

Colorado Safe Schools



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Colorado School Safety Legislation 2011

The 2011 Colorado legislative session passed a number of bills into law that relate to school safety. This newsletter provides a brief synopsis of three of the eight bills. See <http://www.safeschools.state.co.us/legislation.html> for more.

HB 11-1254 Bullying in Schools

Sponsored by Representatives Priola and Schafer, Senator Steadman

- Changes the definition of bullying in the Colorado Safe Schools Act (C.R.S. 22-32-109.1) to any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental or emotional harm to any student.
- Underscores the protected classes under state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education and adds a prohibition against bullying behavior based on academic performance.
- Reminds everyone that this definition is not intended to infringe upon any right guaranteed to any person by the first amendment to the United States Constitution or to prevent the expression of any religious, political, or philosophical views.
- Establishes a grant program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).
- Charges CDE and the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) to make available evidence-based resources on the CDE website.
- Makes additions to the Conduct and Discipline Codes of districts to encourage a dress code policy, biennial climate surveys, character building and designation of a school team to address bullying. Reminds schools to enforce appropriate disciplinary consequences for students who bully AND for those who take retaliatory action against someone who reports in good faith. Incidents of bullying are to be reported as behavior detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or of school personnel.
- This law and its components apply to charter schools as well.

Other 2011 Colorado Legislation Concerning School Safety

- HB 11-1032 – Restorative Justice
- HB 11-1053 – Compelling a Minor to Attend School
- HB 11-1121 – Disqualification from School Employment
- SB 11-133 – Discipline in Public Schools
- SB 11-266 – Background checks for School Contractors

<http://www.safeschools.state.co.us/legislation.html>

SB 11-173 Interoperable Communication in Schools

Sponsored by Senator Steve King; Representative Bob Gardner

- This bill makes additions to the existing Colorado Safe Schools Act (C.R.S. 22-32.109.1) framework for school safety, readiness, and incident management plans to include, to the extent possible, emergency communications that coordinate between schools and state and local emergency personnel.
- The Safe Schools Act encourages development of plans with community partners, which has been expanded to include local 911 agencies, emergency management personnel, and local and regional homeland security personnel. The legislation also encourages exercises that test communications interoperability.
- Specifies the role of the Fire Safety Division in the Department of Public Safety in assessing and inquiring about a school's all hazard drills conducted in addition to fire drills and about a school's progress toward implementing NIMS and ICS (SB 08-181).
- The bill encourages collaboration between the CSSRC, the Division of Fire Safety and the Governor's Office of Information Technology to collect and disseminate training, best practices and funding opportunities information to schools related to emergency preparedness.

HB 11-1169 Higher Education Campus Sharing Information

Sponsored by Representative Levy; Senator Heath

- This bill allows police departments at state institutions of higher education to share information concerning individuals who demonstrate behavior that may pose a risk to the campus community.
- Information may be shared with administrators for campus programs responsible for victims' assistance, mental health services, university housing, student affairs, a campus task force or any individual who is the focus of a specific threat.
- The bill contains limitations on information that may be shared concerning victims of sexual assault.
- It removes civil liability for individuals who provide public safety related information.

Adapted from the Colorado Department of Public Safety's 2011 Legislative Report.





Colorado Safe Schools Regional Training

October 19th and 20th, 2011

Ft. Collins Marriott

Creating a Climate for Safe Schools and Successful Students

**Pre-Conference Workshops:
October 19, 12:30–3:30 p.m.**

- Emergency Management 101 - US Department of Education
- Youth Substance Use and Issues for Schools
- Planning and Conducting Tabletop Exercises
- Creating and Sustaining Positive School Climate-Bully Prevention Lessons from the Field

**Conference Workshops:
October 20, 8:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m.**

Sample of New Conference Sessions:

- Bias Based Bullying
- Teen Dating Violence
- Assessing Your School Climate
- Safe Routes to School: Grant Support
- School Emergency Planning: New Legislation and Resources

No registration fee to Colorado participants. Lunch is provided Oct. 20.
Registration as a school team is encouraged and opens August 15 for teams!

More information at www.safeschools.state.co.us

Bullying Prevention Institute

Sponsored by
Colorado Department of Education,
Colorado Legacy Foundation, and the
Colorado School Safety Resource Center

When: September 21, 2011
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Where: Montrose, CO
Holiday Inn Montrose
1391 South Townsend Ave., 81401

- Designed for school administrators, PBIS teams, school safety teams, school mental health professionals.
- No charge for Colorado participants, lunch on your own.
- Space is limited and registration is required.
- Registration is now open - visit safeschools.state.co.us/training.html.



Is Your School Using Safe2Tell®?

Anonymous tip line makes it easy and safe for students or teachers to report concerns.

Colorado Shakespeare Festival in the Schools presents

Twelfth Night

A show featuring
comedy, mistaken identity, bullying!

Touring Colorado Sept. 20 - Oct. 14, 2011

Schedule today and receive:

- Study guide
- 50-minute performance
- Post-show talk with actors
- Classroom workshops on bullying

Reserve at 303-492-1973 or csfedout@colorado.edu

Cost is \$550 per school (limited subsidies may be available).

Colorado Safe Schools Week

October 16-22, 2011

***Working Together for
Safe Schools and Successful Students***

For more information see: www.safeschools.state.co.us



Schedule your School Climate Assessment Today!

CSPV is offering its online surveys to schools at no charge this school year. Use these surveys to collect student, staff and parent perspectives on safety, relationships, teaching & learning and the school's physical environment.
Call or email today: 303-492-1032 or safeschools@colorado.edu.