

Legislative Report 2019

**A Report to the 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.*



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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 in creating safe and positive school environments for Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The CSSRC has ten staff positions, as of June 2019, with one of those positions yet to be filled. Staff provide 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 United States 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, which meets four times a year with Center staff and provides input on their work.

Key Accomplishments in 2019

A number of exciting new initiatives highlighted the efforts of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in 2019. Since 2008, the Center has provided 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 2019.

- **Regional Training Consultants** - A supplemental 1331 budget approved over the summer enabled the CSSRC to hire four Regional Training Consultants (RTCs) to serve the four corners of the state. By the first of October, two experienced school counselors were on hand in both the Northeast and Southeast regions serving 25 school districts each. The third RTC for the Northwest region began her work at the end of October and the fourth is yet to be hired. These mental health professionals can consult with schools on all aspects of psychological safety and, with added training, will also assist with physical safety issues. The Center will be keeping statistics on their impact in an effort to underscore to the legislature that rural school districts are benefiting from this extra assistance.
- **STOP Violence Grant** - The School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), applied for the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence Act Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools (STOP Violence) grant, and was awarded \$999,987. The grant entails refining the Center’s threat assessment documents and training, piloting the revised materials at five schools, and then rolling out the final product and training to an additional 30 schools. The grant period is from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022.
- **Collaborative Impact Initiative on School Safety** - Working in concert with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, the I Love U Guys Foundation, and the JeffCo/Frank DeAngelis Center, the CSSRC has taken the facilitator’s role as these agencies begin the process of identifying the best practices in the five preparedness missions of school safety: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. Once the initial list of best practices is compiled, others doing school safety work across the state will be invited to participate as the list is expanded and resources are identified. The target date for completion of this work is August 2020.
- **2019 Regional Trainings** - During 2019, the Center was able to host, or co-host, 12 regional trainings across the state. These included:
 - A **Threat Assessment** training by a national expert, Peter Langman, Ph.D., with an overview of **Digital Threat Assessment** in February.

- A collaboration with other state agencies to provide training on ***Building Resilience for Suicide and Substance Abuse Prevention*** in March.
- The fourth annual ***Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium*** in April.
- A new initiative of a ***Western Slope School Safety Summit*** in collaboration with the Montrose Valley School District in May.
- The annual ***Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium*** in June.
- The first train-the-trainer workshop on ***Critical Incident Stress Debriefing*** for school mental health professionals.
- Inspired by the February threat assessment training, workshops on ***Basic*** and ***Advanced Digital Threat Assessment***, along with a ***Train-the-Trainer*** in September.
- The highly successful two-day ***2019 Colorado Safe Schools Summit*** in October.
- Two ***Student/Staff Safety Summits*** in Hayden and Lamar during December.
- **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 improve searchability. Additionally, a monthly E-Update newsletter is distributed to a **Listserv that now includes over 5,874 members** representing various stakeholder groups around the state. The newsletter includes school safety news and resources and highlights upcoming training and grant opportunities.
 - b. In 2012, the Center initiated a **Twitter account**, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>, to update followers between issues of the E-Update. Currently there are **968** followers of the CSSRC Twitter account.
- **Providing Training, Consultation, and Resources** – The Center provides both regional and school site trainings across the state throughout the year. The staff conducted 722 consultations through the second week of December to individual schools/districts, agencies, or parents were conducted. The Center also provided on-site services at 103 schools or agencies across the state.
 - Along with the **regional trainings**, the CSSRC continues to provide various staff development, topic-focused trainings, and consultations in individual districts, schools, and charter schools across the state. In 2019, **161 training sessions** or workshops were provided or co-hosted on a variety of school safety topics. **6,936** participants were trained in 2019, bringing the total number of people trained in-person since the Center opened to **53,014**.
 - **Creation and Delivery of Online Learning** – During 2012, the Center launched its first two **online training courses** for school personnel. Participants have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits with the completion of each course. In 2019, the Center was able to add two new online courses to the menu of fifteen courses already available to anyone at no cost. Added this year was *“Informed Supervision for Schools”* to aid school staff charged with overseeing students who have acted out in a sexually abusive or offensive manner. Also added was *“Youth and Marijuana in Colorado”*, designed to help educators and parents understand some of the basic impacts of marijuana, the science of how it affects the adolescent brain, and tips for talking to youth about abstaining from the use of marijuana. To date, there are seventeen online courses which have been accessed by approximately **3,580** people in 2019.
- **Resources** - The Center distributed **21,084 hard copies of 210 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. In 2019, Center staff participated in regular meetings with 35 organizations and presented at 13 statewide conferences.
 - b. During the 2019 calendar year, four working groups continued to support Colorado schools. These groups reviewed and updated the threat assessment documents of the CSSRC and participated in the creation of a suicide assessment toolkit. The youth council, Youth Engaged for School Safety, assisted with the Student/Staff workshops and the Institutions of Higher Education working group initiated, and continues to work on, safety considerations for concurrently enrolled students.

Looking Forward

School tragedies both in Colorado and across the country in 2019 kept safety issues in the headlines. However, for schools in Colorado, safety is always at the forefront and legislators continue to support these efforts. The Joint Budget Committee's approval of a supplemental budget to the Center for four regional training consultants (RTCs) will go a long way to giving much needed assistance to rural Colorado schools. The Center has been tracking the work of the three RTCs hired thus far in an effort to substantiate the need addressed. The Center hopes to hire the fourth RTC as soon as possible in 2020.

The School Safety Interim Committee of the Colorado General Assembly focused on many issues related to both the physical and psychological safety of students. Five bills have been proposed for the 2020 Legislative Session and the staff of the CSSRC will assist as requested.

Center staff have already conducted six meetings of the Project Management Team (PMT) for the STOP Violence grant awarded in October. The initial work has included reviewing the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol. The PMT is on track to have the materials and training updated by the March 30th deadline so that the pilot project can begin later in the Spring of 2020. Likewise, the new Colorado Suicide Assessment Toolkit will be available with the appropriate accompanying training in February. The work on the best practice guidelines for concurrently enrolled students will also be completed in 2020, and recruitment for the Center's youth council will begin in earnest again in the Spring.

The Center is proud to have been asked to facilitate the Collaborative Impact Initiative on School Safety in an effort to identify the best practices across the five missions of preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. Working with all partners who are addressing school safety will confirm the resources available to Colorado schools, which will be made available on the CSSRC website.

Regional and site-specific trainings are already being scheduled, including a one-day workshop on suicide intervention in May in collaboration with CDPHE's Office of Suicide Prevention, the Colorado Department of Education, and Safe2Tell. Additional regional trainings will include a Western Slope Safety Summit in Montrose for school personnel and a one-day Student/Staff Symposium in Montrose in April, along with the annual Summer Safety Symposium for Institutions of Higher Education in June.

Looking to the 2020 Colorado Safe Schools Summit scheduled for October 22nd and 23rd, collaborations with state partners, Colorado nonprofits, federal agencies, and national organizations will continue in an effort to bring the best information and resources to Colorado schools.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at

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

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Legislative Report 2019

The following 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 provides 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 2019. Additional information may be obtained through the CSSRC website: <http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter>

Operation of the Center

The founding legislation ([CRS §§24-33.5-1801](#), *et seq.*) outlined the formation of an Advisory Board 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 Advisory 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
Kelly Abbott	Representative of CDPS	OAJA, CDPS	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Sarah Brummett	Office of Suicide Prevention, Director	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Greg Busch	Emergency Management Director	Colorado Community College System	Executive Director of Colorado Community College System
Lynne DeSousa	PBIS Statewide Coordinator	Office of Learning Supports Colorado Department of Education	Commissioner of Education
Essi Ellis	Executive Director	Safe2Tell Colorado Department of Law	Attorney General
Steven Fast, Secretary	Executive Director	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety
Carolena Guiral Steen, Ph.D.	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mountain School District	Commissioner of Education
Jamie Haukeness	Principal	Cortez Middle School Montezuma Cortez School District	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Ofc. Kelly Jacobsen	School Resource Officer	Westminster Police Department	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Sheriff Matt Lewis	Sheriff	Mesa County	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Lorrie Odom, M.D.	VP for Programs	Colorado PTA	Governor
Kathy Plomer	Adams 12 School Board	Colorado Association of School Boards	Colorado Association of School Boards
Mark Pokorny	Environmental and Emergency Preparedness Manager	Metro State University	Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education
Jenny Schoen	Teacher	Littleton Public Schools	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Meghan Shelton	Program Manager	Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health	Executive Director of Human Services
Melanie Voegeli-Morris	Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator	Poudre School District	Commissioner of Education
George Welsh	Superintendent	Cañon City School District Fremont RE-1	Commissioner of Education
Chris Wilderman, Chairman	Director - Safe and Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 School District	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
Dave Young	District Attorney	17 th Judicial District	Governor

The Advisory Board meets four times during each year and receives regular updates on the activities of the Center. Many Advisory Board members support the Center in other capacities throughout the year, including co-

hosting trainings, participating in working groups, sharing resources, and attending regional trainings. Advisory Board Members have provided significant input and advice about the Center's activities, mission, and vision. The Advisory Board first approved operating bylaws on June 1, 2010.

The Advisory Board was due to sunset with the 2017 Legislative Session. The Department of Regulatory Agencies (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 Advisory Board being sustained until 2022, at which time another sunset review will be initiated.

All Advisory Board meeting agendas, notes and, 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 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 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education schools. The Center does this by focusing on the areas of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery as outlined by the United States 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 2018-19 school year there were 911,536 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools in our state, from 185 local education agencies (LEAs). The state has approximately 2,000 total pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools, 255 charter schools, and 38 online schools. The Colorado Department of Education has identified 132 of the 185 LEAs with an enrollment of fewer than 2,000 students. Of these, 109 had an enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students. The CSSRC is of particular assistance to these smaller districts, as well as non-public schools, by providing needed services and resources that likely are not otherwise available. These are many of the districts that will now be served by the new Regional Training Consultants hired since June 2019.

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 406,037 students. Initially, the Advisory Board had prioritized the kindergarten-12th grade 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 June 2019, the Center has ten positions. Christine R. Harms, MS, the first School 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 Department of Public Safety, Jana Locke.

Brad Stiles 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. Mr. Stiles has taken a leadership role in the outreach to institutions of higher education and is the lead trainer on the threat assessment work. He is a former law enforcement officer with a graduate degree in emergency management.

In the 2015 legislative session, SB15-20 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, having specialized in child protection work. She joined the Center in April of 2016 as the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist.

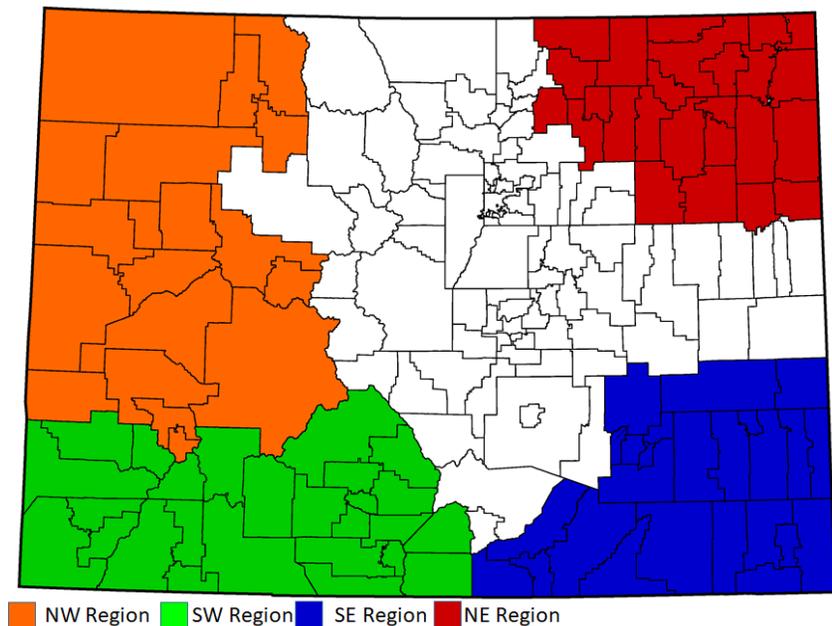
Dustin Hunter, MA, serves as the Center’s School Outreach Consultant, providing consultation with schools and others concerned with school safety. He also provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need, establishing and maintaining networks and grant writing. With a master’s degree in psychology, Mr. Hunter concentrates on prevention and response phases of school safety. He also co-facilitates the Center’s youth advisory council (YES²) with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. He joined the Center in August, 2017.

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

The Center has a School Safety Resource Specialist who identifies, acquires, and reviews resources, consults about those resources, manages the website, oversees all social media, and assists with the planning and delivery of school safety trainings and workshops. Isaac Baah joined the Center in this capacity in August of 2019, having come from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. He has been a very welcome, helpful addition to the team.

With a supplemental 1331 budget passed by the Joint Budget Committee in June 2019, the Center acquired four new positions of Regional Training Consultants. To date, three of these positions have been filled. The Southeast region is served by Vickie Cooper, MA. Ms. Cooper has a background in school mental health and law enforcement and serves the school districts in Kiowa, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Las Animas, and Baca counties. Jamie Soucie, MS, also with a background in school mental health, provides assistance to the districts in Sedgwick, Phillips, Logan, Yuma, Morgan, Washington, and the eastern half of Weld County. The newest team member is Kati Garner, M.Ed., who comes from Mesa 51 where she was a school counselor and director of the district’s crisis team. Ms. Garner is now serving the districts in Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Pitkin, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, Mesa, and Montrose counties. The final candidate for the Southwest region is yet to be hired. All four positions will be revisited in 2022 to verify their value added to the rural schools of the state and for considerations to continue funding those positions.

CSSRC Regional Training Consultants Region Map



Center Funding

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center’s FY2020 appropriation is \$650,999 plus the 1331 supplemental budget for the new Regional Training Consultants at \$327,549. The legislation during 2010 (House Bill 10-1336) created the 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 training. As the work of the Center has expanded and, therefore, mileage

costs have increased, it has been necessary to charge a nominal fee for regional trainings since 2016 in order to meet all district requests for services. These fees have not appeared to deter school personnel participation in the regional trainings.

Activities of the Center

In 2019, the Center continued its mission of providing consultation, technical assistance, resources, and training to school safety partners. The Center’s partnerships and outreach have continued to grow; the Center continues to provide hard copies and to increase the number of resources distributed electronically. The details of the Center’s 2019 activities follow:

Outreach

CSSRC E-Update

A listserv for the CSSRC was created in August 2009 and has a current database containing over **5,874** email addresses from various providers and school safety partners. The listserv group receives monthly electronic newsletter updates (E-Updates) from the Center, which include important announcements, upcoming training opportunities, and new resources related to prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery efforts in schools, as well as 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. By the end of 2019, **8,156** Twitter messages had been posted. Currently, **968** people interested in Colorado school safety follow the CSSRC Twitter account, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>.

Figure 1. CSSRC Twitter Followers by Month - 2019

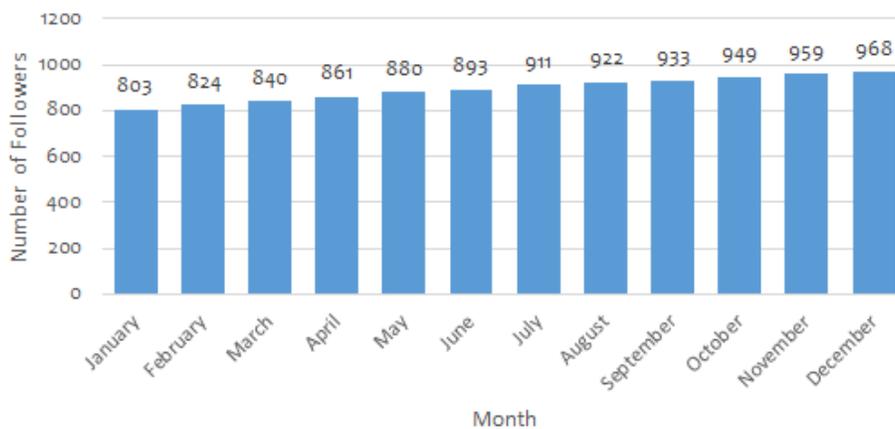
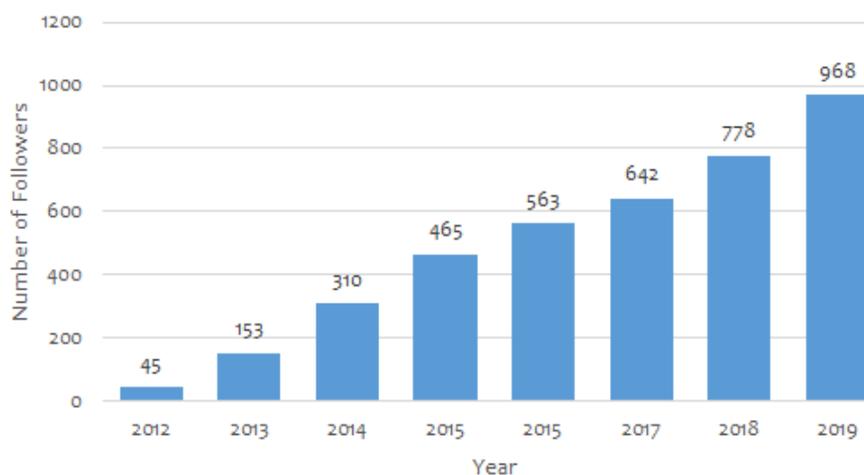


Figure 2. Twitter Followers by Year



Direct Outreach to Colorado Schools

Below is a list of the schools, districts, institutions of higher education, and other programs which received direct on-site services from the Center staff during 2019:

Figure 3. CSSRC Training Activities by Location and Agency

Denver Metro	Outlying City	Early Childhood
Adams 12	Cañon City RE-1	Clayton Early Learning
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	Durango 9-R	Composite Primary
Adams County 14	Montezuma-Cortez RE-1	Paddington Station Preschool
Aspen Academy	Montrose County RE-1J	Wonder Academy
Brighton 27J	Valley RE-1	
Cherry Creek 5		Facility School
Denver Christian School	Outlying Town	Forest Heights Lodge
Denver County 1	Archuleta County 50 Jt	Mount View Youth Services Center
Douglas County RE-1	Bayfield 10 Jt-R	
Englewood 1	Clear Creek RE-1	Higher Education
Flagstaff Charter Academy	Delta County 50(J)	Western Colorado University
Jefferson County R-1	Gunnison Watershed RE-1J	University of Colorado - Boulder
Littleton 6	Holyoke Re-1J	University of Denver
Parker Core Knowledge Charter School	Huerfano Re-1	
Sheridan 2	Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J	BOCES
St. Bernadette School	Las Animas RE-1	Colorado River BOCES
Stanley British Primary School	Limon RE-4J	Mt. Evans BOCES
STRIVE Prep	Moffat County RE No 1	San Juan BOCES
Valor Christian High School	Roaring Fork RE-1	Southeast BOCES
	Rocky Ford R-2	
Urban-Suburban	Springfield RE-4	Others
Academy of Arts and Knowledge Elementary	Steamboat Springs RE-2	Charter School Institute
Colorado Early Colleges Network	Woodland Park Re-2	Colorado Assn. of School Boards
Colorado Military Academy		Colorado Dept of Education/Facility Schools
Colorado Springs 11	Remote	Colorado League of Charter Schools
Colorado Springs Charter Academy	Branson Reorganized 82	Colorado Rural Alliance
Early College of Arvada	Briggsdale RE-10	Colorado State Patrol Instructors
Falcon 49	De Beque 49JT	Colorado Assn. of School Resource Officers
Frontier Charter Academy	Dolores RE-4A	Colorado School Counselors Associations
Global Village Academy - Northglenn	Dolores County RE No.2	Denver Assn. of Childcare Directors
GOAL Academy Network	Eads RE -1	Denver Assn. of Family Childcare Providers
Harrison 2	Garfield 16	Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise
High Point Academy	Gilpin County RE-1	TACT (Teaching the Autism Community Trades)
Launch High School	Hinsdale County RE 1	
Manitou Springs 14	Ignacio 11 JT	
Montessori del Mundo Charter School	Mancos Re-6	
Mountain Song Community School	North Park R-1	
New Legacy Charter School	Park County RE-2	
Poudre R-1	Platte Canyon 1	
Pueblo City 60	Silverton 1	
Rocky Mountain Classical Academy	Vilas RE-5	
Widefield 3	Walsh RE-1	Total: 103

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 2019-20 school year. This outreach is part of the ongoing strategy to expand knowledge about the Center and the services it can offer to schools. [This mailing](#) included letters sent via email to 178 superintendents and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) directors with a request to forward copies to other district administrators. The CSSRC has also continued contact with the public school superintendents, archdiocesan and other faith-based school administrators, and the BOCES administrators across Colorado. CSSRC staff also presented at the Rural Educators Alliance meetings, the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), and the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) annual conferences.

In 2019, one of Governor Polis' Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for the Colorado Department of Public Safety is to "increase schools' preparedness for emergencies by creating a baseline of schools with an exercised emergency operations plan and develop a plan to equip no less than 90% of schools by June 30, 2020." To that end, the CSSRC distributed the 2019 Needs Assessment to all schools in Colorado via email, traditional mail, and notifications within the monthly electronic newsletter. Staff have also hand-delivered cards with a survey link at regional trainings. As of December 1st, 2019, 573 schools completed the survey, as well as an additional 320 through their districts, for a total of 893 schools represented. Of those that answered the survey of the WIG, 87% reported having exercised their emergency plans within the last year. The Center has continued outreach to achieve a higher rate of response for the assessment and have used the results of the survey to drive trainings going forward.

CSSRC Contacts and Consultations

As outlined in Presidential Preparedness Directive 8 (PPD-8) of 2013, the Center aligns its work with the five missions of preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. The Center's work has also been guided by specific, additional Colorado components, such as support of interagency information sharing agreements, implementation of Safe2Tell, training in the 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.

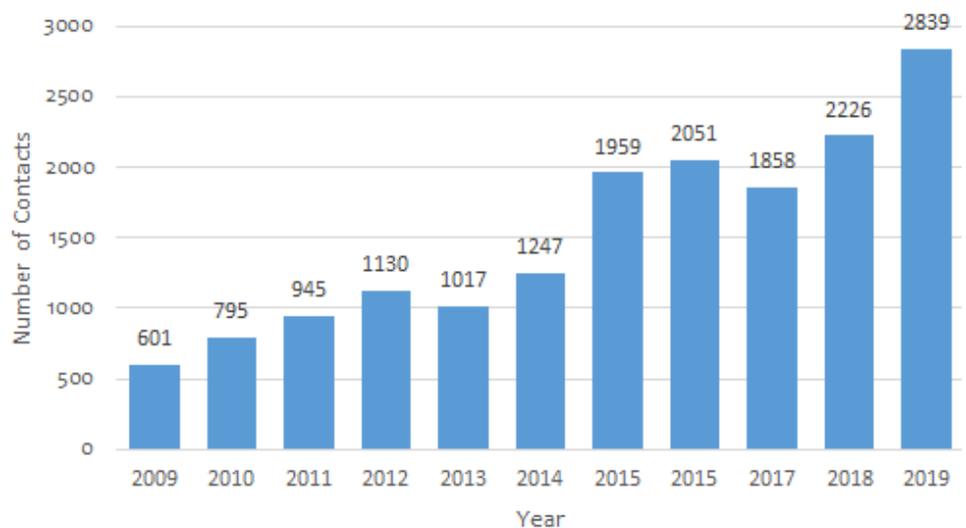
An all-time high of **2,839** contacts, including phone consultations, meetings, emails, assistance with training registrations, and site visits were conducted during the 2019 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information - This represents the total workload of the Center. Consultations are contacts with schools and more detail is provided below. This data helps the staff track the workload. Figure 4 illustrates the number of contacts.

Consultation requests are primarily a direct result of multiple outreach and marketing efforts of staff, such as the Center website, trainings, newsletters, mailings, E-Updates, and through referrals from board members and others knowledgeable about the CSSRC's resources and expertise.

Consultations in 2019 include only contacts with school personnel, parents, or agency professionals when staff have given resources, information on

best practices, or suggestions for trainings that would be helpful to their site. Consultations totaled **722** by the second week of December, 2019. Please also see the chart Figure 3 above for the schools that have had CSSRC staff visits to their sites.

Figure 4. Contacts by Year 2009 -2019



Outreach Beyond Colorado

CSSRC staff are proud of the reputation earned for their expertise within Colorado and beyond. The Director continues to participate in monthly phone meetings with staff from the United States Department of Education, the National Institute of Justice, and the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center, as well as a cadre of school safety directors from across the country. These monthly meetings are facilitated by the Director of the National School Safety Association (NSSA). The CSSRC Director was invited to participate in the School Security Roundtable Meeting hosted by the United States Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. in July 2019. Director Harms presented on suicide prevention and intervention at the three Campus Safety Magazine's national conferences this summer.

Mr. Stiles, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, also participated in an Initial Planning Conference for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Experimentation Laboratory. This Planning Conference will ultimately result in a national Public School Security Simulation Experiment or SIMEX, to be conducted in the spring of 2020.

The School Outreach Consultant and the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist trained a statewide network of Catholic schools in Idaho on threat assessment. Ms. Ochoa also presented on cyber safety for youth at the National Adolescent Perpetrator's Network Conference in Florida.

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. These training events are 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.

Threat Assessment- February 5th (Adams 12)

In an effort to provide Colorado schools with the latest information on threat assessment, the Center hosted a two-part training. Peter Langman, Ph.D., who has been researching school shooters for 20 years and has authored two books on the subject, presented on the psychological profiles of school shooters. This half-day workshop was followed by a three-hour presentation on Digital Threat Assessment by Safer Schools Together. This overview underscored the importance of school threat assessment teams mining social media for warning signs of violence. Participants' reactions to this workshop inspired further training in September on the subject. Two hundred and eighty-one school staff attended this one-day training. Some of the participants comments included:

- Fantastic! Broke complex info into simple, usable format
- Very insightful
- The information and resources were very helpful in
- getting an understanding of ways to improve relationships
- Wonderful day! Thank you
- Great Info
- Awesome!!



Threat Assessment Training was conducted by Peter Langman, Ph.D. (left) and Sam Jingfors, Safer Schools Together (right). Susan Payne of Cheyenne Mountain School District (left/center) and Christine Harms, CSSRC Director (right/center) are also pictured.

Building Resilience for Suicide and Substance Abuse Prevention - March 15th (Lowry)

Combining the topics of youth suicide and substance abuse prevention, the morning plenary was a presentation by Jonathan Singer, Ph.D., co-author of *Suicide in Schools: A Practitioner's Guide to Multi-level Prevention, Assessment, Intervention, and Postvention*. The afternoon plenary was a presentation by the Executive Director of Rise Above Colorado on *Hope and Concern: The Landscapes of Youth Substance Use and Resources for Action*. Eight workshops rounded out the day's presentations covering both suicide prevention and substance use. This day was a collaboration of the CSSRC, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Office of Suicide Prevention, the Colorado Department of Education, and the Colorado Association of School Social Workers.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium - April 4th (Lowry)

This event had its inaugural year in 2016 and this was the fourth annual event. Despite an impressive slate of presenters, the response was disappointing, as only 45 were in attendance. However, those present felt the day was very informative and worthwhile to their work. The plenaries included presentations on Challenging Narratives that Normalize Sexual Violence and Naming the Unnamed Co-conspirator in Sexual Assault. Six workshops specifically around issues of sexual violence for school staff completed the day. This included a panel of students from Project PAVE who discussed their violence prevention work in schools.

Comments about the day included:

- Really enjoyed the entire day. Not all content new, but love getting ideas and hearing from experts.
- First time at one of these, great info, thank you

The Center is evaluating approaches to boost attendance, including hosting the event every other year or changing the format.

Western Slope School Safety Summit - May 9th (Montrose)

After a very successful October 2018 Safe Schools Summit, staff from the Montrose Valley School District (MVSD) approached CSSRC asking to collaborate on a Western Slope School Safety Summit. Staff from CSSRC were very happy to oblige and the first Western Slope School Safety Summit took place in Montrose on May 9th. Kicking off the day was Ben Cort, a marijuana addiction expert. After lunch, Rosalind Wiseman, international author and lecturer, discussed cultures of dignity. Participants also had the opportunity to participate in two of eight workshop offerings. The day was so successful that the Center and MVSD are working on another Summit for April 2020.

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Summer Safety Symposium – June 13th (Loveland)

This was the fourth annual IHE Summer Safety Symposium hosted by the CSSRC. Board members Greg Busch and Mark Porkorny have been instrumental in getting the word out for these workshops. The day's five plenary lectures included information on threat assessment from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, preventing student hazing, experiential interviewing concepts, sexual assault prevention, and the latest research in dealing with marijuana on college campuses. Plans are already being made for next year with the hope of drawing an even larger crowd in metro Denver.

Stress Debriefing for School Mental Health Providers - August 20th (Lakewood)

With the rise in the number of traumatic events to which schools need to respond, feedback has come to the Center about concern for the emotional well-being of school staff. Center staff have been trained in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing as a protocol to help staff process incidents, and lessen the emotional impact on them. Having facilitated a number of these responses in schools in 2019, Center staff created a workshop for school mental health providers to teach them the protocol so that they can facilitate groups in their own districts. This was the first train-the-trainer workshop provided by CSSRC. Eleven mental health providers attended.

Digital Threat Assessment (DTA) - September 25th, 26th, and 27th (Centennial)

Three separate training sessions on Digital Threat Assessment were organized with the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool in response to the feedback from the February overview of DTA. Safer Schools Together provided a Basic, Advanced, and Train-the-Trainer workshop on three consecutive days in September. Prerequisites were required for the Advanced and Train-the-Trainer classes. In total, 48 participants took one or more of the classes.

2019 Colorado Safe Schools Summit – October 24th and 25th (Thornton)

Center staff organized the annual Summit during National and Colorado Safe Schools Month with Governor Polis opening up the conference. Once again, the Center staff 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 an exciting and informative two-day event.



Governor Polis welcomes the participants at the October 2019 Colorado Safe Schools Summit

Keynote presenters on the first day included Dorothy Espelage, Ph.D., from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an internationally recognized bullying researcher, and Jenny Presswalla from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with Howie Shapiro from the FBI, who educated the group on violent extremism. Day two was opened by Finessa Ferrell from the Colorado Education Initiative with a wonderful presentation on social emotional learning. The final plenary was Lynn Riemer of ACT on Drugs who is always informative and entertaining.

Participants had the opportunity to choose four of the 24 workshops, which covered prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. Topics included managing the threat response, trauma-responsive behavior modification systems and behavioral plans, research on student suicide, hot spot mapping, and vaping, to name a few. Counting registered guests, presenters, and VIPs, there were 340 participants. A link to the program, photos from the two days, and handouts from various workshops can be found [here](#).

Participant feedback included:

- The summit was very informative and I especially enjoyed choosing the content I wanted to learn about throughout the day
- Very interesting summit which held my attention all the way through
- You can tell a lot of thought and work goes into the summit! Thank you! Everyone is very nice and doing good work.
- This was my first summit and I loved it! I am so excited to take all this info back with me
- Great use of time
- Great experience



Kevin McQueen, the Regional Director for Respiratory Care at UC Health, updates the participants at the 2019 Safe Schools Summit on teen vaping.

Student/Staff Safety Summits - December 4th (Hayden) and December 11th (Lamar)

With grant funds from the Gill Foundation in 2017, the Center conducted three student/staff workshops to glean students' perceptions of school safety. The three workshops were so successful that the Center decided to dedicate the youth advisory council (Youth Engaged for School Safety or YES²) funding to conduct two more workshops in both 2018 and 2019.



Margaret Ochoa and Dustin Hunter facilitate a student workshop on cybersecurity in the baggage claim area of the Yampa Valley Regional Airport during the December Student/Staff Safety Symposium in Hayden

Held between the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, and scheduled around bus transportation times, attendance continues to be a challenge. The keynote presentation at both locations in 2019 was conducted by Dr. Whitney Orndorff and Cori Goodwin, who shared information from the FBI Teen Academy with the audience of middle and high school students and their teachers. The students and staff then rotated through three workshops on topics such as alcohol abuse prevention, digital citizenship, mental health supports, and trauma-informed drills. Students were encouraged to share their concerns and have been motivated to start safety projects in their schools. A summary of the points made in the workshops can be found [here](#).

District/School Site-Based Trainings

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 needs survey results, priority of needs, requests, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the total number of trainings provided between 2008-2019. The Center delivered 161 training opportunities in 2019. The workshops have been well-attended and there continue to be requests for training by various groups. The trainings include the October Summit, regional trainings, conference presentations, and presentations at individual districts and schools. The Summit and regional trainings are publicized to districts across the state via the E-Update. These efforts, and working with many partners across Colorado, continue to raise the profile of the CSSRC and increase the services requested.

Figure 5. Number of Trainings (Hosted and Presented) 2008 - 2019

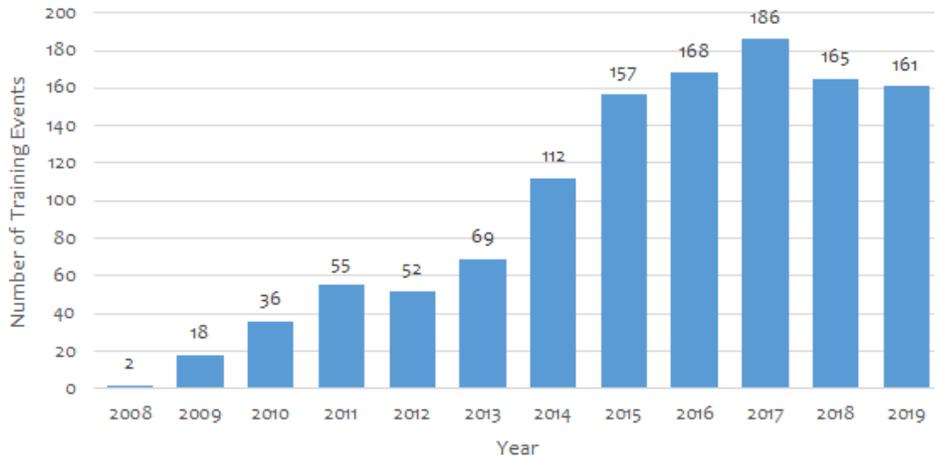


Figure 6 shows the number of training participants in 2019 which was **6,936**. Since the Center's inception in 2008, **53,014** people have attended a training event or workshop presented by the CSSRC. Each year, the number of people trained varies, partly with the quantity of trainings provided and partly with the location of the trainings. Events in rural areas reach fewer people than events in large urban settings.

Figure 6. Number of People Attending CSSRC Trainings 2008 - 2019

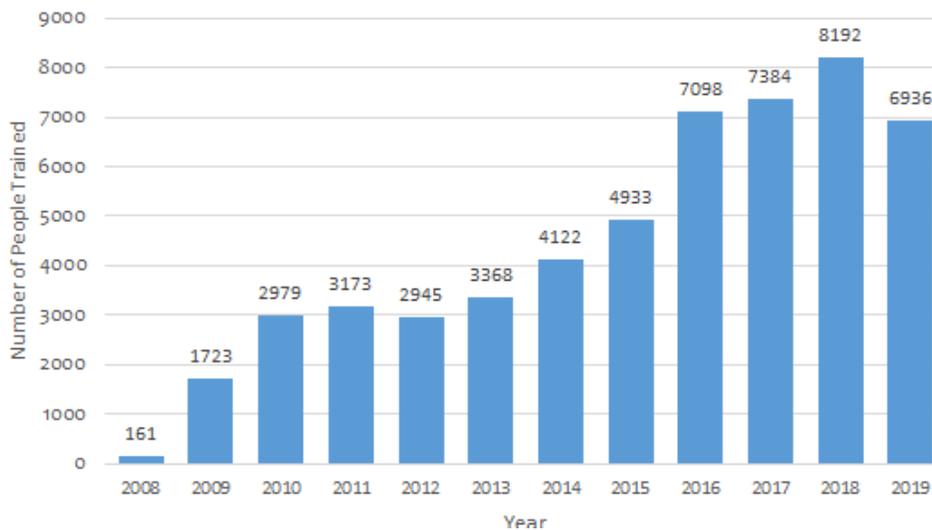


Figure 7 is a breakdown of the training events last year by training topic.

Figure 7. Topics of Trainings and Presentations Provided by CSSRC Staff in 2019

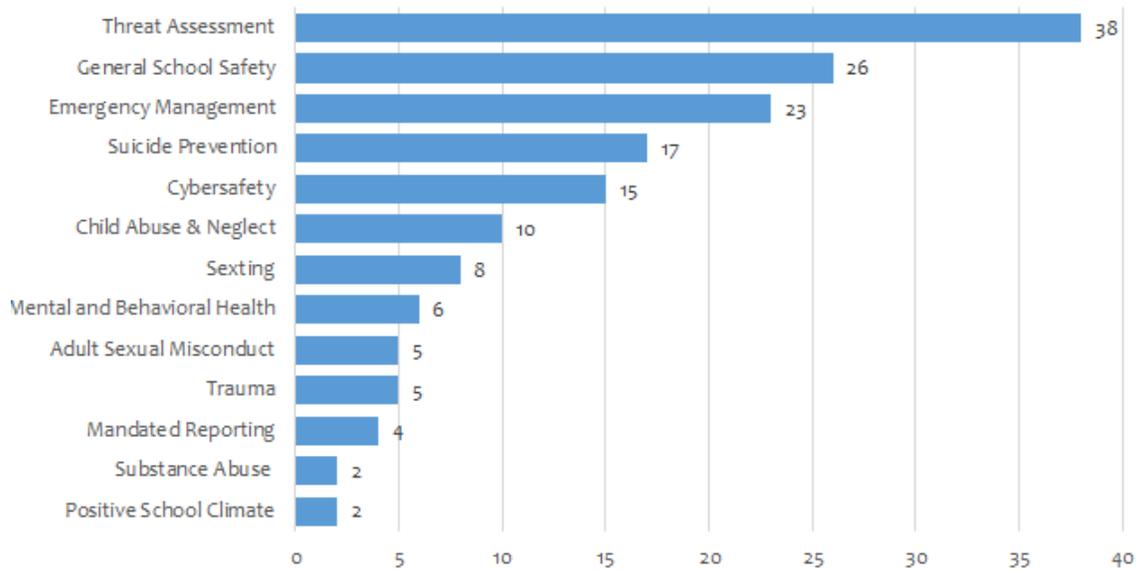
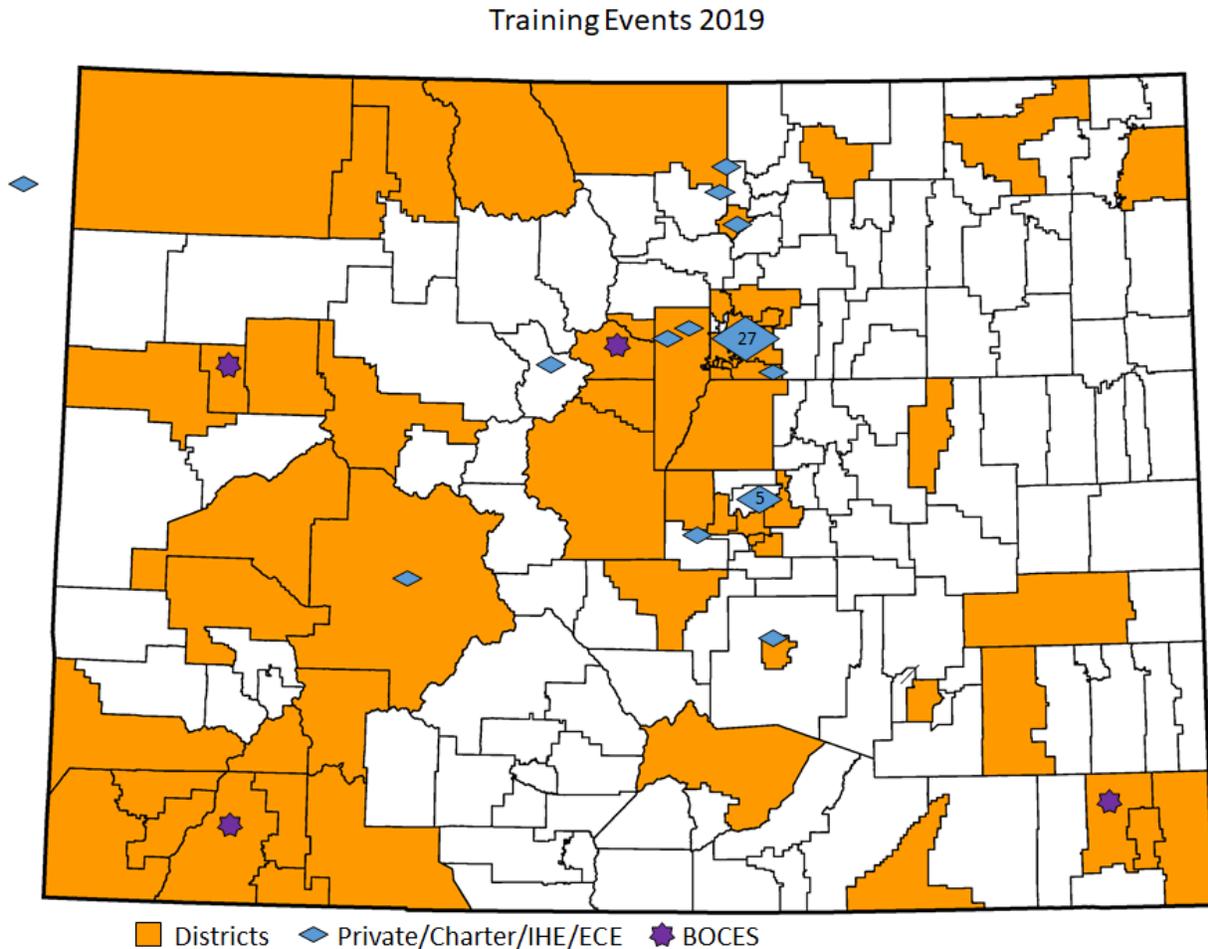


Figure 8 outlines the school districts in Colorado with the colored portions showing the locations of all CSSRC outreach and training activities in 2019.

Figure 8- Locations of all CSSRC Outreach and Training Activities in 2019



Statewide Conferences

In addition to regional and site-specific training, staff continue to be invited to present at statewide conferences. This year staff presented at conferences for the following organizations:

- Colorado Advocacy in Action (CCASA and Violence Free Colorado)
- Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)
- Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Management Boards (DV-SOMB)
- Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS)
- Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA)
- Colorado Rural Schools Alliance
- Colorado School Counselors' Association (CSCA)
- Colorado School Health Professional Grant Program (SHPG)
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)
- Commissioner's Rural Education Council
- Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference
- State Pupil Transportation Association

Online Course Development

The CSSRC staff developed and published their first two online training courses for school personnel in 2012. Since that time, 15 more courses have been added, including two in 2019: *Informed Supervision for Schools* and *Youth and Marijuana in Colorado*.

Informed Supervision for Schools <https://www.train.org/colorado/course/1086108/> is a resource for school staff responsible for oversight of youth who have committed sexually offending behavior. The course includes an explanation for when and why informed supervision is required, the school's responsibility, the qualifications of informed supervisors, and how to create a safety plan.

Youth and Marijuana in Colorado <https://www.train.org/colorado/course/1086185/> is designed to help educators and parents understand some of the basic impacts of youth marijuana use. The course includes consumption statistics in Colorado, methods of use, and some of the science of how marijuana affects the brain. Tips for talking to young people about marijuana and the potential consequences are also provided.

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

Figures 9 and 10 below describe the number of online course participants and their geographical origins, as maintained by CO.Train. 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. View Figures 9 and 10 with the understanding that the metrics may not capture the youth who are required to take the *Sexting* course as a part of their court-ordered diversion or probation program, as those juveniles may participate via the CWTS. Those learners are able to print a certificate for their diversion/probation officer, but are not counted by CWTS. As of this writing, the Center has not been provided with analytics regarding the number of youth that completed *Sexting* and provided evidence of that through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 9. Online Course Participant Summary 2012-2019

Online Course Title	2019 Participants	Total Participants to date
Adolescent Development	177	889
Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	243	2020
Bullying Prevention and Intervention Under Colorado Law	147	1049
Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event	59	352
Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	122	638
Informed Supervision for Schools (released in July 2019)	43	43
Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	432	1299
Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	562	1487
Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	37	179
Proactive School Discipline (online)	66	520
School Security Personnel: Emergency Management	103	740
School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications	66	526
School Security Personnel: Observation Skills and Incident Reporting	75	823
School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics	68	479
*Sexting: What You Need to Know	85	204
Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs	83	120
Youth and Marijuana in Colorado (released in July 2019)	47	47
Total	2,411	11,415

*Sexting: What You Need to Know is also hosted on the Child Welfare Training System, managed by the Colorado Department of Human Services, for ease of access by juveniles. These figures do not account for participation on that platform.

Figure 10. Top 20 Counties in which CSSRC Online Courses Have Been Accessed

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

Anonymous evaluation results for 16 of 17 courses reveal that 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their knowledge has 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:

- “The information was specific to the topic, the audio helped along with the literature. I also commend those who have decided to organize the information and allow individuals to receive a certificate in the related profession.” (Basic Mental Health Awareness)
- “The content is good - especially the legal ramifications!” (Sexting)
- “Great Information” (Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs)
- “Very helpful. Good amount of info for each slide and quizzes to process back the accurate information. This was insightful and interesting” (Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff)
- “This was extremely helpful! As a new teacher I need to know the details of when and how and what to report, and this was very conclusive in how to do that, and to whom. Thank you!” (Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team)
- “New information to consider and remember during any situation” (School Security Personnel: Emergency Management)
- “This webinar is great, really good information and resources.” (Informed Supervision for Schools)
- “I thought the course was an effective way to inform parents and teachers about the impact and consequences of marijuana use and provided some thoughts to begin some conversations with youth.” (Youth and Marijuana in Colorado)

Resources

Website

The CSSRC website (<https://www.colorado.gov/cssrc>) has been designed as a state information and resource repository, offering a variety of support to a wide audience of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade 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, grants, and educational opportunities.

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

- Federal and state resources organized according to topic
- Training opportunities for school staff, including a calendar of national and local offerings
- Links to Colorado school safety legislation and current grants
- Links to agencies related to school safety efforts
- Current research and statistics
- CSSRC listserv subscription sign-up
- 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 11 and 12 below). Over the course of 2019, there were approximately **62,460** page views with a considerable number of 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 11. Top 5 Most Visited Pages of the CSSRC Website, Beyond the Homepage in 2019

Page Title Created By
Mandatory Reporting School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Online Training School Safety Resource Center
Threat Assessment School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act School Safety Resource Center
Bullying and Harassment School Safety Resource Center

CSSRC staff continually create 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.

The Center now provides five resource guides for schools, which are updated every June:

- *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*
- *Restorative Practices Guide for Schools*
- *Resources for Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention*

Some of the resource pages created this year included the following topics:

- Drones
- Drills
- Guns in Schools
- School District Maps of the 4 Regional Training Consultants Area of Work

- 2019 CO Safe School Summit Resource Page

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

Figure 12. Top Five Countries Outside of the United States Visiting the CSSRC Website

Top Countries	
Canada	Australia
United Kingdom	Germany
India	

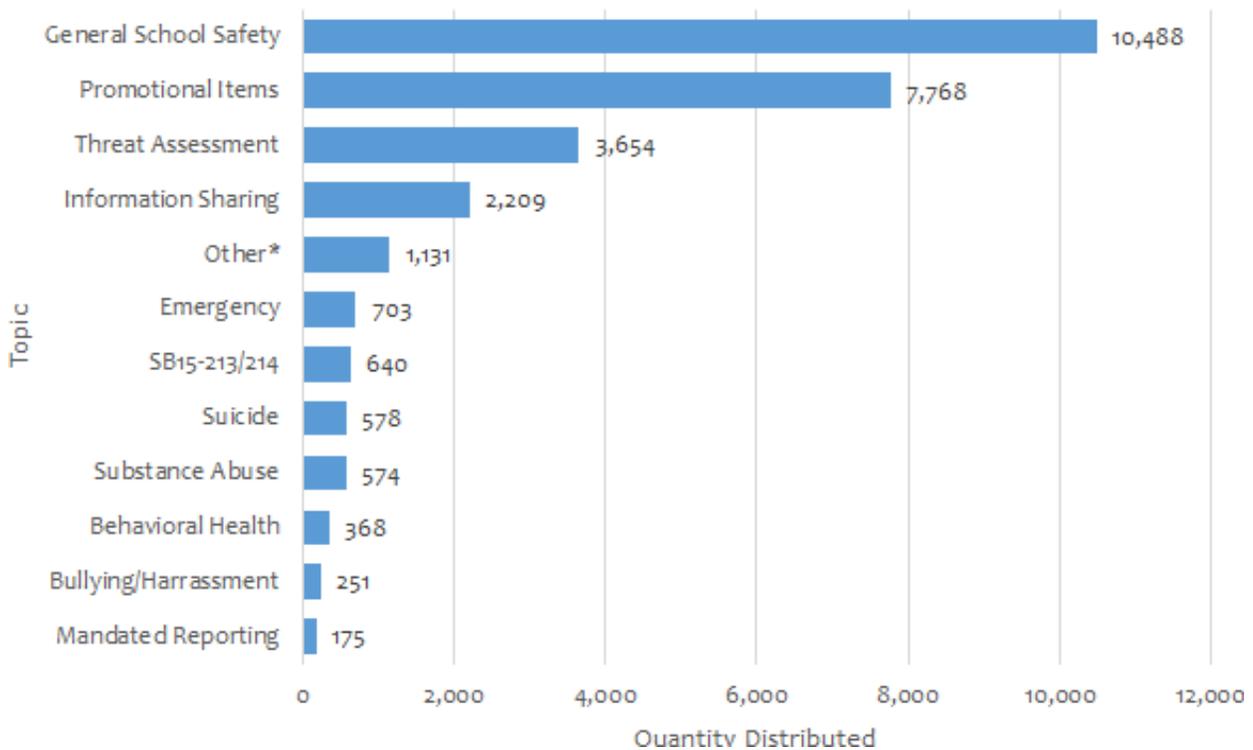
Resource Acquisition and Distribution Highlights

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. These methods of distribution are critically considered when researching materials to support safe and positive schools.

During 2019, the CSSRC researched, acquired, and distributed to partners and training participants **28,539** electronic and hard copies of **216** 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 the number of hard copy resources 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, display tables at conferences, 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 13 summarizes the distribution of electronic and hard copies of resources by topic.

Figure 13. Quantity of Resources Distributed by Topic in 2019



*Other resources include information on mandatory reporting, sexting, and additional subjects new to the Center in 2019.

Working Groups

One responsibility the Center has adopted since its inception is to facilitate work groups on topics of identified need in order to develop and distribute resources to be used by Colorado schools. Previously, the Center has facilitated working groups on Emergency Planning for K-12 Schools, Interagency Information Sharing, Threat

Assessment, School Security Personnel, Bullying/Harassment Prevention, Parental Notification by Schools When Staff Have Been Accused of Sexual Misconduct, 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 were presented to the SB15-214 Interim Committee, School Safety and Youth Mental Health in Crisis.

In 2019, four working groups were still active from previous years. These included:

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Networking Group

When the Center staff was increased in 2014, more resources were provided to 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 IHEs. 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 12 times since 2014, and has participated in four one-day IHE Summer Safety Symposia, held in June since 2016.

In 2019, the working group began a process to address safety needs of students who are concurrently enrolled in high school and attending classes on college campuses. The Center is not aware of any other agencies in the country addressing this issue. The first meeting on the topic, held in October of 2019, focused on providing best practice guidelines for the reunification of high school students when an emergency has occurred on a college campus. This work will continue into 2020 and be shared with all schools in Colorado and other professionals who participate in the monthly meetings of the National School Safety Association.

The participants value the networking, sharing of challenges and successes, and opportunity to tour other campuses to review their safety and security measures. The next IHE Summer Safety Symposium is set for June 11, 2020 on the Auraria campus in Denver.

Youth Advisory Council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES²)

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 school safety issues that are on the minds of students.

The Center decided to take a different approach to engaging youth in the mission of school safety for the last two school years. Whereas past YES² participants have worked throughout the year to create a final project focused on a school safety-related topic, the two most recent groups were engaged in a new way. The Center chose to host regional Student/Staff Safety Summits to provide opportunities for students and staff to come together and discuss their perspectives on a number of school safety topics, as well as hear from national speakers and Center staff. The 2019-2020 YES² Team was invited to share the topics that were of greatest interest to them to be included in these events. They were also invited to attend and help facilitate the group discussions.

This year's Student/Staff Safety Summits were held on December 4th in Hayden and December 11th in Lamar. The third event of the school year will be in Montrose on April 15, 2020. Students offered a great deal of feedback and suggestions for how adults can better address school safety issues during the safety summits' focus groups. A summary of the focus group responses from the Student/Staff Safety Summits held thus far can be found on the [CSSRC website](#).



The Youth Advisory Council students and staff mentors: Brad Stiles, Acelyn McGowan, Annabelle Girard, Dustin Hunter, Hannah Bish, Caitlin Maiwald, and Margaret Ochoa

Suicide Intervention and Prevention Working Group

Since 2017, the CSSRC has been facilitating informal meetings of school mental health professionals, particularly to discuss suicide. This year, the group urged the Center to create suicide assessment tools for use by Colorado districts that have not yet adopted such instruments. Dustin Hunter, School Outreach Consultant for the CSSRC, reviewed a number of tools from large Colorado school districts and other professionals and the Center chose to

use work from Terri Erbacher, Ph.D., Jonathan Singer, Ph.D., and Scott Poland, Ph.D., authors of *Suicide for Schools: A Practitioner's Guide to Multi-level Prevention, Assessment, Intervention and Postvention*. Not only did the authors graciously agree to allow the CSSRC to use their documents in a Colorado Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit, but Dr. Erbacher will present a full day workshop on the protocols on May 6, 2020. The working group is reviewing the toolkit and training on the use of the new toolkit will begin after the first of the year. Until the suicide rates decrease, this group will continue to meet and share strategies and resources.

Threat Assessment Working Group

The Center decided to revive the threat assessment working group to review policies, procedures, and protocols in light of 2018 updates from the United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Homeland Security on this topic. A general outreach was made to school professionals for this effort and over 30 individuals answered the call. First, a survey was conducted to discover the state of threat assessments in Colorado schools. A review of the components of the survey led to a consensus on best practices.

In the meantime, the CSSRC, in collaboration with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, also an office of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, submitted an application for the Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP) Grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Working with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado, Boulder, this entails a Project Management Team to refine the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol, the threat assessment trainings, and all other related documents. Following that work, the training and documents will be piloted in five schools, further refined, and then utilized with thirty additional schools.

The grant was approved for \$999,987.00 and the work began in earnest at the beginning of October. The grant work will last three years and the evaluators from CSPV will prepare a final report to BJA. The Center will then have documents and protocols that can be evaluated for evidenced-based measures in the future. The threat assessment working group members will play a pivotal role as reviewers of the materials and training components.

Collaboration

The Center continues to work with other agencies with similar missions to maximize our ability to provide services to schools and 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 through these partnerships. Currently, the CSSRC attends regular meetings as a participant, active member, school safety voice, or fellow presenter with the following statewide groups:

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

The ADL has been a co-presenter with the Center, the Colorado Education Initiative, Colorado Department of Education, 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 student/staff summits with the remaining Gill Foundation funding that the Center has continued to host post-funding. In 2019, they provided excellent materials, which the Center shared in the E-Update, to educate schools as to how to speak with students about hate activities which have been occurring nationally.

Colorado Association for School-Based Health Centers (CASBHC)

Established in 1996, CASBHC 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 62 School-Based Health Centers in the state, which is an increase from 59 last year.

Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

The CSSRC has worked with CASB on a number of initiatives and working groups. This year, the CSSRC Director participated at the annual meeting of delegates and had the opportunity to share information about the new regional training consultants at the annual CASB conference in December. Kathy Plomer (Adams 12 School Board) is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)

The Center staff members were unable to attend the CASE conferences this year due to scheduling conflicts. However, CSSRC staff consulted with CASE on issues of marijuana in schools and suggestions for a keynote presenter at one of their 2020 conferences. CASE also consults with the Colorado Department of Education on recommendations for the superintendent representative on the CSSRC Advisory Board. Superintendent George Welsh represents the rural district of Cañon City on the Advisory Board and Carolena Steen, Ph.D., the Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, represents the Front Range districts on the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)

The CASRO membership consists of school resource officers, 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 July on Threat Assessment Warning Signs to the general assembly. CSSRC's Advisory Board SRO is Kelly Jacobsen from the Westminster Police Department, who also serves as the Secretary on CASRO's board.

Colorado Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers (CASSLEO)

CASSLEO, 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. Their most recent meeting was held at the CDPS offices and CSSRC staff arranged for a presentation and tour of the Colorado Information Analysis Center or CIAC.

Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

The Colorado CSI is a statewide charter school authorizer committed to creating and sustaining a portfolio of high-quality public school options that meet the needs of all students. Center staff were invited to speak at the annual Charter School Boot Camp on general safety best practices, as well as hosting a Threat Assessment Team training in November.

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)

CCASA, an association promoting safety, justice, and healing for survivors while working toward the elimination of sexual violence, consults frequently with Center staff regarding safety matters of statewide concern. In 2019, CCASA was instrumental in the passage of the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Act, which will directly impact schools throughout the State of Colorado. The law establishes consent as the cornerstone for sexual health education, thereby preventing sexual violence. CCASA also worked to pass the Campus Safety Act, codifying Title IX in institutions of higher education. Governor Polis supported these measures to increase the safety of all Colorado students. Ms. Ochoa also sat on a workgroup to revise CCASA's Teen Sexual Assault Response Manual in 2019. The Center's collaboration will be enhanced, as Ms. Ochoa now serves on CCASA's Policy Committee. The Center will work with CCASA to track metrics on juveniles impacted by the 2017 sexting bill, and prepare for the post-enactment review in 2020.

Colorado Crisis Education and Response Network (CoCERN)

CoCERN is a statewide, asset-based community partnership formed to deliver effective, efficient, and professional disaster behavioral health services. The Center has been involved with this group since its inception and, currently, the School Outreach Consultant represents the Center at the quarterly meetings.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Since the opening of the Center, staff have had an excellent working relationship with staff at the Colorado Department of Education. This has been especially true under the leadership of Commissioner Katy Anthes. This collaboration includes many regional trainings that are conducted in concert with staff from CDE.

Beginning in 2015, Center staff worked closely with CDE as the subject matter experts on the School Emergency Management grant from the United States Department of Education awarded to CDE. The sustaining component of that grant, the Training Engagement Committee, is an ongoing effort co-chaired by the Department of Education and the School Safety Resource Center.

In 2019, the staff of the CSSRC were invited twice to participate in the Commissioner’s Rural Alliance as school safety has been an ongoing focus of districts across the state. The CSSRC staff were asked to participate in both CDE’s August meeting for new superintendents and the annual Facility Schools’ Conference. Additionally, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist was invited to train the Choice of Schools Unit staff on Adult Sexual Misconduct, and expects to deliver that training again.

The Colorado Department of Education also has a staff member assigned to the CSSRC Advisory Board and the Commissioner of Education appoints three other board members from the school community. Currently, Lynne DeSousa is the CDE staff member serving on the Advisory Board.

The CSSRC School Outreach Consultant, Dustin Hunter, 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 that all Colorado K-12 public schools provide an environment and culture that integrates health and wellness, to include safety, equitably for all students and staff by 2025.

CDE has continued to support the Center’s efforts with respect to campus safety and Title IX obligations. The state Title IX Coordinator, Rebekah Ottenbreit, is a frequent and valued guest at the Center’s training conferences. She has trained at both the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium and the Safe Schools Summit, and coordinates referrals to and from staff as necessary. She and the CDE website have proven to be valuable resources to Center stakeholders.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

The CSSRC continues to have a strong relationship with the OBH, which is the state authority for mental health and substance abuse services. The Office of Behavioral Health has been the go-to organization to assist the Center in finding the right regional professionals to collaborate with the new Regional Training Consultants and to present at the Staff/Student Safety Summits.

Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)

The Public Awareness Campaign in the OCYF has transitioned to an informal workgroup. While staff will continue to monitor the work to support child welfare endeavors and promote the prevention work of OCYF partners, the Center will not be central to that effort. The OCYF also houses the Human Trafficking Task Group (HTTG), which is a valuable resource to the Center for trainings and networking. The HTTG has collaborated with the Department of Public Safety in training on anti-trafficking efforts at Center conferences.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

Office of Violence and Injury Prevention

The Center has worked collaboratively with CDPHE to systematically prevent suicide and sexual violence. Since 2010, the Center, CDE, and CDPHE’s Office of Suicide Prevention have joined forces to present eleven Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposia for school professionals. The Director represents the Colorado Department of Public Safety on the Statewide Suicide Commission facilitated by the Office of Suicide Prevention. The School Outreach Consultant for the Center participates in one of the working committees of the Suicide Commission.

Staff from the Center rely on data collected by CDPHE, as well as best practice recommendations to CSSRC working groups. Partners in both the Office of Suicide Prevention and Sexual Violence Prevention Program have trained at regional conferences for the Center. Ms. Ochoa served on a workgroup convened by CDPHE to rewrite the *State of Adolescent Sexual Health* report, which had been neglected since the nonprofit Colorado Youth Matter disbanded due to loss of funding.

Sarah Brummett, Director of the Office of Suicide Prevention within the Office of Violence and Injury Prevention, Mental Health Promotion Branch of CDPHE, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Children, Youth, and Families Branch

The Director and a representative from the Division of Criminal Justice both serve on the steering committee for the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. CDPHE staff facilitate this work. 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 the Fall of odd years. It is supported by CDPHE, the Colorado Department of Human Services and CDE.

Colorado Department of Public Safety 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 consulted on CSP's school safety curriculum project and provided refresher training to the deliverers of the curriculum on identification of child abuse.

CSP has continued to generously provide voiceover talent for the CSSRC online courses, and to allow 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.

Division of Criminal Justice Office for Victims Programs

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 together regularly to increase awareness of the problem in our schools and local communities. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist testified with the Human Trafficking Program Manager before the House Judiciary Committee in 2019 in support of human trafficking training bills. 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.

Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB)

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. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist 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. Notably, the Center created an online and in-person training on that topic in 2019.

The Juvenile Standards Coordinator for the SOMB and the Center's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist were selected to present on cybersafety for youth at the 2019 National Adolescent Perpetrator's Network Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The two collaborated again at this year's SOMB Conference, presenting on healthy relationships for youth. Ms. Ochoa provided a second workshop on the juvenile sexting law. The association with DCJ has provided opportunities for both groups to expand messaging regarding child sexual abuse and awareness to new audiences.

Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

The Division of Fire Prevention and Control has always supported the work of the CSSRC. In recent years, there have been further collaboration efforts as schools struggle with emergency preparedness for active shooter situations that do not interfere with fire safety.

To further this work of assisting schools with active shooter situations and foster their collaboration with local emergency responders, DFPC, the Center, the Colorado Information Analysis Center, DHSEM, and Colorado State Patrol organized and delivered a workshop on this topic at six locations across the state in 2019. The Center's Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, Brad Stiles, has facilitated these workshops in La Junta, Ft. Morgan, Grand Junction, Durango, and Wheat Ridge.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

The 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.

During the 2018 legislative session, eight additional employees were added to the CIAC to support the Safe2Tell program. This program is an anonymous tip line open to all citizens, but focused on students to provide a tool for them to report concerns to school officials and law enforcement. Establishing the Watch Center at the CIAC, where the Safe2Tell professionals accept and analyze calls, has deepened the relationship between the CIAC and the CSSRC and helps the CDPS further support school safety.

In 2019, the arrival of a possible threat to Colorado schools by a young woman from Florida, at the time of the 20th anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, underscored the need for the CIAC to be a central repository and dispenser of statewide emergency information. The CIAC and CSSRC have been working together to create and update contact lists for schools and protocols for any such emergencies in the future.

Office of School Emergency Response

When the 2018 Colorado Legislature proposed two school safety bills for over sixty million dollars, the Department of Public Safety realized that the CSSRC did not have the capacity to manage such funding. However, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management oversees millions of dollars for the Federal Office of Emergency Management, and they agreed to handle the school safety grants. The CSSRC was the main conduit of grant notifications to the school districts. The School Security Disbursement Grant of 2018 was a one-time distribution, but the School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant is a six-year grant for which districts can apply yearly. The Director of CSSRC is a member of both of the grant selection committees.

As previously mentioned, the Center applied for and received the STOP Violence grant from BJA. DHSEM's Office of School Emergency Response submitted the final paperwork and will be responsible for the budget of this grant while the CSSRC's director serves as the grant manager.

Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)

The CEI 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. Finessa Ferrell, the Social Emotional Learning Specialist for CEI gave a wonderful keynote address at the 2019 Summit.

Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA)

CEMA is an association of public and private emergency management professionals working throughout the state. CSSRC staff attend their meetings and conferences annually.

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP)

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 League of Charter Schools

The League of Charter Schools is a full-service nonprofit membership group for about 95% of the charter schools in Colorado. The League offers legislative advocacy, performance management, professional development, governance training, group purchasing programs, teacher effectiveness services, new school development support, employment and facilities consultation, marketing and communications assistance, and more. The League presents an annual conference at which Center staff have delivered training. Additionally, the League offered a Leadership Summit in 2019, and invited Center staff to participate on a school safety panel with representatives from the Colorado legislature and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. The opportunity allowed the panelists to dialogue with charter administrators about what works in school safety, as well as proposed legislation in 2020.

Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP)

CSDSIP insures over 90% of the state's school districts and, therefore, has a vested interest in the safety and security of Colorado schools. In September, they partnered with the Center to bring Safer Schools Together to Colorado to conduct the three workshops on Digital Threat Assessment. This year, CSDSIP again supported the Summit as a platinum sponsor and staffed a table of resources. Steve Fast, Executive Director of CSDSIP, is the Secretary of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)

The Colorado School Counselor Association serves 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 presented on Threat Assessment Warning Signs and Healthy Relationships for Youth at the 2019 annual conference.

Colorado Society of 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 School Outreach Consultant presented on Marijuana and Youth in Colorado.

Community Preparedness Advisory 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.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI is an intelligence-driven and threat-focused national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities. The FBI has dedicated programs to investigating domestic and international terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, and many others.

Two analysts from the FBI's Denver field office assigned to the Crimes Against Children unit presented at the Student/Staff Safety Summits in December. The analysts presented case studies of sextortion and threat to life situations to help discuss internet safety with students. They also offered tips to school personnel as to how they can help investigators of such crimes protect students. The analysts have continued to provide contacts for potential presenters and experts in other fields of investigation. They have also referred schools to the Center for ongoing training and been an excellent resource when inquiries to the Center require specialized investigation. A special agent discussed threat assessment at the IHE symposium in the summer, and an international terrorism intelligence analyst also presented a keynote address at the 2019 Colorado Safe Schools Summit along with a professional from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC)

The FRAC is an interdisciplinary group of law enforcement, non-profit and state agency professionals that meets 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, patterns in human trafficking in schools and the community at large, and to foster contact with partners at DCJ, the FBI, and elsewhere.

Illuminate Colorado

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. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist has been trained by Illuminate to facilitate a child abuse prevention curriculum entitled "Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development", which has been state sanctioned to satisfy statutory obligations for early childhood educators.

One Colorado

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 throughout the state in the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes since 2011.

Partners for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH)

PCMH is a newly developing Children’s Mental Health Center of Excellence, supported by the Children’s Hospital of Colorado. PCMH is designed to serve as a statewide resource to increase the capacity, access, and quality of mental health services for children, youth, and families. The CSSRC’s Director is a member of the steering committee for this entity whose work is first focusing on youth suicide in Colorado. Staff from PCMH have been working with Center staff and district mental health professionals on the newly created CSSRC Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit. PCMH and CSSRC have agreed to work closely to be sure their messages to schools are consistent.

Stand Up Colorado

Stand Up Colorado is a statewide, collaborative, multi-year relationship violence prevention campaign designed to alter behavior and affect long-term social change. Stand Up Colorado is a partnership of the Denver City and District Attorneys’ offices, statewide violence prevention coalitions, advocacy groups, public and private health organizations, educational institutions, treatment providers, and government agencies. Center staff participate in its Juvenile Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Provider Working Group to address the dearth of providers with this specialized expertise, and to develop guidelines and standards to ensure effective treatment. Ms. Ochoa serves on subcommittees regarding mandatory reporting and legal issues.

Think Tank for Emergency Management in CO

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 2018 the Think tank developed a white paper on educating policymakers about emergency management and creating sustainable emergency management programs in Colorado. Center staff members continue to attend meetings and offer input related to school all-hazard emergency planning across Colorado.

Summary and Conclusion

2019 marked the twentieth anniversary since the tragedy at Columbine High School. The Center added to the *Ten Years Since Columbine* document created in 2009 to highlight the incredible collaboration and efforts that have gone into school safety over the last 10 years. A copy of the *Twenty Years After Columbine* report can be accessed [here](#).

However, with the tragic death of Kendrick Castillo at the STEM School in Douglas County in May of 2019 and the number of students Colorado lost to suicide this year, the work of school safety is certainly not complete. The Colorado Legislature formed a School Safety Interim Committee that met four times and heard testimony from school staff, safety experts, parents, and students. By far the largest outcry was for more mental health services for our youth. But other issues of school safety were also highlighted, including work on positive school climates, the need for trauma-informed drills, continued resources for both physical and psychological safety, and concern that there should be a unified effort across the state to tackle school safety. The staff of the School Safety Resource Center will make these issues priorities.

In response to one of the Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) of Governor Polis' office, the CSSRC also widely distributed a needs assessment to school personnel to get a clearer picture of the accomplishments of schools and the gaps that still need to be addressed around safety and security. Responses representing 893 of the approximately 2800 (K-IHE) schools in Colorado were encouraging; especially when 87% reported that they had practiced their emergency plans within the last 12 months. However, as the responses only represented about 32% of the Colorado schools, further efforts will be made to glean information from more schools in 2020. While attempting to get more feedback, the Center collected excellent data on gaps identified by those that completed the survey. Some of these issues will be addressed by the Regional Training Consultants and the Denver staff when they meet with individual schools. Other issues will be addressed in regional trainings in 2020, as well as providing resources on the monthly electronic newsletter.

Center staff look forward to successfully revising and rolling out the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol for the BJA grant, working on the Collective Impact Collaboration identifying the best practices that should comprise a district's school safety efforts, as well as providing training with the new Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit. Making additional services available directly to rural districts with the Regional Training Consultants has already proved to be a much needed support to our schools.

CSSRC staff will continue to meet the requests for training, consultation, resources, and technical assistance for all schools in Colorado with a particular focus on the rural communities. Staying abreast of the best practice updates from the federal government on school safety practices and procedures is a priority. Staff from the Center continue to be invited to participate in national discussions as well as to train professionals in other states.

School safety is important for so many reasons. Providing a safe environment that is welcoming to all students creates an atmosphere where academic success is possible. Research also informs schools that a positive school climate is one of the best ways to provide a safe school environment. Chiefly, our youth are the most precious resource we have and we must protect them. The Center appreciates everyone who works with us in this effort. We will all continue to strive for excellence in Colorado school safety in 2020.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter or www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC
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