



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# 2022 SUMMER INSTITUTE ON DEAF-BLINDNESS & SIGNIFICANT SUPPORTS NEEDS

No Cost  
**ACVREP & UNC**  
credits will be offered

## IN-PERSON LOCATION

*Adams 12 Conference Center*

*1500 E. 128th Avenue,  
Thornton, CO 80241*



*Dates: June 13-14, 2022  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. both days*

## Featured Speaker

Maurice Belote has worked exclusively in the field of deaf-blindness for 41 years. Most recently, Maurice served as Project Coordinator of California Deaf-Blind Services from 1992 until his retirement in 2021. He is currently adjunct faculty with two university teacher training programs and serves as Co-Chair of the National Coalition on Deaf-blindness, which advocates for federal legislation and policies that promote equitable access for children and youth who are deaf-blind. He is a frequent speaker at national and international meetings and in 2021 was awarded the Anne Sullivan Macy Medal for his contributions to the field of deaf-blindness.

## Credit

The course will be offered for up to 15 CDE / ACVREP clock hours. One graduate level semester hour will be offered for those participants who attend the two full days and write an application paper. All participants must attend both full days to receive the clock hour certificate.

## **Register Here**

Questions regarding registration,  
please reach out to Roberta Curtis  
at [curtis\\_r@cde.state.co.us](mailto:curtis_r@cde.state.co.us)

Participants will need to attend both days of  
the training. Priority will be given to team  
working with Colorado children and youth  
with deaf-blindness.  
Registration is limited to Colorado residents.



## **Title and Description of Day One: June 13, 2022** **Communication Fundamentals and a Few Extra Tidbits for Good Measure**

Communication is at the core of everything we do with children and youth who are deafblind. Supporting students who are deaf-blind to become proficient communicators can challenge family members and even the most skilled and experienced educators. But there is rarely anything as thrilling as watching a child successfully communicate for the first time, whether it is to name an object or action or whether it is to express an emotion or describe an abstract concept. Day one of a two-day training will include a focus on the features of communication that are unique to children who are deaf-blind and/or who have significant support needs and offer evidence-based strategies that address the needs of emerging communicators. The session will also cover the use of authentic assessment data to drive decision making, how to manage large transdisciplinary teams, the impact of stress and anxiety on communication, and will debunk the myth that it is ever too late to become a competent communicator.

## **Title and Description of Day Two: June** **Teaching Social Skills, Facilitating Friendships, and Preparing Students to Have Wonderful, Self-Determined Lives**

There may never have been a more important time to focus on social skills, friendships, and self-esteem. Children and young adults are growing up in what public health experts are calling the loneliest generation in recorded history. What can families and educators do to ensure that these students have the skills they need to live rich, self-determined lives that include meaningful engagement and lasting friendships? This session will include strategies that can be implemented right away to address these critical issues, including strategies for facilitating and maintaining natural peer relationships, and the development of communication systems that support making and keeping friends. The session will also cover independence and interdependence and how they are influenced by familial cultural factors, the ways in which social relationships change throughout children's lives, and the importance of maintaining a presence on social media in the 21st century.

## **Lodging**

We have limited funds for travel support. The registration form will query the need for travel support based on miles away from the training event. First priority will be participants coming from the farthest distances and who work for a Colorado school district in the capacity of a Service Provider to children who are deaf-blind. We will gather this information and confirm the availability of funding support for those requesting travel funding.

**[Register Here](#)**

Questions regarding content, please reach out to Tanni Anthony at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: This training is not open to para-educators as the expectation is that the professionals attending the training bring content back to their districts for paraprofessional training.*

*Registration will close when the training is capped or no later than May 31, 2022.*