

West Hall Renovation & Addition Talking Paper

The Project

- Use West Hall to accommodate growing student populations in the Blind School and the Early Education Program
- Renovate & abate entire three-story, 17,256 sf building
- Construct 10,000 sf addition (total square footage 27,256)
- Make accessibility & security improvements
 - Elevator and secure entry vestibule, ADA compliant Preschool and K-12 playgrounds
- Expand Chiller Plant to bring cooling to West Hall and other buildings on campus
- Install solar panels & EV charging stations to meet State energy goals
- Install backup power generator to provide emergency power to Steam Plant & Chiller Plant – currently have no winter power outage protection/heating for 13 buildings
- Completed Pre-Design, Site Survey & Environmental Assessment June 2023

Preferred Funding Strategy

- Total project cost \$36,883,241
- Apply for \$16,597,458 BEST Grant January 2024
- Request \$20,285,783 State funding FY24-25

The Need

- Current Blind School K-12 - Adams Hall (15,052 sf single-story building)
 - 69 students currently enrolled - outgrowing the building.
 - Classroom sizes are not conducive to the needs of blind/visually impaired students.
 - Need more space for adaptive equipment for students with additional disabilities, sensory options for students who need to regulate during class, and braille books and curriculum.
 - Restrooms are not very accessible or adequate for staff & K-12 students.
 - No space for assessments, planning, breaks. The main office is used 3x/week for this.
 - Elementary, middle, and high school students should have their own hallway/spaces.
- Early Education Center (4,300 sf single-story building)
 - The current capacity is 28 kids - we were not able to accept all kids last year.
 - With the end of the COVID pandemic, we started seeing enrollment increase.
 - We have 2 classrooms, but 3 classes, diverse needs of our population and classes require separate spaces to address the needs of the students.
 - Clear educational and social differences between 3-yr-olds entering a program, and 5-yr-olds ready to enter Kindergarten. It is best practice to have two classrooms for the Blind Preschool (a 3-4 year old program and a 4-5 year old program), two classrooms for the Deaf Preschool (a 3-4 year old program and a 4-5 year old program), and an additional classroom that will meet the needs of our listening and spoken language students.

Additional Information

- Deaf School K-12 - Gottlieb Hall (38,943 sf)
 - Renovation & Addition 2011 – CSDB received \$10,601,140 BEST Grant.
- West Hall (17,256 sf three-story building)
 - Constructed in 1931 – originally built for dormitories & classrooms.
 - Named for George E. West, a CO State Senator & CSDB Board of Trustees member.
 - Largely still in its original condition (new roof 2023).
 - Third floor unoccupied due to significant water damage – mainly storage.
 - First & Second Floors Outreach Program, ASL Instructors & Communications.