

Legislative Report

**A Report to Colorado House and Senate Education
and Judiciary Committees**

**Colorado School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety**

C.R.S. 24-33.5-1801, et seq.

Submitted to Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety

Submitted to Colorado House and Senate Education and Judiciary Committees
January 2018



COLORADO
School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety

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Executive Summary

Mission

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC – also referred to as the “Center”) in the Department of Public Safety (“Department”) was created by Senate Bill 08-001 ([CRS §§24-33.5-1801, et seq.](#)). The mission of the Center is to assist local schools and communities to create safe and positive school environments for Colorado students, pre-K through higher education.

The CSSRC has six staff positions, and provides consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance to foster safe and secure learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention to prevent crises. Information and resources from the CSSRC are available to all schools, school officials, and community partners throughout Colorado. The Center supports schools and local agencies in the five missions of school safety preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response and recovery (as outlined by the U.S. Department of Education, the Presidential Directive—National Preparedness Directive PPD-8).

The Center has a 19-member advisory board from various state agencies and others with a stake in school safety issues in Colorado who meet four times a year with Center staff and provide input on their work.

Key Accomplishments in 2017

The Center provides a central and readily available repository of resources for school safety-related issues. Consistent with its legislative mandate, the Center has worked to deliver services and foster collaborations, connecting governmental agencies and community partners. The following are highlights of key accomplishments for 2017.

- **School Emergency Management (SEM) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education Final Workshops & Continuation of the Training Engagement Committee** – The Colorado Department of Education (CDE), in collaboration with the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, submitted, and was approved for, a \$413,411 grant to enhance school emergency operations plans (EOPs) in 2014. CSSRC staff members served as subject matter experts to assist particularly rural, charter and private schools to develop or improve their EOPs.

Since the training started in August of 2015, 122 district/school teams completed the series of three one-day workshops at fourteen sites across the state with approximately 464 school staff and community emergency responders participating in an effort to produce high-quality EOPs. The original grant was scheduled to terminate on March 30, 2016. However, CDE received two no-cost extensions to allow the work to be completed in the fall semester of 2017. The final report will be submitted by CDE no later than March 30, 2018.

The Training Engagement Committee (TEC) is the sustainability component of the grant. This committee of stakeholders, who have various roles in school emergency operations planning, started meeting in 2016, and throughout 2017, in order to maintain the partnerships that will guarantee that the outstanding work of this grant continues.
- **The Claire Davis School Safety Act (C.R.S. 24-10-106.3)** - This act imposes a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for schools if a school fails to exercise “reasonable care” to protect all students, faculty and staff from “reasonably foreseeable acts of violence” that occur at school or a school-sponsored activity. Although parts of the bill went into effect in 2015, the compensatory damages under the bill became effective on July 1, 2017. Districts have been working hard to be sure they have all components of the Safe Schools Act (C.R.S. 22-32-109.1) in place. Due to the three types of offenses that can generate consequences under the Claire Davis Act (CDA), the Center has seen a dramatic increase in the number of threat assessment and adult sexual misconduct trainings requested. Prior to CDA becoming law in 2015, the Center had conducted 20 threat assessment trainings since opening in 2008. Since 2015, the Center

has conducted an additional 61 threat assessment trainings. Similarly, prior to the Claire Davis Act, the Center had conducted only 2 adult sexual misconduct trainings. In 2016 and by year's end in 2017, over 1,000 participants were trained at 26 trainings, with many more scheduled for 2018.

- **Advisory Board Renewal** - The CSSRC has a 19-member Advisory Board that meets four times a year. Individual board members support the Center in other ways, including hosting trainings, collaborating in presentations, supporting the Summit and other regional trainings, and serving on working groups. When the Center originally opened in 2008, the founding legislation had the Advisory Board sunset in 2017. The Department of Regulatory Affairs reviewed the work of the Board and recommended to the 2017 Colorado Legislature that the sunset provision be extended until 2022 to be reviewed again at that time. The Legislature agreed.
- **Grant Work with Funds from the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado** – In 2015, the Center was awarded two grants from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado (GLFC) of the Gill Foundation to assist schools in deepening their school climate work. Twenty-one schools attended a one-day workshop and had the assistance of a technical advisor from the Anti-Defamation League, Colorado Education Initiative, or the School Safety Resource Center to conduct climate surveys, analyze their data, and initiate a project to enhance their school's climate. Schools were able to show measurable increases in school climate as evidenced by before and after student climate surveys and teams were motivated to continue the work beyond the terms of the grants. Both grant cycles ended in 2016.

However, with remaining funds, the GLFC allowed the Center to conduct three Staff/Student Safety Summits in three regions of the state in the spring and fall of 2017. This model, which had never before been attempted by the Center, proved an excellent means for dialogue on school safety issues between staff and students. Evaluations underscored the value that staff and students found with this model and the Center will find ways to repeat it in the future. We have appreciated the ongoing support of the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado of the Gill Foundation since 2010 for the work of the Center and the support of the youth of Colorado.

- **2017 School Safety Needs Assessment** - In an effort to provide services that school districts most need, the Center has routinely distributed a Needs Assessment Survey to district personnel. The first survey was conducted in 2010, the second in 2013 and again in 2017. Although disseminated widely, the response was much smaller this time with 74 compared to 440 participants answering the survey in 2013. The hope is that the smaller response indicates that schools consider themselves much more prepared than previously. Not surprisingly, two of the three top rated needs centered around trauma. The first need identified was for more vicarious trauma training for staff followed by training on creating trauma-sensitive classrooms. The third highest rated need was for strategies for communication during a crisis. The Center has already been providing training for the first two needs and will be sure to highlight the communications piece in emergency response trainings.
- **Enhancing Electronic Communication Capability** – The **CSSRC's updated website** continues to be a dynamic hub of current and topical information for schools, emergency responders, community partners and the general public. Please see: (<http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter> or <http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>).
 - a. The website is continually updated and modified to include more resources and to improve searchability. Additionally, a monthly E-Update newsletter is distributed to a **Listserv that now includes over 5,724 members** representing various stakeholder groups around the state. The newsletter includes school safety news and resources and highlights upcoming training and grant opportunities.
 - b. The Center initiated a **Twitter account** in 2012 to update followers between issues of the E-Update, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>. Currently there are **642** followers of the CSSRC Twitter account.

- **Providing Training, Consultation and Resources** – The Center provides both regional and school site trainings throughout the year and across the state.
 - a. Along with the **regional trainings** for the SEM grant and the three Staff/Student Safety Summits mentioned above, the Center also provided other regional trainings on current topics in school safety. In 2017 these included:
 - i. *Two Restorative Practices in Schools* two-day trainings in March and November
 - ii. *Two Trauma Informed Care for Educators* workshops in April and June.
 - iii. *An IHE Summer Safety Symposium* in June
 - iv. *A two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)* in June
 - v. *A PREPaRE Train-the-Trainer* workshop in June
 - vi. *A one-day Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium* in September and
 - vii. The highly successful two-day *2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit* in October
 - b. The CSSRC continues to provide various staff development, topic-focused trainings and consultations in individual districts, schools and charter schools across the state. In 2017, **186 trainings** or workshops were provided or co-hosted on a variety of school safety topics. This was an **11% increase** over trainings in 2016. Participants trained in 2017 were **7,384 for an increase of 4%**, bringing the total number of people trained since the Center opened to **37,886**.
 - c. We attribute this increase in training numbers to the SEM grant, the response by districts to the Claire Davis Act (SB15-213) and the Center’s new Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist position created with legislation in 2015.
- **Creation and Delivery of Online Learning** – During 2012, the Center launched its first two **online training courses** for school personnel. These interactive courses provide training and resources without travel. Participants also have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits.
 - a. In 2017, the Center was able to add two new online courses to the menu of eleven courses already available to anyone on the website at no cost. The first is a course to assist schools in conducting table top drills and the second reminds school personnel and others of their responsibilities to report child abuse as mandated reporters.
 - b. To date there are thirteen online courses which have been accessed by approximately **3,139** people.
- **Resources** - Finally, during 2017 the CSSRC received and responded to approximately **1,858 contacts for resources, trainings, consultations and technical assistance** on a variety of school safety-related issues. The Center distributed **53,782 hard copies of 335 school safety-related resources** demonstrating the continued utilization of the Center as a Colorado resource.
- **Developing and Deepening Collaborations** – Recognizing the need to maximize services and resources to schools, the Center has been working with a multitude of agencies since its inception in 2008.
 - a. Currently, Center staff participates in regular meetings with 29 organizations.
 - b. New this year is a working group facilitated by the Center that is creating recommendations for districts around parental notification when a school staff member is being investigated, arrested and/or convicted of a sexual offense against a child. The Center also continues to facilitate the Institutions of Higher Education Networking Group and the Youth Advisory Council, known as Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²).

Looking Forward

With the passage of SB15-213 “Concerning the Limited Waiver of Governmental Immunity for Claims Involving Public Schools for Injuries Resulting from Incidents of School Violence” (the Claire Davis Act) the Center expects to continue to see an increase in the number of requests for both threat assessment and adult sexual misconduct training.

The School Emergency Management Grant helped the Center staff establish relationships with many of our rural districts that had not called upon the CSSRC prior to the grant work. This has led to many more requests for training and technical assistance beyond the grant from our rural colleagues. We have appreciated this opportunity to get to know more of the rural professionals and offer them the services of the Center. We believe this increased call for assistance from our Colorado schools will continue.

Maintaining current alliances between state agencies and community partners is essential to coordinated school safety efforts in our state. The CSSRC will stay on course to evaluate statewide needs and services provided and work with others to be responsive to the changing requests of schools and youth. The Center will continue to foster relationships, gather and distribute resources to assist schools in their efforts to improve school climate and overall safety, and be available to schools needing the Center’s services. Our hope is that, with a limited budget and staff of six, we will be able to meet the increasing demands for our services.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at

www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter or www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Department of Public Safety

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Legislative Report 2017

The attached report outlines the activities, efficacy, and value of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC – also referred to as the “Center”), as created by [CRS §§24-33.5-1801, et seq.](#) This report will provide details as to the Center’s operation, including the Advisory Board, training and resources available to schools, the important issues being studied by work groups created through the Center, and the significant outreach and alliances that have been developed to enhance school safety in Colorado during 2017. Additional information may be obtained through the CSSRC website: <http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter>

The founding legislation ([CRS §§24-33.5-1801, et seq.](#)) outlined formation of an Advisory Board for the School Safety Resource Center to make recommendations to the Center. The legislation also identified the membership and terms of office. The Advisory Board began with 13 members, as provided by statute, who were appointed during 2008. Six additional members have been added at the recommendation of the Board and approved by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety. At the time of this report, the current members of the Advisory Board are:

Advisory Board

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	APPOINTED BY
Greg Busch	Emergency Management Director	Colorado Community College System	Executive Director of Colorado Community College System
Det. Stacey Collis	School Resource Officer	Lakewood Police Department	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Steven Fast	Executive Director	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Chanel Freeman	Health Communications Specialist	Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health	Executive Director of Human Services
Jamie Haukeness	Principal	Cortez Middle School	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Jarrod Hindman, Chair	Deputy Chief	Office of Violence & Injury Prevention, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Debbie Lammers	St. Vrain Valley School Board	CASB Board of Education (St. Vrain Valley RE-1J)	Colorado Association of School Boards

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	APPOINTED BY
Lorrie Odom	VP for Programs	Colorado PTA	Governor
Susan Payne	Executive Director	Safe2Tell, Colorado Department of Law	Attorney General
Mark Pokorny	Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager	Metropolitan State University	Executive Director of Commission on Higher Education
Scott Ross	Director	Colorado Dept of Ed Director, Office of Learning Supports	Commissioner of Education
Jenny Schoen	Teacher	Littleton Public Schools	Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety
Carolena Steen	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mtn. School District	Commissioner of Education
Rob Urbach	Sheriff	Phillips County	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Melanie Voegeli-Morris	Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator	Poudre School District	Commissioner of Education
George Welsh	Superintendent	Canon City School District Fremont RE-1	Commissioner of Education
Chris Wilderman, Secretary	Director - Safe & Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 School District	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Meg Williams	Representative of CDPS	Colorado Department of Public Safety	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Dave Young	District Attorney	17 th Judicial District	Governor

The Board meets four times during each year. The Board receives regular updates on the activities of the Center and Board Members have provided significant input and advice about the Center's activities, mission, and vision. The Advisory Board approved operating bylaws on June 1, 2010.

The Advisory Board was due to sunset with the 2017 Legislative Session. The Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) conducted a review and made its recommendation to the 2017 Colorado Legislature that the Advisory Board should be continued. Hearings at the Capitol terminated with the Board being sustained until 2022 at which time another sunset review will be initiated.

All Advisory Board meeting agendas, notes and Advisory Board Bylaws are posted on the CSSRC website: <http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter> or <http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>.

Vision and Mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

The three-part vision of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center is to support ***safe and secure learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention services for youth in Colorado***. The vision and mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center align with the legislative directive and were confirmed by the CSSRC Advisory Board in March 2009.

The mission of the Center is to assist educators, students, parents, emergency responders, and community organizations working with all Colorado preK-12 and higher education schools. The Center does this by focusing on the areas of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery as outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. The Center provides resources, training, consultation, and technical assistance to foster safe, positive, and successful learning environments and early intervention to prevent crises.

The mission of the Center, as defined in legislation, is significant and wide reaching. During the 2016-17 school year there were 905,019 students enrolled in preK-12 schools in our state, from 185 local education agencies (LEAs). The state has approximately 1,854 total preK-12 schools and close to 400 non-public schools. The Colorado Department of Education has identified 132 of the 185 LEAs with an enrollment of fewer than 2,000 students. Of these, 111 had an enrollment fewer than 1,000 students. The CSSRC is of particular assistance to these smaller districts and non-public schools by providing needed services and resources that likely are not otherwise available.

In the Colorado higher education system, there are 31 public two- and four-year institutions and an additional 457 private institutions and technical schools educating approximately 374,772 students. Initially, the Advisory Board had prioritized the K-12 mission of the Center during the earliest phases of operation. Since 2014 the outreach of the Center has been expanded to include institutions of higher education.

Staff of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

As of 2015, the Center has six positions. Christine R. Harms, MS, the first Outreach Consultant for the Center, was appointed Director in January of 2012. As Director, she is responsible for supervising and directing all activities, programs, budget and personnel issues of the Center and reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Rebecca Spiess.

Dustin Hunter, MA, serves as the Center's School Outreach Consultant providing consultation with schools and others concerned with school safety. He also provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need, establishing and maintaining networks and grant writing. Mr. Hunter co-facilitates the Center's youth advisory council (YES²) with the Prevention Specialist. He is the newest member of the team, having joined the Center in August 2017.

Brad Stiles, MA, joined the team in November of 2013, with the passage of SB13-138, as the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant. This expanded the Center's outreach to more emergency responders in the state. He has participated in active shooter trainings and has consulted with numerous schools on their emergency operations plans. He has taken a leadership role in the outreach to institutions of higher education

and was the lead trainer on the SEM grant work. Mr. Stiles is a former law enforcement officer with a graduate degree in emergency management.

In the 2015 legislative session, SB15-020 created a new position in the Center. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist is tasked with gathering resources and providing training to school personnel, parents, and students regarding personal safety and the prevention of child sexual abuse and assault. Margaret Ochoa, J.D., is a former Assistant Jefferson County Attorney, where she specialized in child protection work. She joined the Center in April of 2016 as the Prevention Specialist.

The Center has a School Safety Resource Specialist who identifies, acquires, and reviews resources, consults about those resources, manages the website and all social media, and assists with planning and delivery of school safety trainings and workshops. Anthony Wyatt joined the Center in this capacity in June of 2015. He has been a vital member of the team allowing the Center to utilize the latest technology to keep constituents informed of timely updates.

The Program Assistant position is held by Melissa Weiss who joined the Center in February 2017 from the Department of Regulatory Agencies. She provides a wide variety of general support for the Center and staff, including ordering of office resources, planning for meetings and trainings, creating materials, maintaining communication with the Listserv members, and supporting the Center's fiscal accountability through budgetary management.

Funding

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center's FY18 appropriation is \$592,765. Legislation during 2010 (House Bill 10-1336) created a school safety center cash fund and authorized the Department to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations and charge fees to attendees of training programs. Until 2016, only minimal training fees had been collected from out-of-state attendees at trainings. As the demand for more site-based consultations and trainings has increased and, with it, the added cost of mileage and other travel expenses, the Center found it necessary to begin to charge for regional workshops in order to be able to continue to provide all services.

With the permission of the Advisory Board, fees for regional trainings have been collected since 2016. Fees only cover the cost of the trainings. The nominally added fees have not appeared to deter school personnel participation.

Four foundation grants were awarded to the Center for FY13, FY14, FY15 and FY16 from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado of the Gill Foundation totaling \$230,576. A final grant report was submitted to the Foundation at the end of December 2016. However, since some funds remained, the Gay and Lesbian Fund approved a no-cost extension for work in 2017 which will be described elsewhere.

In 2016, the Center also was awarded a grant from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council through the Colorado Department of Public Safety's office of the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). The grant proposal was to conduct four two-day trainings on Restorative Practices for Schools at various locations across the state. Workshops were conducted in May in Summit County, June in Highlands Ranch, August in Grand Junction and November in Pueblo of 2016. Grant funds were \$25,485. A no-cost extension was approved in December 2016 and two additional two-day workshops took place in March and August of 2017, in Thornton and Wheat Ridge, respectively. A final report was submitted to DCJ in November of 2017.

Activities of the Center

In 2017, the Center continued its mission of providing consultation, technical assistance, resources, and trainings to school safety partners. The Center's partnerships and outreach have continued to grow, the number of resources disseminated increased, and the ability to provide services via technology has expanded. The details of the Center's 2017 activities follow:

Grant Work

Grants from the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado of the Gill Foundation

The CSSRC has worked with the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado (GLFC) of the Gill Foundation and various other professionals since the formation of the Bullying/Harassment Prevention Work Group in December of 2010. The Center was fortunate to receive four grants from GLFC between 2012 and 2016. The first two grants enabled the creation and delivery of one-day training institutes for school personnel to educate school staff on the elements of the then new bullying prevention law, best practices in bullying prevention and intervention strategies, and building a positive school climate. CSSRC provided fifteen of these institutes with school staff and three with parents across the state. The Center partnered with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) (then the Colorado Legacy Foundation), the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), One Colorado, and, eventually, Facing History joined the collaborative.

The next two grants were designed to deepen the initial work by funding individual schools to conduct more intensive work on their school climates. This work included utilizing data to help school staff choose and implement an evidence-based or promising practice to enhance their school climate. Twenty-two schools received grant funding and worked with coaches from the CSSRC, CEI and ADL with this work completed in December 2016.

Since all funds from the final grant were not utilized, GLFC approved a no-cost extension into 2017. After consultation with CEI and ADL, the Center decided to conduct three **Staff/Student Safety Summits** in various locations across Colorado. Designed to create adult and student conversations around school safety issues, workshops were held in Grand Junction and Durango in April, and the final one in metro Denver in November 2017. Internationally respected author and educator, Rosalind Wiseman, was the keynote speaker at all three summits with additional interactive workshops rounding out the day. Although Center staff had hoped for better attendance, those who did attend had extremely positive ratings for the experience and many created plans for their schools based on knowledge gained and relationships fostered during the workshops.

We appreciate the partnership and support that the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado of the Gill Foundation has given to the Center and Colorado students since 2010. We believe valuable positive changes have resulted for students across the state from all the work generated by these grants.

U.S. Department of Education (USDE) – School Emergency Management (SEM) Grant

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center worked in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education as the state education agency to submit an application to the USDE for their school emergency management grant. The state received notification in September of 2014 that the grant had been awarded for \$413,411 over an eighteen-month period to begin on November 1, 2014. Over the course of the grant, CDE requested and received two no-cost extensions until December 2017.

The grant was designed to improve state structures through the development of inter-agency models to support Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) regional trainings. Two key strategies included the development of cooperative agreements with LEAs across the state to organize training and address barriers to participation as well as the formation of a Training Engagement Committee (TEC) to support sustainability after the EOP trainings were completed.

The Colorado Department of Education has leveraged its role and relationships in working with schools and districts to emphasize the important aspects of school safety and promote EOP training. CDE entered into agreements with the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education (BOCES), the San Juan BOCES, and the Thompson Valley School District to facilitate these trainings. The Colorado School Safety Resource Center's School Outreach Consultant and Emergency Response Outreach Consultant were the subject matter experts for the training sessions. Center staff designed the series of three workshops that took teams from assessing their vulnerabilities, both within and outside their buildings, to creating a high-quality EOP, to testing that EOP with tabletop exercises.

The training invitations focused on the rural, charter and non-public schools with a goal of engaging 100 district/school teams to participate to create high-quality EOPs. As of November 2017, fourteen training sites were utilized across the state from Rifle to Lamar to host the series of three workshops at each site. These 14 sites completed workshops with 122 district/school teams training a total of approximately 464 participants through November 2017. Evaluation of the work of the CSSRC staff at these trainings has been extremely positive. The final report on the grant is to be submitted by CDE to the U.S. Department of Education by March 30, 2018.

The Training Engagement Committee (TEC) has been meeting since September 2016 in an effort to address sustainability beyond the term of the grant. The stakeholders include all agencies within the state that assist schools in emergency planning. The TEC is finalizing plans to organize and promote ongoing emergency management training and support the BOCES to facilitate school safety workshops beyond December 2017.

The Center has welcomed the opportunity to partner with CDE in this valuable work, and to further the training and expertise, particularly of our rural school personnel, many of whom had not participated in training with Center staff previously. This project has also increased the request for additional training and consultation from the rural districts and has been one of the reasons for the increase in the Center's training statistics.

Restorative Practices Workshops for School Personnel Grant

The Center's Director served on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council from July 2012 through June 2016, having been appointed by Governor Hickenlooper. She also served as co-chair of the Low Risk, High Needs (LRHN) committee of the council. The LRHN committee had been successfully facilitating grants to three judicial districts for truancy problem solving courts, and wanted to expand efforts to help schools incorporate restorative practices to reduce truancy and suspensions and foster more positive climates. According to the Colorado Restorative Justice Council, "*Restorative justice has been shown not only to decrease suspension rates anywhere from 40% to 80%, but has also resulted in a nearly 50% drop in absenteeism and a 60% decrease in tardiness.*"

The LRHN committee outlined a grant proposal to include a series of four two-day training sessions for school personnel focusing on the components necessary to create and implement an effective restorative practice program through restorative classrooms. The Center was asked to take the lead on this grant and facilitate the workshops.

The committee acknowledged that even a two-day workshop would not offer sufficient training to change a system. Rather, the goal was to excite school staff to the potential and value of investing school and community resources in further training and coaching to effectively implement such a program.

The Center was awarded \$25,485 in Formula Grant Funds from the Division of Criminal Justice to facilitate these training sessions in four sites across the state. The originally proposed trainings were conducted between May and November of 2016. Because of utilizing cost saving venues, assistance from other offices with transportation, and operating the workshops with as few staff as possible, grant funds remained after 2016. The Center was given permission by DCJ to conduct two additional two-day workshops in March and August of 2017.

To generate feedback about the workshops, evaluations were collected at the end of each of the twelve workshop days and an online survey was sent to all participants in the fall of 2017. Approximately 310 individuals took advantage of these trainings and rated them extremely positively. In addition, online survey respondents reported increased motivation to either continue the restorative practice work already happening in their schools or initiate restorative practices work within the current school year. Although the grant work has been completed, the Center will conduct a follow-up training session in June 2018.

Outreach

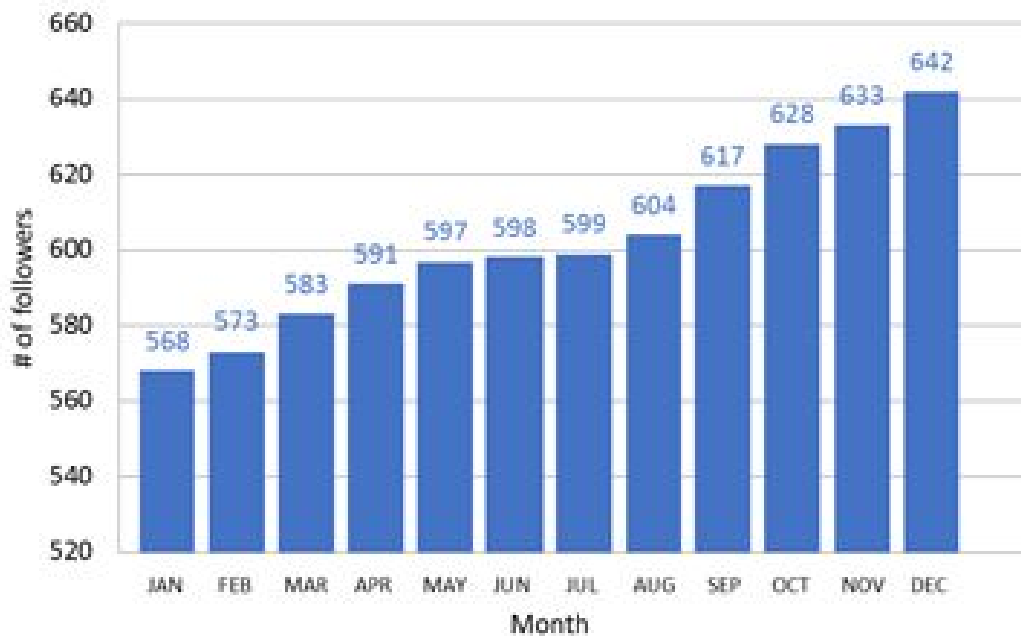
CSSRC E-Update

A listserv for the CSSRC was created in August 2009 and has a current database containing over 5,724 E-mail addresses from various providers and school safety partners. The listserv group receives monthly electronic newsletter updates (E-Update) from the Center which include important announcements, upcoming training opportunities, and new resources related to prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery efforts in schools, including potential grant funding resources.

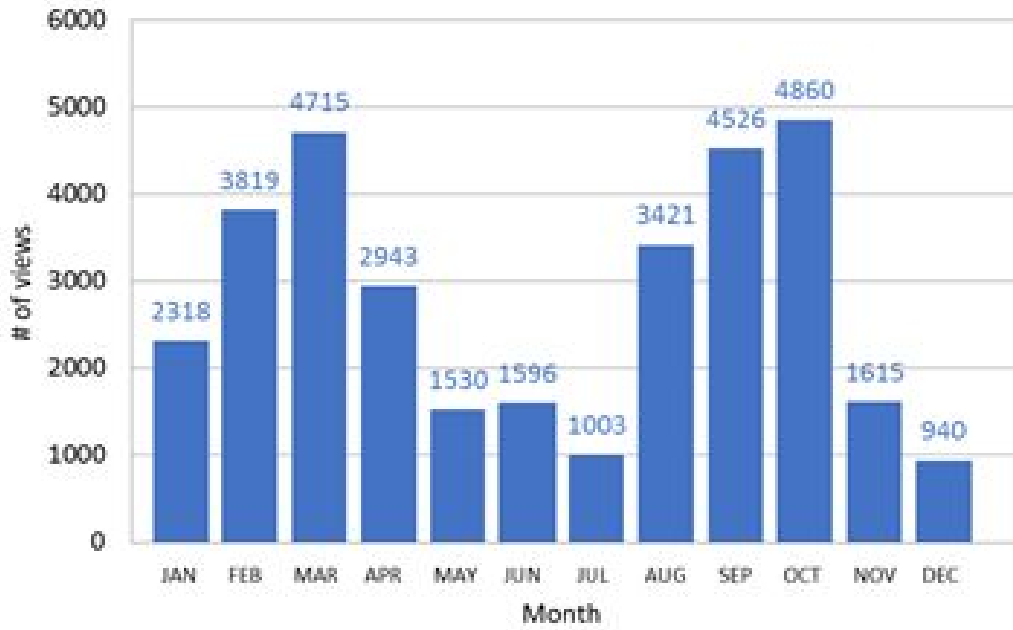
CSSRC Twitter Account

To supplement the Center’s monthly E-Update communication with additional timely information about training, events, resources, and funding opportunities, a CSSRC Twitter account was created in 2012. The School Resource Specialist sent the initial Twitter message on April 4, 2012, after which over 4,513 messages were posted through December 2017. Currently, 642 people interested in Colorado school safety follow the CSSRC Twitter account, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>. The number of followers has increased by 21% since last year. Efforts to increase the number of Twitter followers will continue in 2018 in order to share important daily communication updates. CSSRC Twitter posts can also be found on the homepage of the CSSRC website.

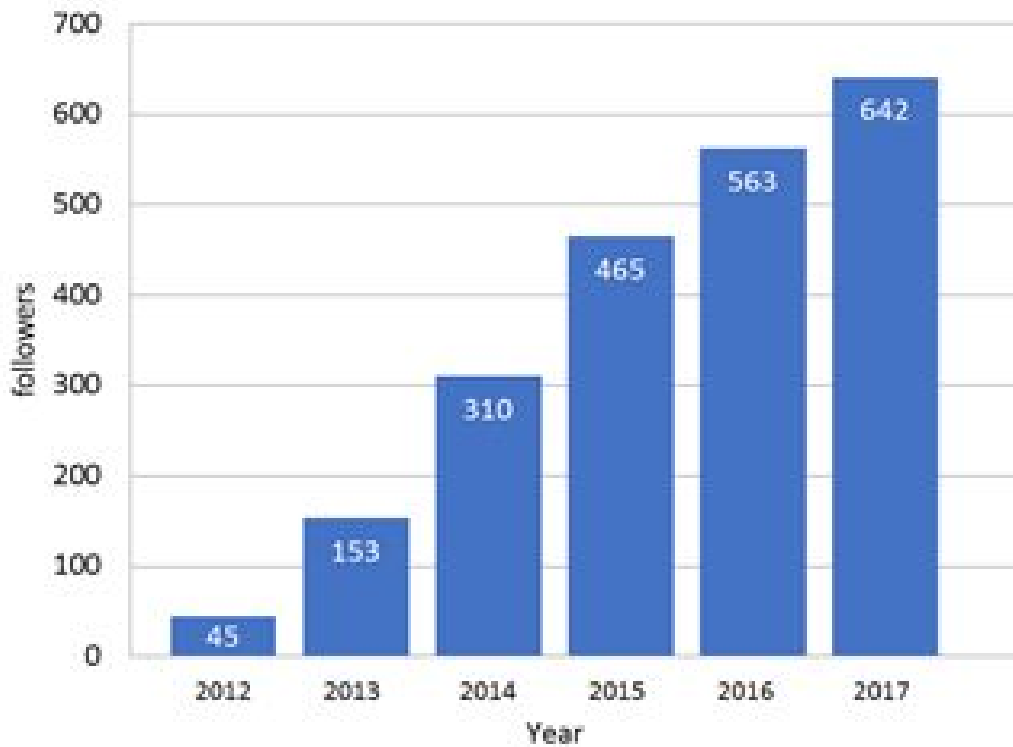
Twitter account link: <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>



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Direct Outreach to Colorado Schools

Below is a listing of the school districts and institutions of higher education who received direct services from the Center staff during 2017:

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2017

Denver Metro

Adams 12
Boulder Valley RE-2
Brighton 27J
Denver County 1
Douglas County RE-1
Englewood 1
Jefferson RE-1
Littleton 6
St Vrain Valley RE-1J

Urban-Suburban

Colorado Springs 11
Falcon 49
Greeley 6
Harrison 2
Manitou Springs 14
Mesa County Valley 51
Thompson R-2J

Outlying City

Canon City RE-1
Durango 9R
Fort Morgan RE-3
Roaring Fork RE-1
Steamboat Springs RE-2
Trinidad 1

Outlying Town

Aspen 1
Brush RE-2J
Clear Creek RE-1
East Grand 2
Garfield RE-2
Gunnison Watershed RE-1J
Hayden RE-1
Holyoke RE-1J
Lake County R-1
Salida R-23J
Springfield RE-4
Weld RE-8
West Grand 1-JT

Rural

Aguilar Reorganized 6
Campo RE-6

Dolores RE-4A
Garfield 16
Hoehne Reorganized 3
Kim RE 88
Mountain Valley RE-1
Plateau RE-5
Prairie RE-11
Primero RE-2
South Routt RE 3
Vilas RES
Walsh RE-1
Weldon Valley RE-20(J)
Wiggins RE-50(J)

Early Childhood

Active Louisville Kids
Aspen Mtn. Tots
Aspen Ridge Preparatory School
Aspen Snowmass Daycare
Bright Star Early Learning Center
Catholic Charities ECE
Childcare Fun for Kids
City of Lakewood Head Start
Clayton Early Learning
Early Family Literacy MSU Denver
Early Learning Aspen
Early Learning Ventures
Firefly Autism
First Steps at Monarch Montessori
First United Methodist COOP
Preschool
Goddard III Denver
Growing Years School
Highline Academy
Holy Love Preschool
Kids Discovery Days Preschool
Meadowlark Montessori
Montessori del Mundo
Mountain Shadows Montessori
Open Door Childcare Center
Paddington Station Preschool
Playgroup Aspen
Primrose School of Longmont
Rise Denver Preschool
Sherman Early Childhood
Sidewalks End Montessori
Southern Ute Head Start
Spark! Discovery Preschool
Thomas Learning Center

Wild Plum Center
Wildwood School

Charter/Private

Animas High School
Annunciation Catholic School
Archdiocese of Denver
Downtown Denver Expeditionary
School
Global Village Academy-Northglenn
GOAL Academy
Jefferson Academy
Monument View Montessori
Regis Jesuit High School
Renaissance Secondary
Rocky Mtn. Con. of Seventh Day
Adventists
Rocky Mtn. Prep-Creekside
St. Bernadette Parish
The Academy
The Academy of Arts and
Knowledge
TR Paul Academy
Union Colony Preparatory School
Valor Christian

Higher Education

Morgan Community College
MSU Denver
Regis University
UC Colorado Springs
UC Denver
UNC

BOCES

Centennial BOCES (Greeley)
Pikes Peak BOCES (Colorado
Springs)
San Juan BOCES (Durango)
Southeast BOCES (Lamar)

Others

Charter School Institute
Colorado League of Charter Schools

Outreach to Superintendents and BOCES Directors

Recognizing that administrative changes take place annually, mailings were sent to all superintendents across the state at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. This outreach is part of the ongoing strategy to expand knowledge about the Colorado School Safety Resource Center and the services it can offer to schools. [This mailing](#) included letters sent via email to 178 superintendents and BOCES directors with a request to forward copies to other district administrators.

The CSSRC has also continued contact with the public school superintendents, Archdiocesan administrators and the BOCES administrators across Colorado. A number of superintendents and BOCES directors attended the final SEM trainings and the Center’s Director collaborated on a presentation at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Winter Conference on the Claire Davis School Safety Act on December 1, 2017.

Outreach Beyond Colorado

CSSRC staff are proud of the reputation earned for their expertise within Colorado as well as beyond. The Director continues to participate in monthly phone meetings with staff from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institute of Justice, and the REMS Technical Assistance Center, as well as a cadre of school safety directors from across the country. She was also invited to participate in a recent phone call with national experts on crisis response ideas in the wake of the hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the shooting tragedy in Las Vegas.

The Prevention Specialist was honored to be invited to participate with a cohort of experts in adult sexual misconduct prevention to collaborate on a nationwide curriculum developed by the REMS Technical Assistance Center in Washington, D.C., in August. The experience provided an opportunity to represent the voice of Colorado, enhance the expertise of the Center on the topic, and deepen the Center’s relationships with those engaged in school safety across the country.

Ms. Ochoa was also an invited presenter at the Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth, where she joined law enforcement and child protection agencies in learning innovative methods, approaches, and promising practices in responding to crimes against children and helping children and families heal.

Additionally, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant and the School Outreach Consultant have been invited back to the Montana Behavioral Initiative 2018 Summer Institute to conduct two days of training on threat assessment. Initially, Mr. Stiles and the previous School Outreach Consultant had trained in 2016 at this summer conference and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Training

Topic-Centered Regional Trainings

In an effort to provide in-depth training opportunities on school safety issues across the state in accordance with its legislative directive, the Colorado School Safety Resource Center has either alone, or in partnership with other state agencies, conducted topic-centered regional trainings. Training topics are based on requests from school personnel on selected content and hosted in multiple locations to allow for maximum attendance from various school districts, with deference to their limited budgets and funding for travel. Unless otherwise noted, these trainings were designed as one-day, in-depth events to support attendance by school personnel, and with the approval of the CSSRC’s Advisory Board.

[Click here for a list of trainings.](#)

Please see the explanation under Grant Work above.

[Understanding the Traumatic Response and the Impact on Brain Development](#)

In an effort to train more school staff on understanding the traumatic response and the impact on brain development so that they can support traumatized children at school and help them build resiliency, the Center collaborated with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health's Trauma Informed System of Care. Ashley Brock-Baca, Ph.D., presented two workshops specifically designed for school staff in April and June. Both workshops were filled to capacity with close to 200 participants. This has led to further statewide conversations on aligning messages about restorative practices and trauma informed care for school staff. In line with the Needs Assessment Survey, the Center will continue to provide training on creating trauma-sensitive classrooms.

[Restorative Practices and Trauma Informed Care](#)

Please see the explanation under Grant Work above.

[Youth Suicide Prevention](#)

Unfortunately, the 2016-17 academic year saw a number of youth suicides in Colorado. The Center continues to focus efforts on ways to assist schools in preventing this tragedy. Shown by major studies to significantly reduce suicidality, the ASIST model teaches effective intervention skills while helping to build suicide prevention networks in the community. The Center has had both of its mental health professionals trained in this model so that the CSSRC can offer training, at a much reduced cost, to any school staff.

The Center first started offering ASIST training to school personnel in 2016. Once again, a two-day workshop was scheduled in June of 2017 open to any school personnel in the state and 15 attended. The Center also presented the two-day training to a school district in El Paso County in April and one in December 2017. CSSRC will continue to make this available to any school at a minimal cost.

[Campus Safety Training](#)

In collaboration with Regis University, the Center once again hosted a one-day workshop for campus safety personnel in June with 46 in attendance. The day started with a plenary from Aurora emergency responders on lessons learned from the Aurora theater incident. Two other plenaries included stalking issues on college campuses and a case study of the Pima Community College tragedy. Four workshops rounded out the day, including topics on behavioral intervention teams, stalking awareness, violent extremism on campuses, and campus sexual assault cases. Plans are already being made for next year, when we hope to make this an even bigger event.

[PREPaRE Training](#)

PREPaRE is an acronym that stands for prevent, reaffirm, evaluate, provide interventions, respond, and examine the effectiveness of crisis prevention and intervention. The model was created by the National Association of School Psychologists and has been shown to effectively promote school safety and address school crises in a cohesive, multidisciplinary team approach with comprehensive plans. Although many school mental health professionals in Colorado have been PREPaRE trained, the two-day training is expensive to bring to those not yet trained. With salary savings, the CSSRC was able to provide this training at a reduced rate for seven school staff in June.

[Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking](#)

This event had its inaugural year in 2016 and was repeated in 2017 due to positive feedback. A case study on child exploitation in a small community was the highlight of the day. Workshops included Title IX in the K-12 Setting, Trauma-Informed Classrooms, Child Protection Response After a Call to the Hotline, and Human Trafficking Imagery. High school performers informed and entertained participants with a dramatic presentation on teen dating violence awareness and prevention. Although the number of attendees (63) was

down from last year, the Center is encouraged by feedback and has scheduled the conference for Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) in 2018 to avoid overloaded fall schedules. Comments about the day included:

- “I will be able to implement change in my school by informing admin, teachers and all staff.”
- “Loved the performance by the high school!”
- “I work with these issues daily. This validates what I am doing.”
- “I learned new skills to use with my students that have experienced trauma.”

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After highly successful two-day Summits in 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Center worked with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) - CU Boulder, and Safe2Tell (S2T) from the Colorado Attorney General’s office to present this school safety Summit during National and Colorado Safe Schools Month in October.

The 24 workshops were conducted by 42 professionals and included topics that covered prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. Four plenaries were well received and included community prevention of at-risk behaviors by youth, a presentation on the messages necessary for students on the dangers of marijuana usage, and the opioid epidemic. The fourth plenary ended the first day with a rejuvenating humorous presentation designed to lighten participants’ experience at the end of an intense day of training. Two hundred and seventy participants and presenters attended over the two days. A link to the program, videos of three of the plenaries, and handouts from various workshops can be found [here](#).

Participant feedback included:

- “Always a good conference, keep up the good work!”
- “Extremely worthwhile couple of days, I will return next year for sure.”
- “Awesome - your keynotes are fantastic!”
- “Best presentation in content and delivery I've ever seen.”
- “Loved it, it was very informative.”

Livestream of Regional Trainings

Because not all school personnel are able to attend regional training events due to time and funding constraints, in 2013 the CSSRC began online video broadcasts of the keynote addresses from various topic-centered trainings via Livestream. Available at <http://new.livestream.com/cssrc>, events are broadcast live during the training, as well as archived for future viewing. With presenter permission, presentation slides and handouts are posted on the [CSSRC website](#), allowing people viewing remotely to see the full presentation. People from across Colorado, and the country, have taken advantage of the opportunity to watch presentations delivered by school safety experts.

Added to the library of Livestream presentations this year include:

- Unleashing The Power of Schools and Communities to Promote Positive Youth Development by Kevin P. Haggerty, MSW, Ph.D.
- Marijuana in the 21st Century by Ben Cort
- Opioid Abuse: Where We Are & How We Got Here by Patrick Griswold, MEd., MSN, RN, LMHC, LADC 1

Conference and District/School Site-Based Trainings

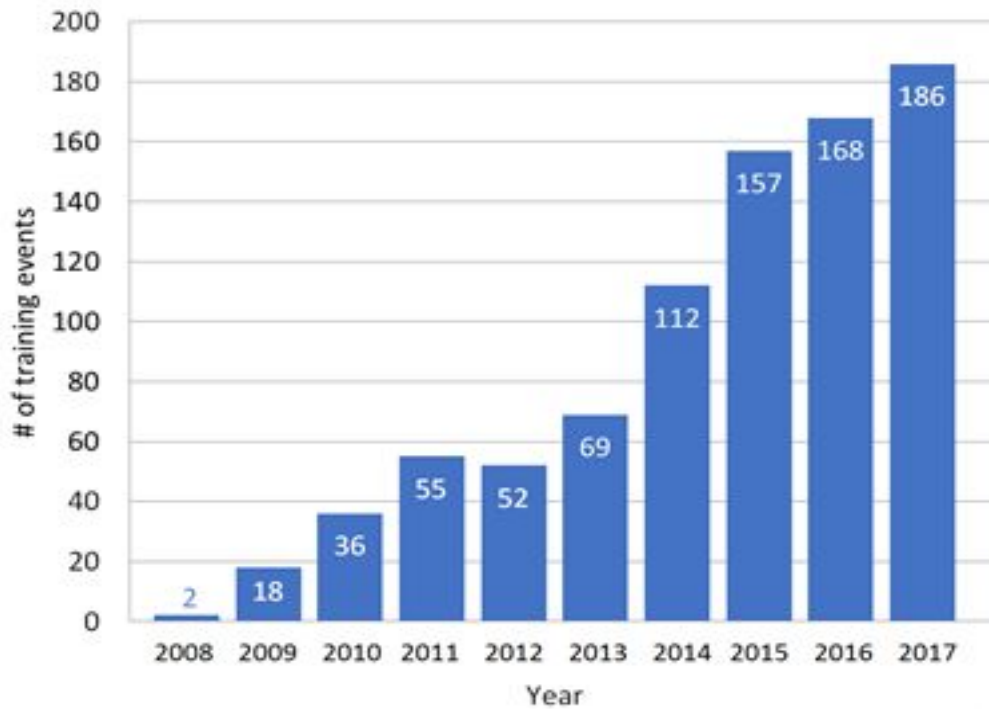
Trainings are conducted based on requests from school personnel on selected topics and hosted at school sites or conferences across the state. The numbers and types of workshops or presentations offered by CSSRC staff are summarized below. Future workshops will be developed based upon request, priority of needs, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the number of trainings provided from 2008-2017. The workshops have been well attended and there continue to be more requests for training by various groups. The Center’s training numbers increased in 2017 again due to the School Emergency Management Grant (SEM) and districts’ concerns about SB15-213. The SEM grant has been an opportunity for rural schools unfamiliar with the Center’s staff to experience first-hand staff expertise and then request additional trainings in their districts.

Staff continue to be invited to present at statewide conferences. This year staff presented at conferences for the following organizations:

- Colorado Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC)
- Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators (CASPA), a division of the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)
- Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)
- Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)
- Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) Sex Offender Management Board
- Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS)
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)
- Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference
- Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA)

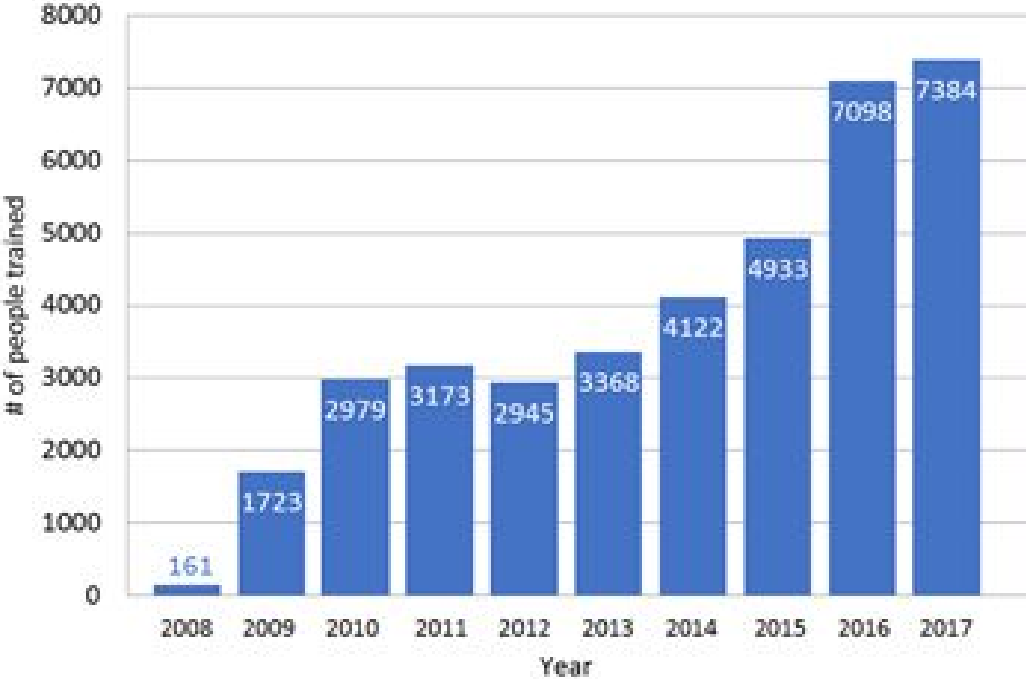
Figure 5: Number of training events provided from 2008 to 2017.



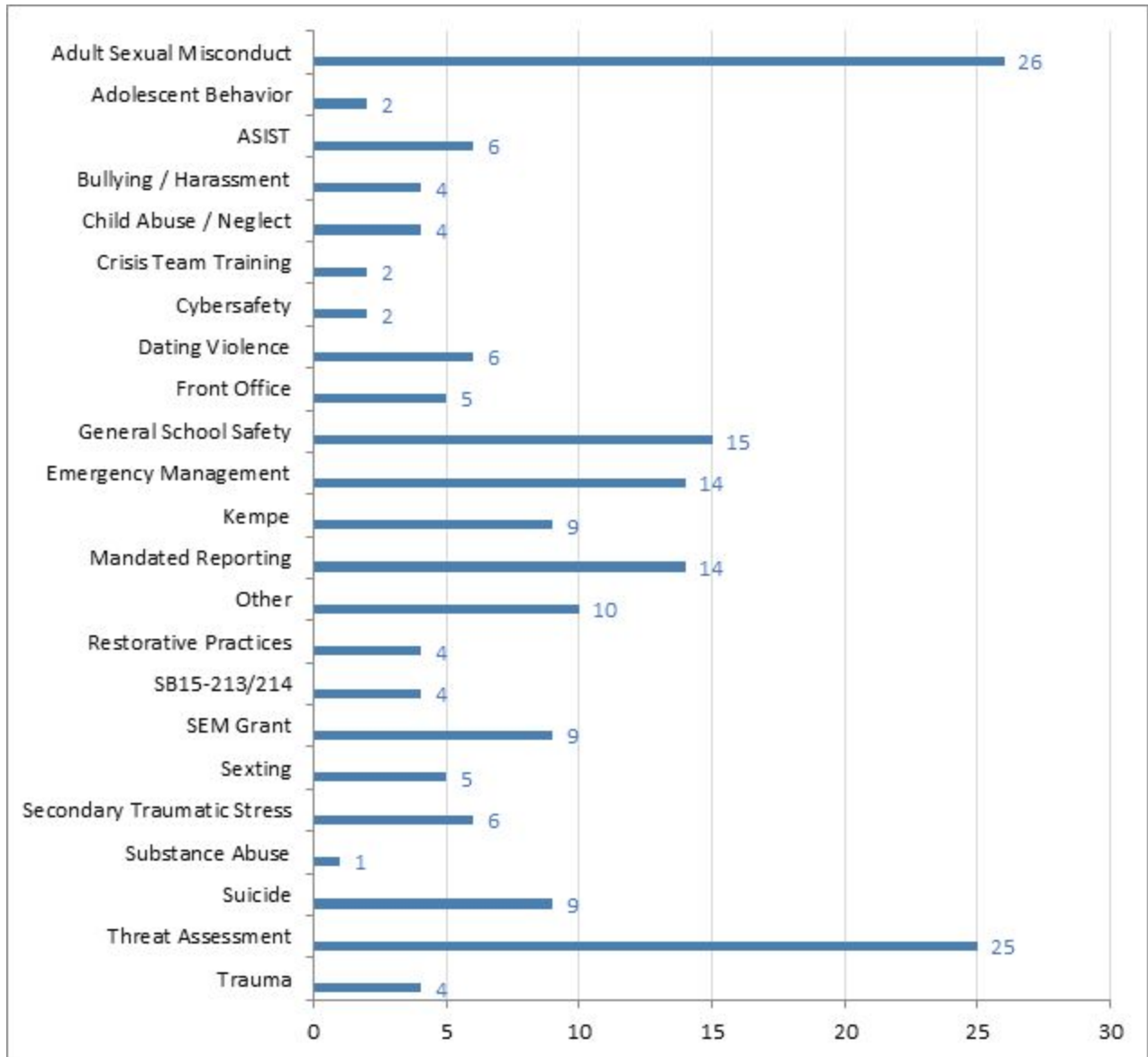
The number of people trained by CSSRC continues to rise. In Figure 6 below, the increase in training numbers is apparent with a high of **7,384** trained in 2017. Since the Center’s inception in 2008, **37,886** people have attended a training event or workshop presented by CSSRC. Each year, the number of people trained varies partly with the quantity of trainings provided and partly with the location of the trainings. Events in rural areas

reach fewer people than events in large urban settings. See Figure 7 for a breakdown of the number of people trained last year by training topic.

Figure 7: Number of people trained by training topic, 2008-2017



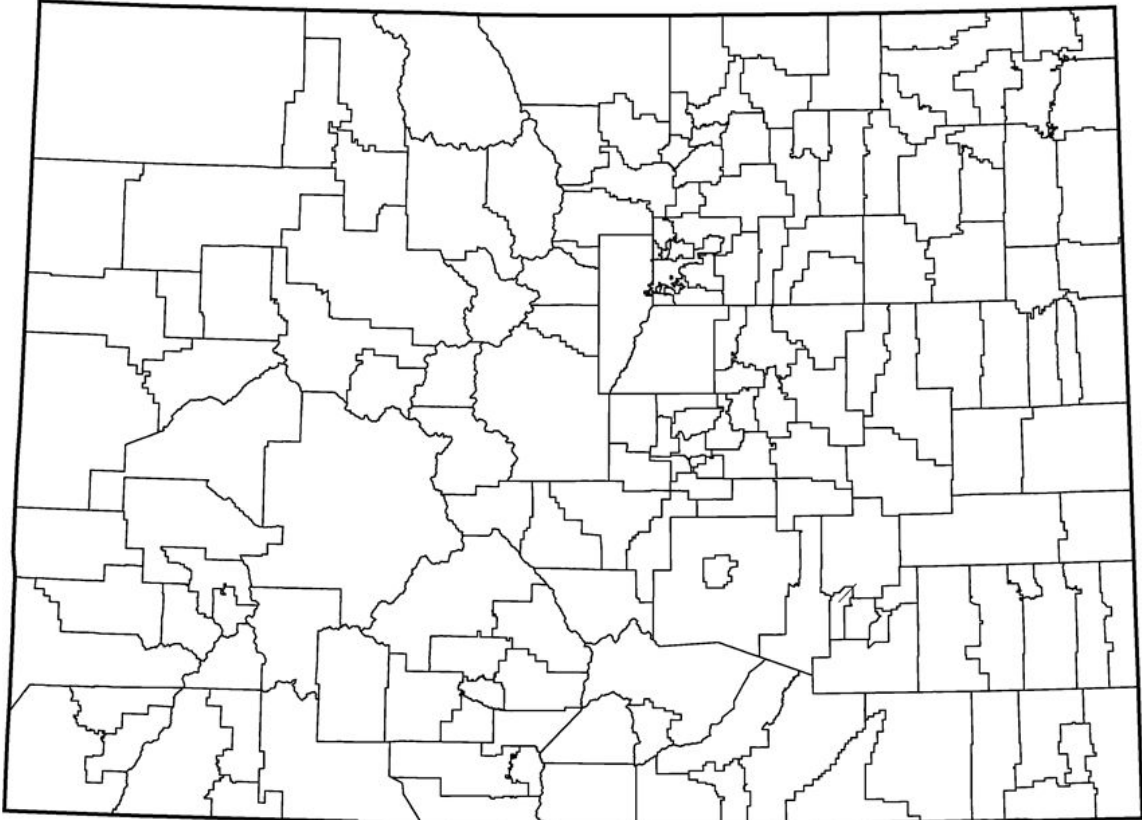
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Figures 8A-8C present a series of three maps of Colorado. The first shows all school districts in the state. The second shows the locations of all CSSRC outreach and training activities in 2017. The third map shows the locations of all districts/schools involved in the School Emergency Management grant.

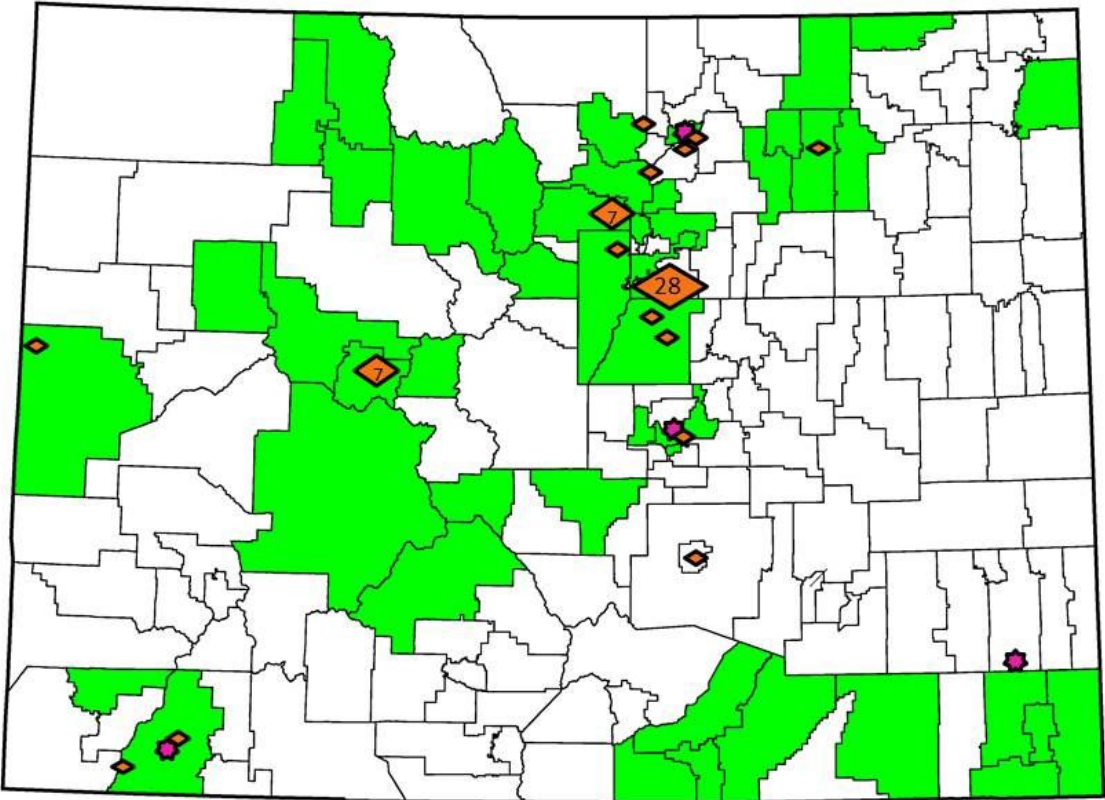
Figure 8A: Colorado School Districts

Colorado District Map



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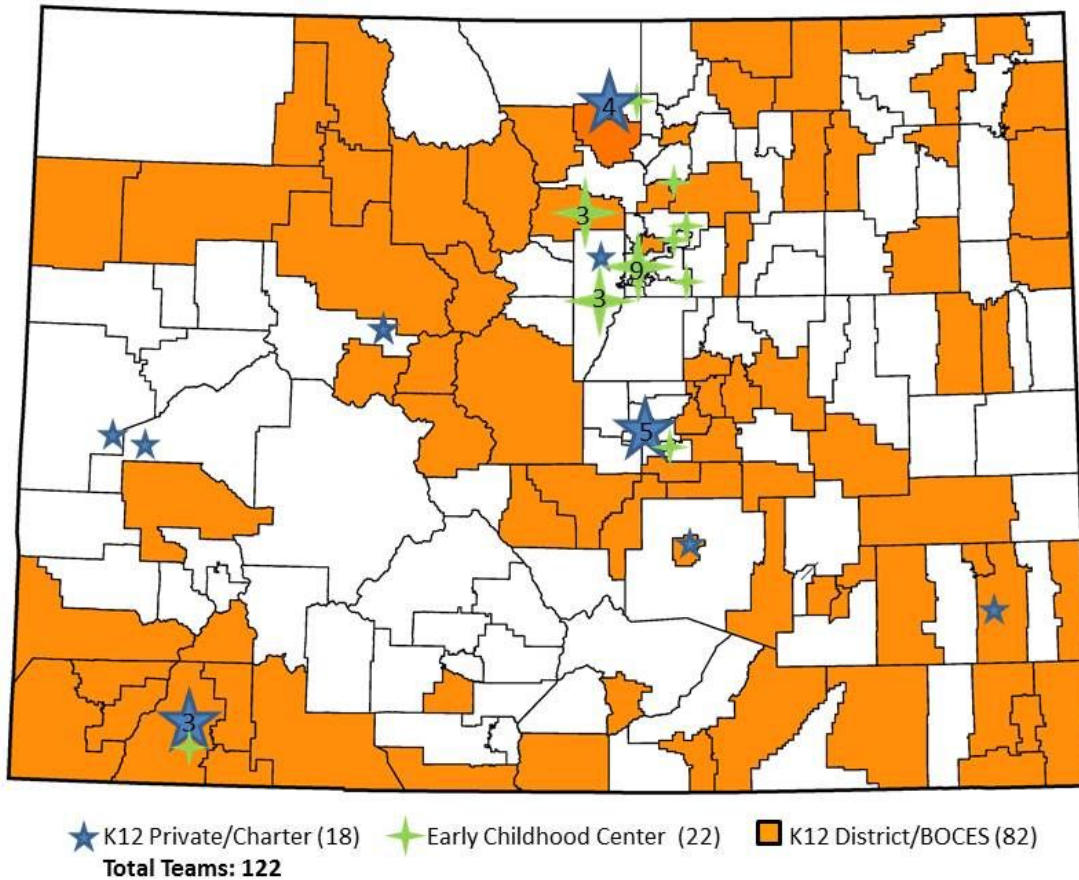
Training Events 2017



■ Districts ◆ Private/Charter/IHE/ECE ★ BOCES

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2015-17 School Emergency Management Grant Teams



Online Course Development

The CSSRC staff developed and published their first two online trainings for school personnel in 2012. Three additional courses were launched during 2013, and four new courses were added in 2014. Unfortunately, due to staff training obligations and limited resources, no new courses were added in 2015. However, with a grant from the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA), a new course, *Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team*, was created in 2016. Also, a course on *Adolescent Development* was added in 2016. In June of 2017, staff added *Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff* and *Preparing & Conducting A Tabletop Exercise for Your School*. This brings the total to thirteen online courses.

These online courses were produced with the specific intention of providing training to rural and outlying school districts and to support school personnel who are not able to travel to live trainings. Figures 9 and 10 describe the number of online course participants and their geographical origins. These online courses can be counted as one or more hours of professional development and provide a printable certificate upon successful completion. Four of the courses arose from the Center’s School Security Personnel Workgroup, which was created to provide guidance for the training of non-sworn school security personnel.

Courses are hosted through the Colorado Train (CO.Train) system. The CO.Train system is a learning resource for professionals who protect the public's health. It is a free service of the Public Health Foundation. CO.Train, www.CO.Train.org, is part of the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN). The CO.Train system is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Table 1: 2017 Online Course Participation

Online Course Title	2017 Participants	Total Participants to date
Adolescent Development	245	386
Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	326	1293
Bullying Prevention & Intervention Under Colorado Law	172	717
Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event	34	194
Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	92	360
Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	98	192
Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	167	167
Preparing & Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	42	42
Proactive School Discipline (online)	154	352
School Security Personnel: Emergency Management	100	505
School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications	106	363
School Security Personnel: Observation Skills & Incident Reporting	205	475
School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct & Ethics	102	306
Total	1843	5352

Table 2: 2017 Online Course Participation by County

Adams	El Paso	Huerfano	Moffat
Arapahoe	Elbert	Jefferson	Pueblo
Boulder	Fremont	La Plata	Sedgwick
Denver	Garfield	Larimer	Weld
Douglas	Grand	Las Animas	Yuma

Anonymous evaluation results for all thirteen of the courses reveal that 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their knowledge increased because of the training, they plan to use the information in their work, and the additional resources included were helpful.

Comments from evaluations include:

- “Good overview on what is going on with adolescents we encounter with our work in Diversion.”
- “The intervention strategies are helpful for classroom instructors.”
- “Excellent Training. Think everyone that is in the front offices should have this training!”
- “Very informative - I appreciate that it did not take a great deal of time to complete. Nice format!”

Consultation

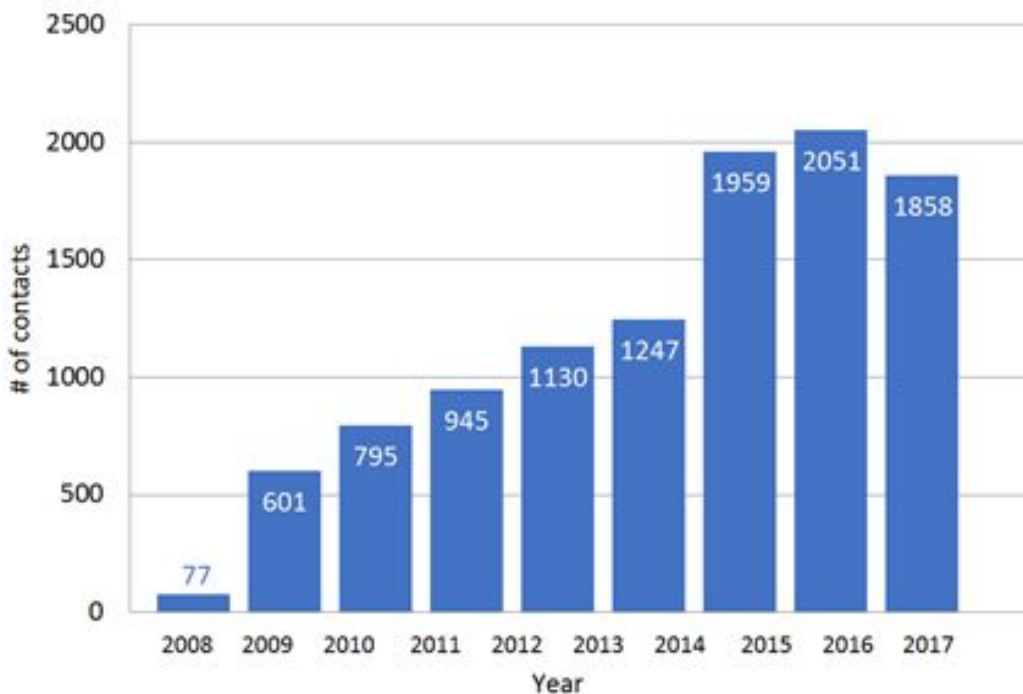
Originally, the Center adopted the U.S. Department of Education’s four-phase model of school crisis planning as the template for all work in schools. In alignment with Presidential Preparedness Directive 8 (PPD-8) of 2013, the Center now aligns its work with the five missions of the preparedness model: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. The Center’s work has also been guided by specific Colorado components added such as support of Interagency Information Sharing Agreements, implementation of Safe2Tell, training in

National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS), and development of multi-hazard district and school-based emergency plans using the ICS as outlined in CRS §22-32-109.1.

The school safety trainings include the October Summit, the SEM and other grant work, regional trainings, conference presentations, and the monthly E-Updates. These efforts and working with many partners across the state continue to raise the profile of the CSSRC and increase the services requested.

Specifically, approximately **1,858** contacts including emails and requests for site visits were answered during the 2017 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information. Figure 11 below illustrates the number of contacts in comparison with previous years. We assume the decrease in contacts was the result of folks not needing as much assistance registering for courses and trainings and the transition between the former and new School Outreach Consultant. Consultation requests are primarily a direct result of multiple outreach and marketing efforts of staff, the trainings, newsletters, mailings, E-Updates, website, and through referrals from board members and others knowledgeable about the CSSRC’s resources and expertise.

Figure 11: Number of contacts from 2008 to 2017



Consultation by telephone and in-person has been provided related to emergency planning, crisis and threat assessment team training, creating a positive school climate with bullying prevention strategies, suicide prevention, as well as on a variety of issues related to social networking and electronic bullying or harassment, child abuse reporting, adult sexual misconduct, fire safety codes, and others. The request for more in-depth technical assistance from superintendents for district-wide assistance continues to increase each year.

School or school district personnel account for about 41% of the consultation requests (Figure 12), with many of the remaining requests from law enforcement personnel, government agencies, community organizations, or vendors. These data also demonstrate the increased outreach by the Center staff and the increased knowledge of our consumers about the services that can be provided. Colorado schools and communities are clearly using the services the Center offers.

The greatest number of contacts relate to trainings (Figure 13). Consultation, other questions and outreach account for most of the remaining contacts. The Center has spent time growing the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²) youth advisory council, and outreach to charter schools, early childhood centers, and institutions

of higher education. Other consultation requests primarily include meetings, contacts with media, and requests for subscriptions to the Center’s listserv.

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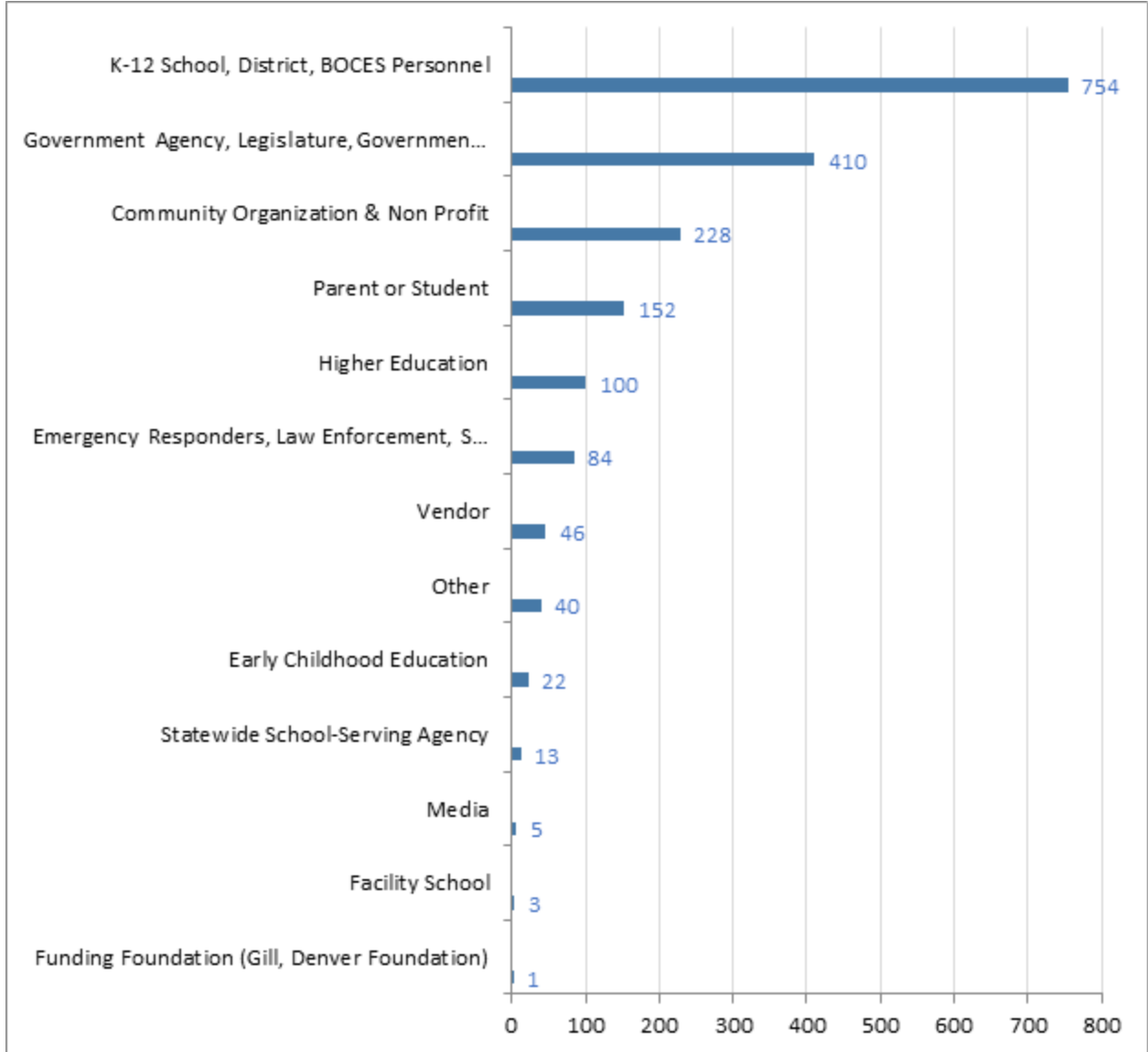
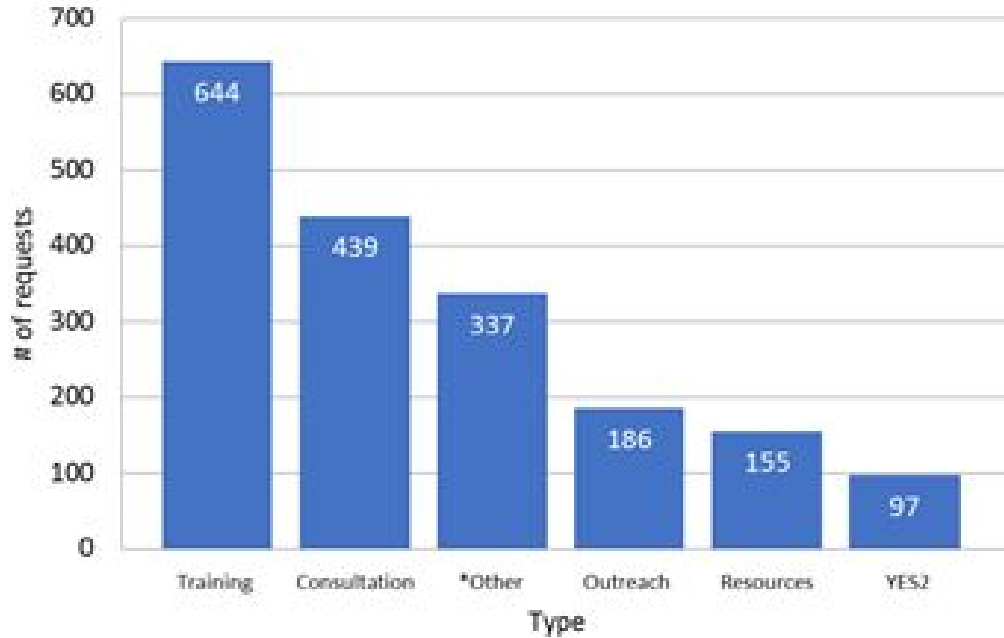


Figure 1: Number of requests by type



*Other requests include such things as meetings, media contacts, and contacts addressing listserv management.

Resources

Website

(<https://www.colorado.gov/cssrc>) - The CSSRC website has been designed as a state information and resource collective, offering a variety of support to a wide audience of preK-12 schools, higher education institutions, and the parents, communities, and organizations that support safe and positive school environments in Colorado. The website’s professional offerings include current best practices, evidence-based resources, practical applications, trainings, grant, and educational opportunities.

Continual updating of current resources and trainings occurs several times per month through the Center’s internal research and information management. Highlights of the website include:

- Colorado state and federal links to resources
- CSSRC listserv subscription sign-up
- Resources outlined according to topic and the five-mission model of emergency preparedness
- Links to Colorado school safety legislation
- Training opportunities for school safety staff
- Grant opportunities supporting safe schools in Colorado
- Links to agencies related to school safety efforts
- Current research and statistics
- New highlighted topics and features updated weekly

The Resource Specialist is constantly finding ways to make the site more user friendly while adding current information.

Website Use Data

The Statewide Internet Portal Authority offers Google Analytics to track website traffic. Google Analytics provides historical data about website visitors and evaluation of the site’s usability. Monthly website use tracking and analysis profiles are collected. The software provides tracking of visits to the website, pages viewed, and information about downloaded materials (see Figures 14 & 15 below). Over the course of 2017, there were approximately 54,100 page views with 12,539 document downloads. Pages compiling valuable school safety resources and documents created by the Center continue to be the most popular pages on the CSSRC website.

Figure 14: Top Pages Viewed

Page Title Created By
Mandatory Reporting School Safety Resource Center
Bullying & Harassment School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Online Training School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Training Events School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act School Safety Resource Center

CSSRC staff are constantly creating tip sheets, templates, and other informational documents to assist schools in their safety work. These can be found on the Center’s website under CSSRC Tools and Templates. New additions in 2017 included one-page documents on the Claire Davis School Safety Act and [HB17-1302](#) the new, multi-tiered Sexting Bill (C.R.S. § 18-7-109).

Prior to 2017, the Center compiled four resource guides for schools.

- Essentials of School Threat Assessment: Preventing Targeted School Violence*
- Positive School Climate: Bullying and Harassment Prevention and Education*
- Resources for Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention*
- The Resources for Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention*

These guides are updated annually.

With the work of the restorative practices grant, the Center added the *Restorative Practices Guide for Schools* in February 2017 with an update in June 2017.

In addition to state and national users, the CSSRC website has been visited by people from across the world.

Figure 15: Top Countries

Top Countries
Philippines
South Africa
Pakistan
India
Canada

Resource Acquisition and Distribution Highlights

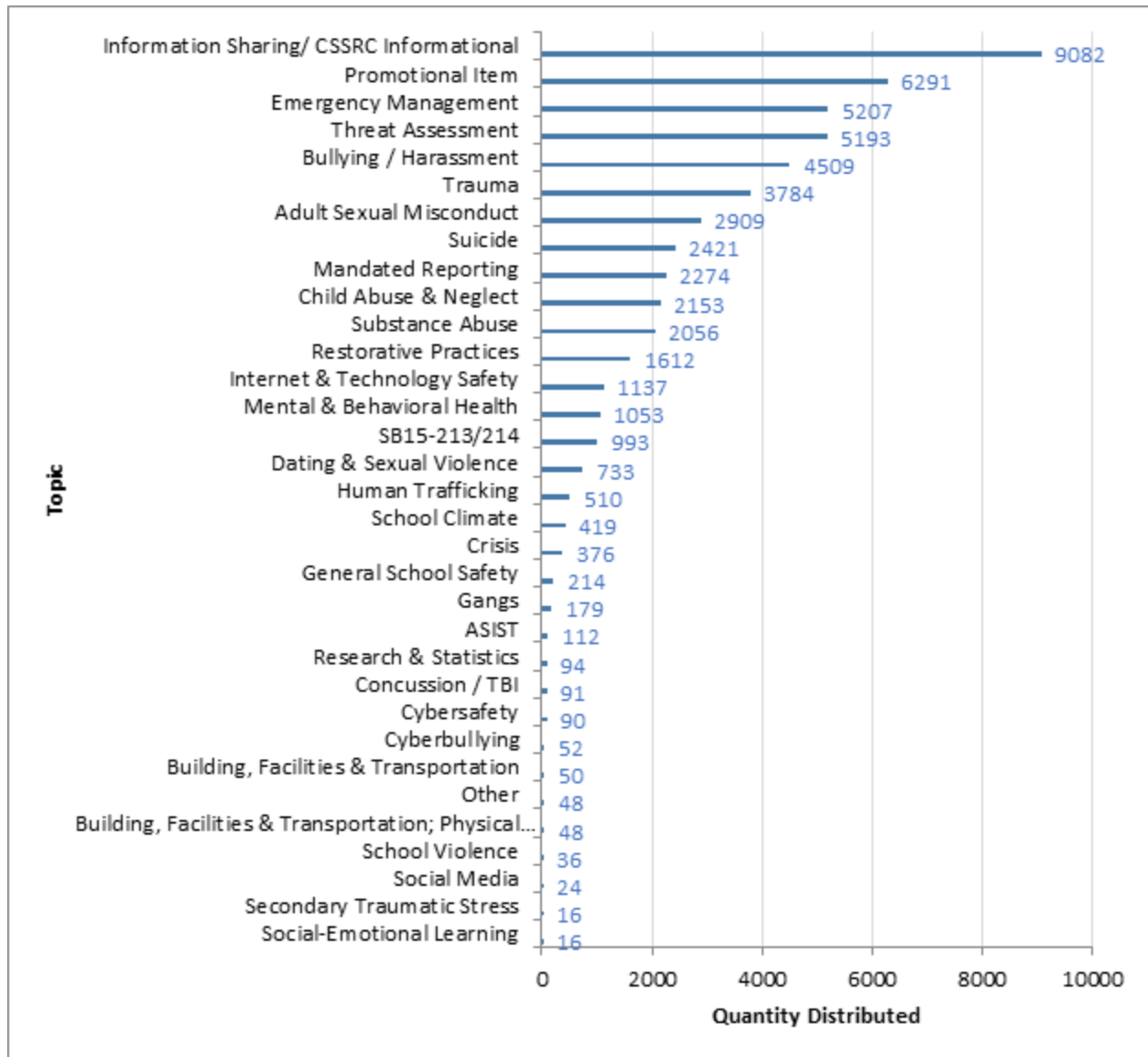
The CSSRC staff continues to spend considerable time in research, review, and evaluation of available materials and resources for distribution to support school safety efforts, as well as research topics requested by

consumers. The types of media and methods of distribution are critically considered when researching materials to support safe and positive schools.

An important part of the CSSRC mission is to provide resources to various groups about school safety-related issues and best practices. During 2017, the CSSRC researched, acquired, and then distributed to partners and training participants **53,782** hard copies of **335** school safety-related resources covering a variety of topics. This is an intentional decrease from the number of hard copies distributed last year as the Center is making an effort to encourage electronic copies of resources. The expectation is for this number to continue to decrease.

These materials were either created by the Center or obtained from different state and national agencies or organizations. Materials are distributed through the E-Update, at conferences in displays, or at trainings. They are also shared at meetings across the state and, occasionally, mailed directly to a school in response to a specific need. Figure 16 summarizes the distribution of hard copies of resources by topic.

Figure 16: Distribution of Hard Copies of Resources by Topic



Work Groups

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center has gathered input from an array of groups on various topics related to school safety. One responsibility the Center has adopted since its inception is to facilitate work groups on topics of identified high need in order to develop and distribute resources to be used by Colorado schools. Previously, the Center has facilitated work groups on Emergency Planning for K-12 Schools, Interagency Information Sharing, Threat Assessment, School Security Personnel, Bullying/Harassment Prevention and Businesses Assisting Schools in Communities Prepare (BASIC Prep). In 2016, a group reviewed the three reports commissioned after the 2013 Arapahoe High School shooting tragedy and wrote a report on the recommendations that was presented to the SB15-214 Interim Committee, School Safety and Youth Mental Health in Crisis.

Three working groups were still active as of December 2017. They include the following.

Higher Education Safety and Security Personnel

When the Center staff was increased in 2014, staff decided it was time to provide more resources for institutions of higher education (IHE) as mandated in the Center’s founding legislation. The Center convened a meeting of safety and security personnel from Colorado institutions of higher education. This group was organized to allow IHE personnel a chance to network and discuss safety issues with which they are dealing in an effort to improve their schools’ safety and security. The group has met 10 times since 2014, and has participated in two one-day IHE Summer Safety Symposia, held each of the last two years.

As described in the Regional Trainings above, the Center hosted a second annual IHE Summer Safety Symposium on June 8th. The last meeting of the group held in November 2017 included a panel discussion on the use of phone applications to assist in making campuses safer for students.

The participants value the networking, sharing of challenges and successes, and opportunity to tour other campuses to review their safety and security measures. Meetings are scheduled for 2018, along with the third IHE Summer Safety Symposium.

Youth Advisory Council

In 2013, the Center created its first youth advisory council to support its mission of promoting safe and positive school climates across the state with a sounding board for the youth voice. The mission of YES² is to gather feedback and recommendations for the Colorado School Safety Resource Center’s Advisory Board, staff, and other partner agencies about any school safety issues that are on the minds of students.

In the spring of 2017, the Center conducted a statewide call for applicants, resulting in a youth council of four students this academic year. These students attend urban and suburban schools on the front range. Despite repeated recruitment efforts, no students from rural areas applied for the council in 2017. The Center will evaluate how to generate interest more broadly in those communities so that a robust youth voice will be represented. YES² will meet four times throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

YES² began this school year with a successful orientation day in the summer. The group spent time on team-building activities and worked to define this year’s project. Council members are writing short talks that meet Colorado Comprehensive Health Standards for grades 8 through 12 to incorporate into health classes throughout the state. The students believe the messaging will have a genuine ring when delivered by peers. Focus this year is on self-esteem as the foundation of both positive and negative social outcomes in the school environment. The Center continues to plan for student-led projects promoting school safety initiatives and positive school environments.

The Center recognized a need and decided to facilitate a working group to create recommendations for districts when a staff member is the subject of an investigation, arrest, and/or conviction of sexual exploitation of a child. Without taking a position on these issues, it was deemed appropriate for the Center to organize this working group. A broad range of stakeholders was invited to the first meeting in October and an open invitation for additional members was sent out with the October E-Update. A second meeting was held in November.

The group resolved to create a toolkit that would identify the appropriate laws, address suggestions for district policies, and provide templates for communication when these events occur. Center staff are working on this toolkit which the working group will review with the goal of completing this resource as quickly as possible.

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Collaboration

The Center continues to work with other agencies with similar missions to maximize our ability to provide services to schools and to contribute to the work that all youth-serving agencies are accomplishing. The Center is proud of the reputation earned for cooperating with other professionals and the quality and quantity of work that has been produced because of these partnerships. Currently, CSSRC participates in regular meetings as a participant, active member, school safety voice, or fellow presenter with the following statewide groups:

[ADL \(Adolescent Developmental Learning\)](#)

The ADL has been a co-presenter with the Center, CEI, CDE, and One-Colorado since the start of the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes in 2011. In 2017, their counsel was helpful in deciding to conduct staff/student summits with the remaining Gill Foundation funding.

[CASBHC \(Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care\)](#)

Established in 1996, the Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care is a non-profit membership organization that promotes the development and growth of school-based health centers throughout the state. CASBHC provides information to individuals and communities interested in learning more about school-based health centers. Currently there are 59 School-Based Health Centers in the state. This year, Center staff members presented at the annual CASBHC Conference on Self Care and Vicarious Trauma. CASBHC staff trained at the Center’s annual Safe School Summit on youth data and trauma as well.

[CASB \(Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators\)](#)

CSSRC has worked with CASB on a number of initiatives. This year, the CSSRC Director presented at the CASB Winter Conference jointly with Craig Heim, J.D., from the Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool. Debbie Lammers (St. Vrain Valley School District School Board Member) has served as the CASB liaison to the CSSRC Advisory Board.

[CASE \(Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators\)](#)

The Center staff members attend both annual CASE conferences. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist provided training on child abuse identifiers, predatory behavior, and mandated reporting obligations at the annual conference for the Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators (a division of CASE) this year as well. The Executive Director of CASE, Lisa Escarcega, is participating in the PNR Working Group. CASE also consults with the Colorado Department of Education on recommendations for the superintendent representative on the CSSRC Advisory Board.

[The Colorado Association of School Resource Officers](#)

The Colorado Association of School Resource Officers membership consists of school resource officers and other law enforcement personnel and affiliated partners. The Center is a member of this association and had the opportunity to present at their annual conference in June on Adolescent Development and Teen Dating Violence Prevention. Detective Stacey Collis is the President of CASRO and is a member of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center’s Advisory Board.

[The Colorado Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers](#)

The Colorado Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers, an association of school safety and security directors from many of the larger front-range school districts, meets periodically and Center staff attend and report on statewide initiatives.

[The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)

The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, an association promoting safety, justice, and healing for survivors while working toward the elimination of sexual violence, and Center staff consult frequently regarding safety matters of statewide concern. In 2017, the focus was largely on HB17-1302, the juvenile sexting bill, in addition to CCASA’s annual advocacy and campus safety conferences over the summer.

[CoCERN](#)

CoCERN is a statewide asset-based community partnership formed to deliver effective, efficient, and professional disaster behavioral health services. CSSRC staff attend meetings held quarterly. The Center has been involved with this group since its inception.

[The CSSRC continues to partner with CDE](#)

The CSSRC continues to partner with CDE. Since 2015, the Center has been working closely with CDE as the subject matter experts on the School Emergency Management grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to CDE. Center staff are also active participants on the Training Engagement Committee, which is the sustainability component of the SEM grant.

The CSSRC Director also serves on the Healthy Schools Collective Impact (HSCI) project of CDE. HSCI’s effort is striving to improve the systems and processes that support and empower schools to reach the goal by 2025 that all Colorado K-12 public schools provide an environment and culture that integrates health and wellness equitably for all students and staff. She also serves on the Professional Development and Behavioral Health Advisory Committees for this initiative.

Scott Ross, the Director of the Office of Learning Supports, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

[The Colorado Office of Behavioral Health](#)

The Colorado Office of Behavioral Health is the state authority for mental health and substance abuse services. The Colorado School Safety Resource Center continues to have a strong relationship with the Office of Behavioral Health. In academic year 2017-2018, the Director is serving on the Statewide Needs Assessment of Primary Prevention for Substance Abuse (SNAPS) advisory group identifying gaps in substance abuse prevention program funding. This work is being conducted on behalf of the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health. Chanel Freeman, Office of Behavioral Health, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

[The Center works with the Office of Early Childhood](#)

The Center works with the Office of Early Childhood on standing committees such as the Child Abuse Prevention Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Colorado Children’s Trust Fund Board to enhance efforts to prevent Colorado families from entering the Child Welfare System. The OEC has been a great

partner of the Center in providing resources and consultation for trainings and technical assistance to ensure Colorado’s children are valued, healthy, safe, and thriving.

[Colorado Department of Public Safety](#)

The Center has worked collaboratively with CDPHE to systematically prevent suicide and sexual violence. From 2010 through 2016, the Center and CDPHE joined with the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) to present eight symposia on Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention. At both the 2016 and 2017 Safe Schools Summits, suicide was addressed in a plenary and with workshops. The Director represents the Colorado Department of Public Safety on the Statewide Suicide Commission facilitated by the Office of Suicide Prevention. In addition to sharing data and best practices in working groups, partners in the Sexual Violence Prevention Program have trained at regional conferences for the Center.

[Colorado Healthy Kids Survey](#)

The Director was recently invited to serve on the steering committee for the Colorado Healthy Kids Survey. This survey is conducted by the University of Colorado Denver and collects youth health and risk-related data around the state from a random sample of middle school and high school students in Fall of odd years. It is supported by CDPHE, the Colorado Department of Human Services and CDE.

Jarrod Hindman, Deputy Chief of the Office of Violence & Injury Prevention, Mental Health Promotion Branch of CDPHE, is the current chair of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

[Colorado Department of Fire, Prevention and Control](#)

The CSSRC maintains a professional relationship with this agency, particularly as issues related to schools arise that offer opportunities for education regarding building safety and emergency preparedness. In recent years, there have been further efforts at collaboration as schools struggle with emergency preparedness for active shooter situations that do not interfere with fire safety. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing assistance of DFPC as a partner for the Center’s October Safe Schools Summit in Thornton.

[Colorado Education Initiative](#)

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent 501(c) (3) that serves as a partner to the Colorado Department of Education in the effective implementation of programs and public policy related to education. CEI has continued to be a consulting partner on the positive school climate work the Center has been able to conduct with grant funds from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado.

[Colorado Emergency Management Association](#)

The Colorado Emergency Management Association is an association of public and private emergency management professionals working throughout the state. In 2017, staff presented on reunification procedures in schools and communities at the CEMA Annual Conference.

[Colorado Regional Partnership for Disaster Preparedness](#)

The mission of the partnership is to strengthen the region's collective capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters through effective public-private alliances. The Center has joined this partnership and staff regularly attend meetings.

[Colorado Implementation Collaborative](#)

“The Colorado Implementation Collaborative is a multidisciplinary group of professionals in Colorado dedicated to advancing implementation science, practice and policy within health and human services.” (From their website) Founded in 2011, this group meets monthly to provide educational opportunities with national and international experts to increase knowledge about implementation best practices and application. The Director of the Center attends these meetings when possible.

Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

The Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) is an office of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The CIAC serves as the focal point within the state for receiving, analyzing and sharing threat-related information among private sector, local, tribal, and federal partners. When appropriate, the CIAC and the Center work together to distribute informational messages to the Center’s stakeholders regarding school safety.

Colorado State Department of Education (CDE)

CSDSIP insures over 80% of the state’s school districts and therefore has a vested interest in the safety and security of Colorado schools. This year the Center has trained with CSDSIP staff and they were platinum supporters of the 2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit. At the Summit they also staffed a table of resources as well as providing a workshop on updates from the 2017 legislative session. Steve Fast, Executive Director of CSDSIP, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado State Patrol (CSP)

The CSSRC maintains a professional relationship with this agency, particularly as issues related to schools arise that offer opportunities for education regarding vehicle safety and response. Center staff is consulting on CSP’s school safety curriculum project and provided refresher training to the deliverers of the curriculum on identification of child abuse.

Three troopers assisted in the Staff/Student Summits, with presentations on distracted driving, as well as providing the safe driving simulators for students. In addition, CSP has generously allowed the Center to utilize several of its vehicles for travel across the state, which helps the Center to reduce travel expenses and provide more services to schools.

Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)

The Colorado School Counselor Association represents school counselors at all levels in Colorado. Its purpose is to serve its members and the public through programs that advance guidance and counseling in all school work settings: elementary, middle/junior high, high school, and postsecondary schools. Center staff did not have the opportunity to present at their 2017 annual conference as the dates conflicted with the Colorado Safe Schools Summit. Both organizations have already taken steps to avoid that conflict in the future.

Colorado State School Psychologists (CSSP)

The Mission of CSSP is to strengthen the effectiveness of school psychologists in addressing academic, social, and emotional needs of children and youth in Colorado. CSSRC staff have repeatedly been invited to address participants of their annual conference. This year the Center staff presented on vicarious trauma and self-care, and other staff led workshops on responding to the sexual behavior of children, adult sexual misconduct in the school setting, and best practices in assembling threat assessment teams.

Colorado Public Safety Council (CPAC)

CPAC brings together government and non-government entities to participate in community preparedness planning and program development facilitated by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety. More than 20 state, regional, and local government and non-governmental organizations make up CPAC. The CSSRC is a member of this group and contributes feedback related to school emergency planning across Colorado.

Colorado Human Trafficking Council (CHTC)

Human Trafficking Council

Since human trafficking was added to the definition of child abuse in Colorado statute in 2016, the Center and the Colorado Human Trafficking Council professionals have worked regularly to increase awareness of the problem in our schools and local communities. The Human Trafficking Program Manager at CDPS’ Division of

Criminal Justice trained at the September Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Conference. The Center meets regularly with the staff from the Human Trafficking Council and Front Range Anti-Trafficking Council to share resources and get updates on trends and concerns.

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The SOMB develops standards and guidelines for the evaluation, treatment, and behavioral monitoring of sex offenders. The Center has continued to support the work of the SOMB. Margaret Ochoa attends conferences and SOMB meetings to keep abreast of developments within the provider community, and has made training available to school districts in collaboration with DCJ to safely reintegrate juveniles who have committed offending behaviors into their schools and communities. She presented at this year's SOMB Conference on responding to the sexual behavior of children.

Ms. Ochoa and the Juvenile Standards Coordinator provided training on cyber safety and HB17-1302 at this year's Safe Schools Summit, and attended a workshop to facilitate community training on sexting prevention. The association with DCJ has provided opportunities for both groups to expand messaging regarding child sexual abuse and awareness to new audiences.

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The Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC) is an interdisciplinary group of law enforcement, non-profit and state agency professionals that meet to share resources, training events, and updates on human trafficking in Colorado. Center staff began attending meetings in 2014.

This relationship enables Center staff to stay current on trends in prosecution and patterns in human trafficking in schools and the community at large, and to foster contact with partners at DCJ, the FBI and elsewhere.

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Illuminate Colorado is a cohort of agencies whose mission is to create brighter futures for Colorado's children. They are the Colorado branch of Prevent Child Abuse America. The Center has partnered with Illuminate staff for expertise in regional trainings, as well as working groups to prevent child abuse. Together with the Office of Early Childhood, referenced above, they sponsor the Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Biennial Conference. Center staff participates in that effort.

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The Center's Director was appointed to the council by the Governor until her term expired on July 31, 2016. The JJDP Council serves as the State Advisory Group (SAG) as defined in Title II of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 2002.

Through the JJDP Council's Low Risk/High Needs committee, the Center was awarded federal funds to facilitate a series of four two-day trainings for school personnel in how to initiate a restorative practices culture in their buildings and what skills a classroom teacher needs to support this culture. As explained under Grants, the Center was able to maximize funding and conduct six two-day workshops across the state. The final workshops were held in November 2017.

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One-Colorado is a non-profit organization with a mission to secure and protect equality and opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans and their families. They have been co-presenters with the Center, ADL, CDE, CEI and Facing History and the Center throughout the state in the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes since 2011. One-Colorado staff also provided a plenary at each of the Staff/Student Safety Summits this year.

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Originally known as the Colorado State All-Hazards Advisory Committee or SAHAC, it was formed in 2004 to provide advice to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Public Safety, and other public safety agencies on matters related to all-hazards emergency management.

In 2016 SAHAC underwent changes, to include becoming a more informal (no voting membership) group and changing the group’s name to the Think Tank for Emergency Management in Colorado. Center staff members continue to attend meetings and offer input related to school all-hazard emergency planning across Colorado.

Summary and Conclusion

Once again, staff trained more school professionals over the course of 2017 than in previous years. The School Emergency Management grant, conducted in collaboration with CDE, allowed the Center to provide information to and develop relationships with many rural districts that had not previously called upon the CSSRC for assistance. This has elevated the profile of the Center and afforded staff the opportunity to provide more services to our rural schools.

As schools work hard to update all aspects of the Safe Schools Act, particularly in light of full implementation of the Claire Davis School Safety Act, requests for threat assessment and adult sexual misconduct trainings have increased and it is likely that trend will continue.

In 2017, the Center utilized grant funding to work with schools on creating positive school climates and instituting restorative practices. CSSRC also collaborated with other state agencies to educate school staff on the effects of trauma on child development and academic achievement.

The Center continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to support current issues in school safety by facilitating the working group on parental notification in the event of a staff arrest on charges of child sexual abuse. In 2017, the CSSRC also developed two more timely online training courses and a fifth resource guide: the *Restorative Practices Guide for Schools*.

With the help of the Office of the Attorney General and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, another successful Colorado Safe Schools Summit was hosted in October. Additionally, CSSRC staff shared up-to-date information at 10 annual statewide conferences and reached 7,384 participants at our trainings.

But the work of school safety in Colorado is far from complete. In January, the Center will host a working group to look at best practices and consistency in policies, protocols, and procedures for youth suicide prevention. With a focus on reducing the number of youth suicides in our state, a one-day workshop is planned for February 28th in collaboration with CDPHE and CDE to include a national expert to further educate school staff in addressing suicide issues.

The Training Engagement Committee (TEC) will continue to meet to sustain the excellent work on emergency operations planning that occurred with the School Emergency Management grant.

[HB17-1302 Concerning Matters Related to Sexually Explicit Images of a Juvenile...](#) requires the Center to have developed a course in sexting prevention by June 1, 2018 to be utilized by youth found guilty of a civil infraction outlining the risks and consequences of sexting that can also be used by school districts to educate students.

With our schools continuing to face safety issues, the Center must persist in providing timely and best practices training, technical assistance, and resources to Colorado schools to meet these challenges. Staff are committed to providing the best ongoing services possible so that Colorado schools can create safe, positive, and successful learning environments for all Colorado students. It is anticipated that 2018 will be another busy and successful year.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter or www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC
 Colorado School Safety Resource Center
 Department of Public Safety
 303-239-4435