



COLORADO
School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety

700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000
Denver, Colorado 80215

July 23, 2018

Dear Superintendent or BOCES Director:

As we all happily anticipate the beginning of a new school year, I wanted to share with you some school safety news and ask that you share this electronically with all of your district administrators. Thank you!

2018 Legislative Session:

- **School Safety Grant Funding.** Three grant funding opportunities may be available to your districts and will require some quick work to qualify this academic year.
 - **SB18-158 SAFER Grant Program** - This is the interoperability communications grant which requires NO matching funds. Please see the attached one-pager which outlines the steps to take to prepare for this RFP. Since the rule making committee is not meeting until the first week of September, the RFP is expected to be released shortly thereafter with about a two week turnaround this first year.
 - **SB18-269 School Security Disbursement Program** - This is the \$29.5M for which the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management will be required to give first preference to districts with matching funds. The rule making committee is meeting the first week of October so the RFP is expected shortly thereafter.
 - **SB18-272 Suicide Prevention Training in Schools** - This grant will be managed by the Office of Suicide Prevention within the CO Department of Public Health & Environment OSP/CDPHE. This will provide grant funding to schools to train staff on crisis and suicide prevention (with preference to schools that have not previously trained staff). The CSSRC has updated their [Resources for Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Guide](#) to help staff find appropriate trainings.
- All updates on these grants will be available on the CSSRC homepage: www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC.
- Also, the 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results are in the process of being released. You can find the press release and link to the data [here](#). Thank you to all the schools that made collecting this data possible!

Please keep the Center in mind for any no-cost school safety trainings needed by your district schools.

Our first regional training of the new school year will be held on Friday, September 14th on Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention with our partners from the Office of the Attorney General, CDE and OSP/CDPHE. The link to the registration is [here](#).

We also invite your staff to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center along with some excellent plenary and workshop presentations at the October 1st and 2nd annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit at the Adams 12 Conference Center. Registration information can be found [here](#).

We wish you a safe and successful school year,

Christine R. Harms

Christine R. Harms, Director
Attachments (2)





2018 Legislative Session School Safety Bills

1. **SB-158 School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program (Interoperability Grant)**

- Open to ANY school/district/charter school/BOCES
- \$5 Million for 6 years
- Allowances: Interoperable communications hardware, software, equipment maintenance and training for communications between school communications systems and first responder communications systems
- Initial awarding on or before 12/31/18 and then on or before 9/1/ each year
- Please note: the RFP is expected shortly (probably by 11/1) but the first year application submission will have a QUICK turnaround of about 2 weeks.

How best to prepare:

- Finalize your MOU with your 911 center (sample here)
- Description of your current interoperable communication technology
- Summary of compliance with the response framework in the Safe Schools Act (CRS 22-32-109.1)
- Description of efforts to coordinate communication with local law enforcement, 911 system and other schools
- Description of how you would use the funds including training, joint exercise planning and interoperability technology solution
- Proof of EOP with safety team members designated for communication with first responders

Reporting requirements:

On or before 1/15/2020 and then 1/15 each year thereafter a report to DHSEM/CDPS

- Number of schools that provided training to appropriate personnel regarding effective communications with first responders in an emergency
- Number of schools that used grant money to provide or upgrade its interoperable technology, including interoperable communication hardware or software
- Total number of students enrolled in the schools that received the grant money

2. **SB18-269 Security Disbursement Program**

- Open to ANY school/district/charter school/BOCES (may apply as a regional applicant)
- \$29.5 Million, yearly but repealed 7/1/2021
- Allowable: capital construction, including structure or installed hardware, devices or equipment that protects school facilities or vehicles; training student threat assessment; training for on-site school resource officers; and school emergency response training.
- First preference to applicants with a match
- RFFs expected in the Fall 2018

Reporting requirements:

- On or before August 1, 2018 and on or before August 1st each year thereafter:
- Amount received
- Source and amount of matching money, if applicable
- Purpose(s) for which the LEA used the disbursed money, including an itemized accounting of how the money was expended



3. SB18-272 – Suicide Prevention Training in Schools

- Grant program in the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Open to districts, public schools, district charter schools or Institute charter schools
- Training for all teachers and staff on crisis and suicide prevention training
- Priority for those schools that have not yet conducted such training
- Application period opens 1/1/2019
- CSSRC Suicide Resource Guides updated and available to help with training selections

Reporting requirements:

- Reports will be due to the legislature by CDPHE not later than six months after the expiration of the term of its grant. Therefore, CDPHE will set the timetable for school/districts to report to them in a timely fashion.
- Reports will need to include:
 - Number of schools that received services from the grant
 - Number of pupils enrolled at each school
 - Number of staff who were provided the training
 - Copy of the school/district's crisis and suicide prevention plans

To: (names of each of the public safety agency heads)

From: (name of school district head)

Subject: Interoperable Communications Grant Memorandum of Understanding

Date:

Overview:

The Colorado Safe Schools Act (C.R.S. 22-32-109.1) recognizes Public Safety agencies are indispensable *community partners* schools rely upon for school safety. The Colorado Safe Schools Act also identifies the importance of communications interoperability between those community partners as an important tool to resolve school crisis events.

During the 2018 legislative session, the SAFER Grant was established for Colorado to enable schools, school districts, charter schools and/or BOCES and their community partners to achieve emergency communications interoperability. As part of the application process, these various agencies must establish a memorandum of understanding regarding interoperable communications.

Agreement:

Responsibilities of School and/or School District, Charter School or BOCES:

- The School District shall follow the school safety, readiness, and incident management plan developed in accordance with School Response Framework (C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 Colorado Safe Schools Act) that identifies for each public school in the School District:
 - a. Safety teams and backups trained in the National Incident Management System ("NIMS") and the Incident Command System ("ICS"), as specified by the School Response Framework, and
 - b. who are responsible for interacting with community partners and assuming key incident command positions
- To the extent possible, each public school, in collaboration with its school district, to hold coordinated exercises among school employees and community partners, including at a minimum:
 - a. Orientation meetings to inform all parties about emergency operation plans and procedures;
 - b. All-hazard drills, in addition to fire drills, to improve individual and student emergency procedures and to test communications interoperability; and
 - c. Tabletop exercises to discuss and identify roles and responsibilities in different scenarios.

- Each public school in the School District shall conduct a written evaluation (After Action Report) following certain incidents as identified by the school or school district, to identify and address lessons learned and corrective actions in updating response plans and procedures.
- Each public school shall maintain emergency equipment, including communications equipment that is interoperable with affected state and local agencies (community partners).
- The School District shall follow written procedures, as defined in its emergency communications plan, for taking action and communicating with Community Partners, parents, students, and the media in the event of certain incidents as identified by the school or school district.
- The School District shall work with Community Partners to update and revise standard operating procedures, ensuring that the NIMS framework is incorporated.
- The School District will NOT use the emergency interoperability technology funded by the SAFER Grant for day-to-day operations on the public safety communications network.

Responsibilities of Community Partners (Public Safety Agencies)

- Provide a common mutual aid radio channel to be used when needed for interoperability with school and or school district safety teams. Public Safety will control and enable the interoperable “bridge” as needed and according to the standard operating protocol developed by them as part of the interoperability project.
- Will serve as a resource in updating emergency response plans for districts around issues of interoperability.
- Participate as a Community Partner during joint trainings and exercises in accordance with the Colorado Safe Schools Act.

When an application for a SAFER Grant is successful, each party shall adhere to its roles and responsibilities related to the application, including coordinated response activities and interoperable communications.

The undersigned agree to sustain this agreement into the future. The agreement will be reviewed periodically to ensure the spirit and intent of this agreement remains viable to each agency. Changes or additions to this agreement may be made as a result of the periodic review.

(Potential) Authorized Signers:

[District] _____

Date: _____

[School] _____

Date: _____

Public Safety Radio System Owner/Operator:

[SO]

Date: _____

[PD]

Date: _____

[911 Dispatch]

Date: _____

[Fire]

Date: _____