Feb 12, 2027	**WIDA ACCESS Testing Administration Window**
January 14, 2027	**DeafBlind Webinar Series: Shared Reading and Children with Deafblindness with Dr. Christopher Brum** – Virtual (4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for the DeafBlind Webinar Series
January 19, 2027	**Southern Region TVI-DVR Meeting** – Academy District 20 (Bring a photo ID to the front desk.) Contact: Melissa Shular at melissa.shular@asd20.org

Date	Event
January 20, 2027	**Blindness/Low Vision Coalition Meeting** – Virtual (8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
January 27, 2027	**Sound Bites: TVI and Assistive Technology Competencies w/ Dr. Benjamin Lytle** – Virtual (4 p– 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for Sound Bites
February 5, 2027	**CIMC First Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
February 10, 2027	**Sound Bites: Assistive Technology Needs Assessment with Dr. Yue-Ting Su** – Virtual (4 – 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for Sound Bites
February 11, 2027	**DeafBlind Webinar Series: The Forgotten Senses with David Brown** – Virtual (4. to 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for the DeafBlind Webinar Series
February 16, 2027	**Southern Region TVI-DVR Meeting** – District 49 (Bring a photo ID to the front desk.) Contact: Lori Mattick at lori.mattick@d49.org
February 20, 2027	**Colorado Visionaries: Blind/Visually Impaired Hockey Team Event** Contact: coloradovisionaries@gmail.com
February 24-26, 2027	**Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** – Anchor Center for Blind Children Contact: Krista Berkey at berkey_k@cde.state.co.us
March 1, 2027	**Education for Life Scholarship Application Deadline** EFL Information
March 5, 2027	**CIMC First Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
March 7 – 10, 2027	**The 9th Biennial POSB STEM Institute for Instruction** – Spartanburg, SC More information is available on the POSB STEM website.
March 11, 2027	**DeafBlind Webinar Series** – Virtual (4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for the DeafBlind Webinar Series

Date	Event
March 17, 2027	**Sound Bites: How do Low Vision Devices Work (or Not Work) with Dr. David Simpson** – Virtual (4 – 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for Sound Bites
April 2, 2027	**CIMC First Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
April 5 – April 23, 2027	**Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Administration Window**
April 7, 2027	**Sound Bites: Translating Microperimetry, Visual Fields, Retinal Imaging, and Diagnoses into Functional Vision with Dr. Kara Hanson** – Virtual (4–5:30 pm) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for Sound Bites
April 12 – April 23, 2027	**PSAT/SAT Administration Window**
April 16, 2027	**DeafBlind Webinar Series: Collaboration with Families with Cindy Colwell** – Virtual (4. to 5:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us Register for the DeafBlind Webinar Series
April 28, 2027	**Blindness/Low Vision Coalition Meeting** – Virtual (8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
May 7, 2027	**CIMC First Friday Meeting** – Virtual (9 – 10 am and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
May 18, 2027	**Southern Region TVI-DVR** – CSDB/CIMC (Bring a photo ID to the front desk.) Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
June 7 – 9, 2027	**Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC)** – Denver, CO More information is available on the WREIC website.



Transition Preparation

Feedback Requested on A Free App

The National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (NRTC) at Mississippi State University is seeking participants for upcoming virtual focus groups to provide feedback on the **4to24 app**, a free resource designed to support youth who are blind, low vision, or deafblind and their families as they prepare for employment, education, and independent living.

Service providers and educators can also access the app at no cost to support students, families, and caregivers. To learn more about the app and its newest features, view our brief video: **4to24 New Features.**

The research team is currently looking for parents of students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind, young adults ages 18-24 who are blind, low vision, or deafblind; and teachers, transition specialists, and other service providers who support these students

Focus Group Details Conducted virtually / Scheduled during November and December / Approximately 90 minutes in length / Participants will receive a **$35 gift card** as a thank-you for their time and feedback

If you are interested in participating, or know someone who may be interested, please register: **Registration Link** Input will help us enhance the 4to24 app and ensure it continues to meet the needs of youth, families, and professionals



Photo to the left - Some of the happy faces at the October CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision – we had a great turn out of Colorado TVIs an invited Speech Language Therapists gathered to learn about AAC for children with CVI.

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Just for Parents

Colorado IEP Parent Training

CDE is excited to share that the Colorado IEP Parent Training is now available on the CDE website. This free, on-demand training was created to help parents and families better understand the special education process and meaningfully participate in IEP meetings and decision-making. The training includes ten modules covering IEPs, parent and student rights, and key federal and state special education laws and procedures. This training was developed in response to Senate Bill 24-069, now codified in Colorado Revised Statutes § 22-20-122, which directed CDE to create and make available a parent training program on IEPs and related rights and procedures publicly. **The ten modules and all related resources can be accessed here.**

Contact Katherine Rains, rains_k@cde.state.co.us, with any questions or to inquire about an in-person training.

Growing Together: Finding an Early Childhood Program that Supports Your Child's Social-Emotional Development

This handout helps families select early childhood education programs that support social-emotional development. It provides sample questions that families can ask during a phone call or visit and a list of things to look at and listen for during a tour. This resource guides families in considering how programs can support them and help their children learn and grow. **Access the Growing Together handout (PDF).**

Invitation to Join Childhood BLV Research Study

The Youth VIEW team at Texas Tech University is seeking families of children who are blind, low vision, or visually impaired to participate in a virtual research study. The goal of the study is to better understand how experiences in families, medical settings, schools, and the community may impact on the physical and mental health of blind, low vision, and visually impaired children. To address these important questions, we need 500 families to join the project!

Children (ages 9 to 17) who are blind, low vision, or visually impaired, and living in the United States, are eligible to enroll, along with a parent or guardian. Participation is completely voluntary; whether or not you participate has no impact on you or your child's access to education, medical care, or employment.

To learn more about the study, please go to their prescreening survey page, which includes detailed information about study procedures, risks, and benefits. If, after reviewing this information, you would like to enroll, you can complete the prescreening survey, which takes 5-10 minutes of your time. Eligible families will then be contacted after completing the prescreener to answer additional questions and to schedule your study session.

Learn more or complete the pre-screening survey.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the study, please contact the team at Psychology.Youthview@ttu.edu

Colorado Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (CAER)

CAER 2026 Awards

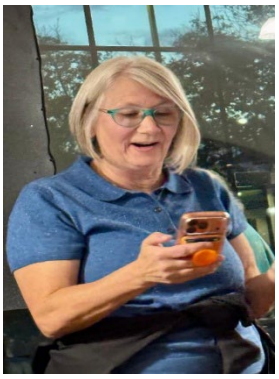
The Colorado AER Chapter held their annual business meeting and awards banquet on October 8th with over 30 people in attendance. President **Chloann Woolley** officiated the meeting and participated in each of the awards. We thank Chloann for all she has given to CAER as our enduring President.

CAER Awards were given to the following people:



President's Award: Honors outstanding leadership in service to individuals with visual disabilities, selected and presented directly by the current CAER Chapter President. Two awards were given by Chloann. The first award was given to **Dr. Debbie Mendoza**, a TVI and COMS with Adams 12 School District. The photo to the left shows Chloann presenting the award to Debbie, who is an outstanding educator who goes above and beyond for her students.

Debbie is an expert in Gifted Education and models strong expectations and high quality of specialized instruction for her students. Her leadership is evident with the CDE work on the READ Act, as an adjunct instructor with UNC, and, most recently, as a member of the CSDB Board of Trustees.



The second award was given remotely to **Danielle Burden** for her impressive work with her team for setting up Camp Abilities, which debuted its first Colorado summer program in July 2026. Danielle is a private contractor of TVI and O&M services in Colorado and has been a long champion of adapted PE and recreation and leisure activities for our students.

Danielle is known for her innovation and commitment to students. Wendy Stoltman is seen in the photo to the left as she was on the phone with Danielle, to present this well-deserved award.





Connections Award: Acknowledges cross-organizational cooperative efforts benefiting the field, with recipients chosen by the CAER Board. This award was given to **Gina Herrera** for her long recognized and greatly appreciated work with the Colorado Deaf-Blind Project, including strong advocacy of interveners, as well as her statewide leadership to support students with significant support needs.

Gina is a recognized partner with family, TVIs, COMS, interveners, and Adapted PE Teachers. She was on the Camp Abilities Board for two years, has contributed to the success of the APE CDE job code, and their professional activities. The photo to the left shows Gina with her CAER Connections Award, which was presented by Barb Galgano.



Lifetime Achievement Award: This award celebrates dedicated professionals nearing retirement who have devoted their entire careers to serving students or clients. This award was given to **Barb Galgano**, a TVI and COMS with the Cherry Creek School District. Barb was recognized as the quintessential professional. Her contributions to individual students, CAER, the YMCA Camp, Low Vision Evaluation Clinics, and so many other extracurricular activities are part of her multiple contributions to the lives of so many. If there is anything that supports kids, including professional; development that she could teach herself, Barb is there with a smile on her face –ready to learn, Barb will officially retire at the end of this school year. The photo to the left shows Nancy Cozart reading her nomination letter to Barb.

The photo to the right shows the sweet embrace of dear colleagues Jeannie Lei and Barb Galgano, surely one of our best dynamic duos in our field.



We are proud of and grateful for each of these award winners for their profound contributions. Thanks to the peers who submitted nomination letters: **Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, Barb Galgano, Jeannie Lei, Mike Plansker, Wendy Stoltman,** and **Chloann Woolley.** Also, a very special thank you to our CAER Board Members: **Chloann Woolley, Ellie Carlson, Heather Solberg, Jeannie Lei,** and **Bryan Moles** for all they do.

Also, CAER held a quick White Cane Day T-shirt sale. Thank you to all who purchased a t-shirt. CAER received $371.85 to support mini grants. THANK YOU to all who support our wonderful CAER Chapter

Colorado Jobs Specific to TVIs, COMSs, Braillists, BLV Paraeducators, and Interveners



We have vacancies for Colorado TVIs (teachers of students with visual impairments) and Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialists. There may also be openings for braillists, paraeducators specifically working with students with blindness/low vision, and paraeducators. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your 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 braillist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession.

Please work with Dr. Silvia Correa Torres or Dr. Anitha Muthukumaran 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 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 our students.

New! The CDE BLV Job Board

The CDE BLV team has created an up-to-date job board to advertise positions for TVI/COMS jobs, paraprofessional, and special service (e.g., braillist and intervener) jobs across Colorado.

The CDE BLV Job Board is updated regularly as new positions become available. If you have a position, you would like posted or updated, please contact **Krista Berkey** at berkey_k@cde.state.co.us.

If a position on the current BLV Job Board is filled, please notify Krista to remove it. Thanks!



Are You Retiring Soon?

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. If you are an O&M Specialist, please also maintain your ACVREP O&M certification. Please keep in touch with Tanni if you are interested in this type of work after your retirement! Let Tanni know if you want to be added to her list of private contractors by emailing her at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Visual Impairment Professions Video

AER's Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee (PPRC) is proud to announce the release of the long-awaited recruitment video: "Visual Impairment Professions."

Access the video without audio description.

Access the video with audio description.

Initial Licensure and Endorsement for TVI / O&M

For information about the endorsement requirements for the Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21, go to the Endorsements page on the CDE website.

Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21: (9.02)	✓ 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. ✓ Please note: For TVIs who are hired under a Temporary Educator Eligibility (TEE) authorization, under Colorado law, the employing school district must place you under the supervision of a professionally licensed person in the same area of specialization.

For information about the endorsement requirements for the School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, go to the Endorsements page on the CDE website.

School Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ages 0-21: (11.03)	✓ 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 note: For O&M Specialists who are hired under a Temporary Educator Eligibility (TEE) authorization, under Colorado law, the employing school district must place you under the supervision of a professionally licensed person in the same area of specialization. ✓ **Please do not let your ACVREP O&M Certification expire. If you are providing Orientation and Mobility services-birth through 21 years for early intervention and school-age students, please be sure you have a license to do so.**

Colorado Connections



Braille Competency

- Hats off to **Michelle Boyer** of CSDB and **Stacy Bevan** of Greeley Schools for earning their initial CDE Certificates of Braille Competency. Also, to **Christopher Kinney** of Denver Public School District and **Gena Anderson Francouer** of Jefferson County School District for earning their CDE Renewal CDE Braille Competency Certificates. Hats off to-**Sasmita Bisoi, Julie Harrison, Chris Kinney**, **Gena Anderson Francouer, Mary Kate McLaughlin,** and **Samantha Thuis** for completing braille renewal modules since our last newsletter. So proud of our Colorado workforces' dedication to braille.
- Thanks to **Nancy Cozart, Chris Maynard, Brenda Shepard,** and **Julie Wetzstein** for their proctoring and mentoring work. Thanks also to **Jo Pinto** for braille proofreading work! It takes a team and we have a great one!

- If you are a new in-person or virtual 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!

Professional Development News



- ✓ We had a great turnout at the CDE State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision that was held on October 8-9 at Adams 12 Conference Center. The training focused on *CVI and AAC: Collaborate, Individualize, Amplify* with **Sylvia Mangan** from Perkins School for the Blind. We had over 80 TVis and guest SLPs attend the training.
- ✓ Forty people attended the October Sound Bite with **Kat Rains** from the CDE Parent Engagement Team. Kat provided important content on *Utilizing Conflict to Build Trust in the Special Education Process.* There were important resources that can be used to build skill sets for conversations that respect viewpoints and build partnerships.
- ✓ Over 40 people attended a two concurrent sessions on *The Impact of Sensory Loss in Teens* that was presented by **Tanni Anthony** and **Shauna Moden** at the Kaleidoscope Conference, held on October 29 and 30 in Thornton.
- ✓ We were grateful for time with **Dr. Tiffany Wild** who provided a resource-packed session on November 4th on *The Universe Is for Everyone: Accessible Science from Rocks to Stars*. She shared variety of free and important resources specific to astronomy, geology, and chemistry. We had 39 attendees.
- ✓ We are still smiling about the training with **Dr. Tim Hartshorne** on November 12 who discussed *Making Sense of Behavior*. Dr. Hartshorne was a joy to listen to as he provided important context on understanding behavioral messages. We had 47 people in attendance.
- ✓ **Jonathan Karli** and **Tanni Anthony** attended the 76th Colorado NFB Convention and gave updates on the CSDB School for the Blind and the State of the State from CDE.
- ✓ **Dr. Tiffany Wild** presented on *Making Agriculture Accessible for Everyone* on November 18 with 24 people in attendance. Feedback came from Lisa Hebbert in Littleton, "Just want you to know I think this

has been the most fun and favorite Sound Bites so far. It is so expandable for every student. I just loved this presentation. Thank you, thank you, thank you for thinking of this and for keeping our jobs so inspired. Do you want to raise some Alpacas with me?? " Thanks, Lisa – we all learned a lot about the many opportunities for friendships, life skills, knowledge and care for animals, and a host of scholarship / funding opportunities for our students.

Personnel Updates

- ✓ Congratulations to **Dr. Debbie Mendoza**, who has been appointed to the CSDB Board of Trustees. Debbie is a TVI / COMS with Adams 12 School District and an adjunct instructor with the UNC VI Program. We value Debbie's important leadership.
- ✓ **Jamie Cusimano** is the new Director Outreach at CSDB, where she will lead and support statewide programs serving children and students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Blind or Low Vision, and Deafblind, as well as their families and the professionals who support them. Jayme holds a Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University with specialization in Visual Impairments (TVI) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) as well as an Educational Leadership Certificate from Fort Lewis College. She brings more than 14 years of experience in special education, with a background as both a TVI and Certified O&M. Throughout her career, she has worked with students from birth through age 21 in Illinois, Virginia, and Colorado, providing direct services, consultation, and professional support to families and educational teams. Jayme values collaboration, inclusion, and building strong systems that support students, families, and professionals. She believes effective statewide Outreach begins with understanding the needs of communities, developing reciprocal partnerships, expanding access to resources and expertise, and strengthening the capacity that already exists throughout Colorado. We are so glad to have Jayme in this important role!
- ✓ **Kelly Bevis** is on board with VirtualTVI in Colorado. Kelly worked at the Region 10 Education Service Center in the greater Dallas, Texas for many years. Welcome to CO, Kelly!



Photo to the left: Taken at the CDE State Conference on Blindness /Low Vision of more of the many happy faces of attendees. Colorado TVIs and SLPs Rock!

ASV Announces the Retirement of Steve and Katie Lindauer



After a decade of dedication to Colorado's youngest children with blindness or low vision, Steve and Katie Lindauer will retire from A Shared Vision at the end of 2026. They look forward to spending more time traveling and grandparenting with their growing family.

In 2016, Steve co-founded A Shared Vision with Paula Landry and Stefanie Hamilton to address gaps in early identification and access to vision services for infants and toddlers. Working closely with Early Intervention Colorado and local EIBs, A Shared Vision has become the state's leading provider of early intervention vision services, supporting 60 of Colorado's 64 counties. Since its founding, the organization has delivered more than 14,700 service visits to nearly 1,000 children. Steve championed innovative approaches to expanding early intervention vision services across Colorado. He developed a shared-services platform that has supported 22 Teachers of the Visually Impaired over the past decade, reducing administrative barriers and costs while allowing them to focus on serving children and families. He advocated for stronger statewide collaboration and equitable access to services, particularly for families in rural communities.

Beginning in 2020, Steve spearheaded efforts to modernize vision screening for children from birth to age three in Colorado, leading to the development of A Shared Vision's Vision Screening Protocol© and professional training. The protocol strengthens early identification of children with possible vision concerns, including CVI. More than 1,200 professionals across 20 states have completed the organization's vision screening training program. Katie joined A Shared Vision in 2018 and created many of its innovative family resources, including the newsletter, *Let's Play activities*, *Sensory Recipes©*, *Learning Experiences©*, and other educational materials that help families support their children's development through everyday activities and play. As the organization's grant writer, Katie also helped secure more than $557,000 in grants from foundations, including the Anschutz Family Foundation, Buell Foundation, The Denver Foundation, James Hynd Trust for the Blind, and Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

Steve and Katie leave a lasting legacy of expanded access to vision services, stronger professional resources, and meaningful support for children with blindness or low vision and their families. We thank them for their dedication and wish them many wonderful adventures in retirement.Learn more about A Shared Vision's work in the 2025 Annual Impact Report. Paula Landry shared, "Steve and Katie have been the heart and soul of A Shared Vision for 10 years. Their vision, dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts have helped shape not only our organization but also the lives of countless children, families, and professionals across Colorado. Beyond their remarkable contributions, we are especially grateful for their kindness, generosity, friendship, and unwavering support of our team. They have played an instrumental role in building something truly special, and their legacy will continue through the work we do every day." We all thank Steve and Katie for their years of dedicated service, innovation, and deep support for Colorado's infants and toddlers with blindness/low vision. They are an exceptional couple who have made significant contribution to supporting children and families. All the best ahead with grandkids, travels, and new adventures! Signed: ~~A~~ *A Grateful State*