

# Legislative Report 2020

**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 Colorado 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. However, two positions remain unfilled due to a hiring freeze as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. 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 representing various state agencies, and others with a stake in school safety issues in Colorado, which meets formally four times each year with Center staff and provides input on their work.

## Key Accomplishments in 2020

The staff demonstrated their flexibility and creativity when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country in early 2020. By March, staff were required to quarantine and work remotely. Immediately, staff pivoted to providing virtual training in place of in-person workshops. Regional training also went virtual, along with the workshops of the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Grant (“STOP Grant”). The Center has remained a repository of resources for school safety-related issues, and received high praise from school personnel for the continuity of services through the pandemic. The following are highlights of key accomplishments for 2020.

- **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 Boulder and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), applied for the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Students, Teachers, and 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.

Phase One, the refining of the documents and training materials, was completed by April 2020. Following the completion of the documents, the evaluation materials were agreed upon. Five pilot sites were then quickly identified and workshops began in June. Phase Two was under way. All five pilot site staff were trained with the revised materials by the end of the summer and were ready to utilize the new protocol at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year.

As the school year progressed, some of the 30 remaining sites were brought on board. All 30 additional schools will be trained by August 2021 so that they can utilize the protocol for the 2021-2022 academic year. The grant is on schedule.

Additionally, the Governor’s Office of Information Technology is working with CSSRC staff to develop a secure, online portal to house the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP). A prototype of the document is currently being tested and will be piloted by grantees early next year.

- **CDPS’s Wildly Important Goal (WIG) - Colorado Department of Public Safety has four Wildly Important Goals for fiscal year 2021.** One WIG is that the CSSRC training staff will work with school districts to provide exercise support (of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program or “HSEEP” exercise design and implementation) to

increase the percentage of Colorado schools with exercised school emergency operations plans (EOPs) to 95% by June 2021.

In June 2020, the number of districts reporting exercised plans was 60 and the goal was to increase that to 169 by June 2021. As of December 2020, the number of districts with an exercised EOP was 123, or 69%. Center staff will continue their outreach to districts to accomplish the final goal of 169 by the end of the school year. However, the CSSRC realizes that with the continuation of COVID outbreaks, schools have had to pivot between in-person, online, and hybrid teaching models, so any additional requirements may be more difficult to implement.

- **Regional Training Consultants (RTCs)** - A 1331 supplemental budget request approved over the summer of 2019 authorized the CSSRC to hire four Regional Training Consultants (RTCs) to serve the four corners of the state. By October of 2019, three experienced school counselors were on hand in the Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest regions, serving approximately 25 school districts each. The fourth RTC proved difficult to hire. One consultant left in April of 2020 and, due to budget constraints that required a slowdown in hiring at CDPS, the Center has served the state with only two RTCs, in the Northeast and Northwest regions of the state, for the remainder of 2020.

These mental health professionals consult with schools on all aspects of psychological safety and, with added training, have assisted with physical safety issues as well. The districts within their regions have appreciated the added support, as evidenced by the number of requests received for training and consultation.

- **Collaborative Impact Initiative on School Safety** - The CSSRC assumed the facilitator's role with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, the I Love U Guys Foundation, and the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation, as these agencies began the process of identifying the best practices in the five preparedness missions of school safety: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. One outcome of this work will be a Colorado School Safety Academy, scheduled for June 2021. This will be an opportunity for districts to have a School Safety Specialist trained by all four of these agencies, as well as other school safety partners in Colorado.
- **COVID Response** - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) took responsibility for providing health-related materials to school staff during the COVID crisis. They also spearheaded plans for reopening schools in September 2020. Meanwhile, the Center worked behind the scenes, providing resources related to school safety and coordinating messages between the Division of Fire Prevention and Control and school safety directors. Additionally, CSSRC staff continued their longstanding role of facilitating networking meetings for school mental health providers as they supported students and staff. CSSRC has also helped enhance relationships between Partners for Children's Mental Health and Mental Health Colorado in their efforts to support school mental health professionals as well.
- **Providing Training, Consultation, and Resources** – The Center provides both regional and school site trainings across the state throughout the year.

- **Regional Trainings** - Center staff co-hosted one in-person regional training with the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation in January before the COVID-19 virus hit. This was a conference with Professor Bernie James, J.D., who reviewed school safety laws in Colorado.
- For the remainder of the calendar year, all regional trainings were held virtually. These included the following.
  - The Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium. Four plenary sessions were conducted with 55 participants online in June of 2020.
  - The CSSRC hosted the I Love U Guys Foundation for a safety workshop on September 17, 2020. With a newly-revised Standard Response Protocol, 262 school professionals participated in this half-day training.
  - The annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit was converted to a Speakers' Series held on the first four Fridays in October during Safe Schools Month. Three hundred thirty-eight participants attended the four sessions, with many of them attending multiple sessions.
  - In November, Terri Erbacher, Ph.D., presented a virtual workshop on the CSSRC Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit, created with documents from *Suicide in Schools*, which she co-authored. One hundred sixty-three school professionals participated in the four-hour training session. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

- The previously very popular Student/Staff Summits were replicated with a one-day virtual workshop for middle and high school students in early December. Although over 200 students and staff registered, 150 participated at some time during the Summit and heard a keynote presentation by Ersaleen Hope from the Division of Criminal Justice in CDPS on equity, diversity, and inclusion as foundational building blocks to school safety. They also heard a plenary from a Federal Bureau of Investigation Victim Specialist, who described risk factors and warning signs of human trafficking. She was accompanied by a high school senior who created an anti-trafficking nonprofit when she saw the warning signs in a peer. Students also participated in three plenaries on school safety topics chosen by the CSSRC's youth council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES<sup>2</sup>), co-presented by staff and YES<sup>2</sup> team members.
- **School Site Training** - Along with the regional trainings, the CSSRC continues to provide various staff development, topic-focused trainings, and consultations in individual districts, public, private, and charter schools across the state.

Staff delivered virtual training from April through December. One thousand six hundred sixty-six (1,666) participants were served with 18 topics in 91 workshops. The added advantage of these online workshops was the ability for Center staff to reach teachers who previously had little opportunity to attend in-person regional trainings due to the inability of districts to provide substitute teachers.

In 2020, 218 total training sessions or workshops were provided or co-hosted on a variety of school safety topics. Five thousand four hundred thirty-six (5,436) participants were trained in 2020, bringing the total number of people trained since the Center opened to 58,450.

- **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. By 2019, the Center had a menu of 17 online courses. It was decided in 2020 that staff time would be utilized to review and update all courses. All seventeen courses were reviewed, current data and resources were added, and narration was changed where needed. This work will continue into 2021.

The Resource Specialist took the time to learn the software so that he will be able to create new online courses for the Center with content from staff. This will be a huge savings to the Center, as previously all online courses were created via contracts with an outside software developer. To date, the seventeen online courses have been accessed by approximately 14,440 people.

- **Consultation and Collaborations** - The CSSRC staff made 5,975 contacts in 2020. Of those contacts, 361 direct consultations were provided to individual schools/districts, agencies, or parents through the second week of December. The Center also collaborated on 114 occasions with other state agencies on school safety issues.
- **Resources** - With the COVID virus and most trainings being virtual, the Center still distributed 20,631 copies of 233 school safety-related resources, demonstrating the continued utilization of the Center as a Colorado resource.

- **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 <https://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter> or <https://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>.

- 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 5,678 members representing various stakeholder groups around the state. The newsletter includes school safety news and resources and highlights upcoming training and grant opportunities.
- In 2012, the Center initiated a Twitter account, which can be found at <https://twitter.com/CoSSRC>, to update followers between issues of the E-Update. At the peak in 2020, there have been 1,087 followers of the CSSRC Twitter account.

- **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. In 2020, Center staff have ongoing relationships with 37 organizations and presented at 15 statewide conferences or regional meetings of other agencies.

During the 2020 calendar year, four working groups continued to support Colorado schools. Members of these groups reviewed the threat assessment documents the CSSRC utilized for the STOP Grant and provided feedback as the Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit was rolled out. The youth council, Youth Engaged for School Safety, led the planning of the Student/Staff Summit workshops, and the Institutions of Higher Education working group initiated, and continues to work on, safety considerations for concurrently enrolled students.

## Looking Forward

Undoubtedly, 2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most schools sent students home in mid-March to be taught remotely. A patchwork of teaching configurations unfolded across the state in the fall 2020 semester to open schools either in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of the two.

Almost immediately after the stay-at-home order was issued in the spring, CSSRC staff switched from in-person to virtual training, reaching more diverse participants than previously. Virtual trainings, open to all, continued monthly from September through November.

With the virus still infecting hundreds of thousands of Coloradans as 2020 comes to a close, Center staff expect to continue to provide training electronically for the remainder of the academic year. The 2021 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium set for February is now scheduled as a virtual event.

Knowing the toll the virus and its uncertainties have caused, the CSSRC has scheduled a resiliency workshop for school staff in March of 2021 provided by the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS TA) of the U.S. Department of Education. In the meantime, the Center will continue to provide virtual training and consultations to any schools that request services. The CDPS WIG of having most of the 178 school districts with an emergency operations plan that has been exercised within the last year is well on its way to completion. Final numbers are due June 2021.

Work on the BJA STOP Violence Grant will continue. In September of 2020, staff began the final phase of the project, training an additional 30 schools using the Colorado Threat Assessment & Management Protocol (CTAMP). Five of the additional thirty sites have already been trained and recruitment for the other districts will continue in 2021 and 2022.

Center staff are excited to be offering the first Colorado School Safety Academy in the spring of 2021. Work on the curriculum started in the summer of 2020. The Center and their partners from the I Love U Guys Foundation, the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Safe2Tell, and other agencies will be ready to launch this in June.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter](http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter) or [www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC](http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC)

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Department of Public Safety

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# Legislative Report 2020

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 2020. Additional information may be obtained through the CSSRC website: <https://www.colorado.gov/cssrc>.

## 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
<b>Kelly Abbott</b>	Representative of CDPS	Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance, CDPS	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Sarah Brummett</b>	Office of Suicide Prevention Director	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</i>
<b>Greg Busch</b>	Emergency Management Director	Colorado Community College System	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Community College System</i>
<b>Michael Dougherty</b>	District Attorney	20th Judicial District	<i>Governor</i>
<b>Stacey Dodge Interim Representative</b>	Program Manager	Safe2Tell, Colorado Department of Law	<i>Attorney General</i>
<b>Steven Fast, Secretary</b>	Executive Director	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Carolena Guiral Steen</b>	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mountain School District 12	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
<b>Jamie Haukeness</b>	Principal	Cortez Middle School	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Kelly Jacobsen</b>	School Resource Officer	Westminster Police Department	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Christina Larson</b>	Field Manager, NW Region	Colorado Department of Education	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
<b>Matt Lewis</b>	Sheriff	Mesa County	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Lorrie Odom</b>	VP for Programs	Colorado PTA	<i>Governor</i>
<b>Kathy Plomer</b>	Board of Education, Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Colorado Association of School Boards	<i>Colorado Association of School Boards</i>
<b>Mark Pokorny</b>	Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager	Metropolitan State University of Denver	<i>Executive Director of Commission on Higher Education</i>
<b>Sheldon Rosenkrance</b>	Superintendent	Estes Park School District R-3	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>

<b>Jenny Schoen</b>	Teacher	Littleton Public Schools	<i>Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Meghan Shelton</b>	Program Manager	Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health	<i>Executive Director of Human Services</i>
<b>Melanie Voegeli-Morris</b>	Mental Health & Prevention Coordinator	Poudre School District	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
<b>Chris Wilderman, Chairman</b>	Director - Safe & Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 Five Star School District	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>

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, minutes, and bylaws are posted on the Center website: <https://www.colorado.gov/cssrc>.

## Vision and Mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

The vision and mission of the Center align with the legislative directive and were confirmed by the CSSRC Advisory Board in March 2009. 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 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.

During the 2020-21 school year preliminary data from CDE reports a 3.3% decrease in school enrollment with 883,281 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools in our state, from 185 local education agencies (LEAs). The largest decreases were in the earlier grades with 8,009 fewer students in preschool and 5,798 fewer kindergarten students. The number of students reported as homeschooled almost doubled, with 14,773 students counted this fall compared to 7,880 in 2019. A total of 32,321 students registered in online educational programs this year for a 44% increase from 2019.

Fifteen districts are considered metro Denver with an additional 17 classified as urban-suburban. That leaves the remaining 146 of the 178 districts considered outlying city, town, or remote. Eighty-eight districts have a student population of less than 500. The Center staff concentrate their focus on these rural districts since, in most cases, they need more school safety resources. This focus has been enhanced by having Regional Training Consultants more geographically available to many of our rural communities.

There are 1,914 public schools in Colorado, of which there are 1,109 elementary schools, 286 middle schools, and 519 high schools. In the Colorado higher education system, there are 31 public two- and four-year institutions and an additional 457 private institutions and technical schools. In prior years, they have educated approximately 406,037 students. The count for 2020-21 has not yet been updated. 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 2020, 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, as well as conducting site assessments. 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. Ms. Ochoa facilitates the Child Sexual Abuse Symposium, among many other duties, and co-coordinates the youth council (YES<sup>2</sup>) with the School Outreach Consultant.

Dustin Hunter, MA, serves as the Center's School Outreach Consultant, providing consultation with schools and others concerned with psychological school safety. He also provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need, establishing and maintaining networks. With a master's degree in psychology, Mr. Hunter concentrates on prevention and response phases of school safety. He co-facilitates the Center's youth advisory council (YES<sup>2</sup>) with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. He joined the Center in August, 2017.

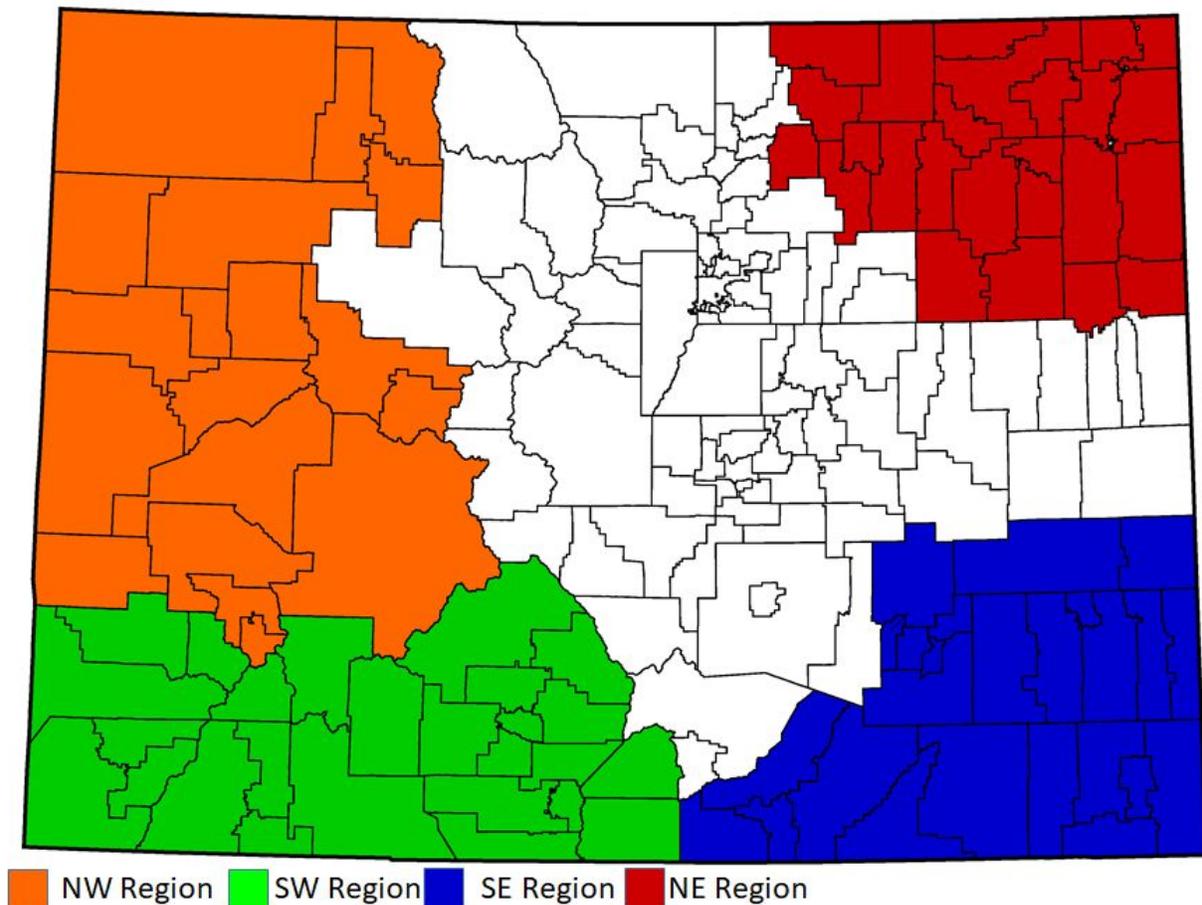
The Program Assistant position is held by Melissa Rubeo, who joined the Center in February of 2017 from the Department of Regulatory Agencies. Ms. Rubeo provides a wide variety of general support for the Center and staff, including supporting the Center's fiscal accountability through budgetary management, acquisition of office resources, organization and oversight of meetings and trainings, creation of materials, and communication with the general public and listserv members.

Isaac Baah serves at the Center's Resource Specialist. Mr. Baah's duties include identifying, acquiring, and reviewing resources, consulting about those resources, managing the website, overseeing social media, and assisting with the planning and delivery of school safety trainings and workshops. Mr. Baah joined the Center in this capacity in August of 2019, having come from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

With a 1331 supplemental budget request approved by the Joint Budget Committee in June 2019, the Center acquired four new positions of Regional Training Consultants. To date, two of these positions are filled. Jamie Soucie, MS, 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 as the Northeast Regional Training Consultant. Kati Garner, M.Ed., who came from Mesa County Valley School District 51, where she was a school counselor and director of the district's crisis team, serves the Northwest region of the state. Ms. Garner serves school districts in Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Pitkin, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, Mesa, and Montrose counties.

With the hiring freeze in CDPS due to budget shortfalls from the COVID crisis, the two remaining Regional Training Consultant positions will stay vacant for now. 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 Center had been a line item in the state budget since its inception in 2008. In FY 2020, the budget was approximately \$1,040,256. With the severe state budget shortfall due to COVID, the Joint Budget Committee decided to fund the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in FY2021 from the School Safety Center's Cash Fund. The Cash Fund is mainly the result of untapped funding from two 2018 school safety grants and the remaining funds from minimal charges to CSSRC regional workshops which accumulated over the last five years. At the start of FY2021, the total remaining in that Cash Fund was approximately \$2,717,000. This is projected to support the Center for almost three fiscal years.

### Activities of the Center

In 2020, 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. With virtual training, resources have been shared electronically this year. In light of the social justice conversations across the country, CSSRC took advantage of experts within the Division of Criminal Justice to observe many of the Center's virtual workshops and make suggestions on enhancing the cultural sensitivity of those offerings.

The details of the Center's 2020 activities follow:

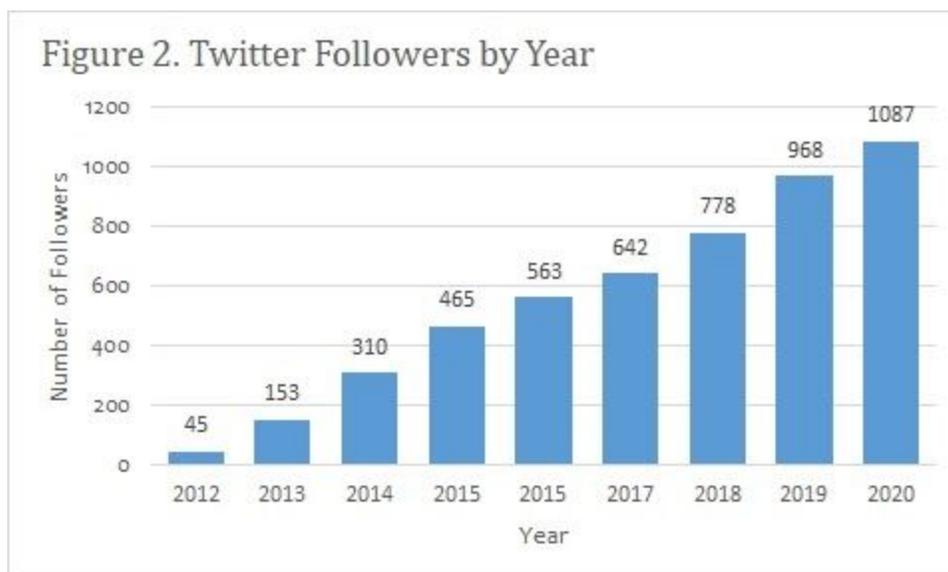
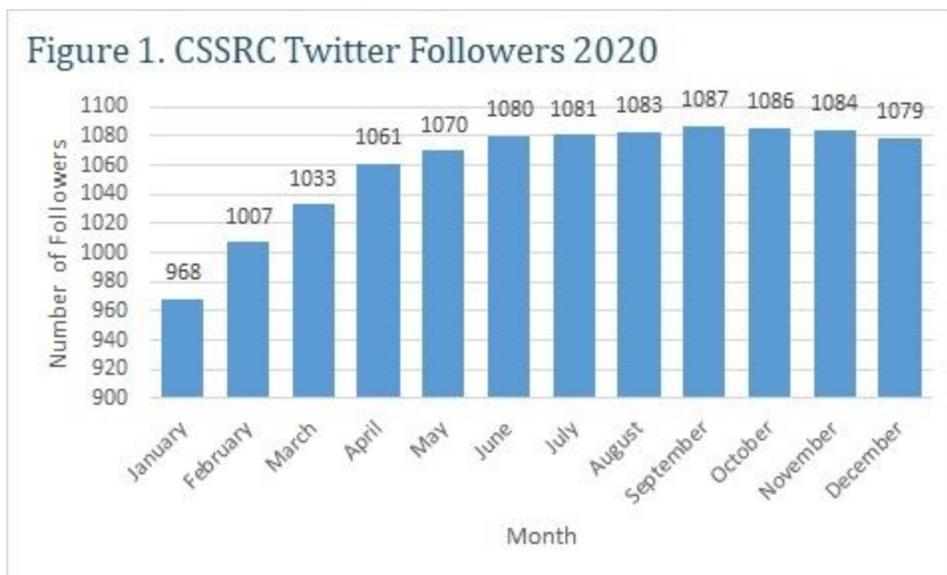
## Outreach

### CSSRC E-Update

A listserv for the CSSRC was created in August 2009 and has a current database containing over 5,678 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 2020, 8,721 Twitter messages had been posted. In 2020, at its peak, 1,087 followed the CSSRC Twitter account, which can be found at <https://twitter.com/CoSSRC>.



## Direct Outreach to Colorado Schools

Below is a list of the schools, districts, institutions of higher education, and other programs which received direct services as a unit from the Center staff during 2020. It does not include individuals from multiple districts who participated in virtual workshops, as they were not required to sign up with their district name.

Figure 3. CSSRC Training Activities by Location and Agency

<u>Denver Metro</u>	<u>Outlying Town</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
Adams 12	Archuleta County 50 Jt	University of Denver
Cherry Hills Christian	Bayfield 10 Jt-R	Colorado State University
Douglas County RE-1	Brush RE-2(J)	
Evergreen Country Day School	East Grand 2	<b>BOCES</b>
Mapleton 1	Eaton RE-2	Northeast BOCES
Regis Jesuit High School	Gunnison Watershed RE-1J	Pikes Peak BOCES
Rocky Mountain Deaf School	Holyoke Re-1J	San Juan BOCES
Sheridan 2	Huerfano Re-1	Santa Fe Trails BOCES
Stanley British Primary School	Julesburg Re-1	
	Lake County R-1	<b>Others</b>
<b>Urban-Suburban</b>	Las Animas RE-1	Arapahoe County. Family Childcare Providers
Academy 20	Rocky Ford R-2	Assn. of Colorado Independent Schools
Colorado Early Colleges- Inverness	Summit RE-1	Colorado Assn. of Private Schools
Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	Vision Charter Academy	Colorado Assn. of School Executives
Colorado Springs 11	West Grand 1-JT	Colorado Dept. of Education
Colorado Springs Charter Academy	Windsor RE-4	Colorado School Counselors Associations
Cheyenne Mountain 12	Woodland Park Re-2	Colorado Society of School Psychologists
Fountain Valley School	Yuma 1	El Paso School Pillar
GOAL Academy Network		Spring Creek Youth Services Center
Golden View Classical Academy	<b>Remote</b>	TACT (Teaching the Autism Community Trades)
Greeley 6	Branson Reorganized 82	Teton County School District #1 (Jackson, WY)
Harrison 2	Cheraw 31	<b>Total: 83</b>
Manitou Springs 14	Dolores RE-4A	
Mesa County Valley 51	Dolores County RE No.2	
New Legacy Charter School	Gilpin County RE-1	
Thompson R2-J	Hoehne Reorganized 3	
	Ignacio 11 JT	
<b>Outlying City</b>	Mancos Re-6	
Canon City RE-1	McClave Re-2	
Durango 9-R	Moffat 2	
Fort Morgan Re-3	North Park R-1	
Moffat County RE: No 1	Pawnee RE-12	
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1	Plateau RE-5	
Steamboat Springs RE-2	Prairie RE-11	
Valley RE-1	Vilas RE-5	
	Walsh RE-1	
	Wiley RE-13Jt	

## 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 2020-21 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 presented at the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) and the Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) annual conferences.

In 2020, one of the Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for the Colorado Department of Public Safety has been for the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) training staff to work with school districts to provide exercise design and implementation support to increase the number of districts with exercised emergency operations plans to 95% by June 30, 2021. To that end, the CSSRC redistributed the 2019 Needs Assessment to all schools in Colorado via email.

Center staff then created five tabletop exercises and offered to facilitate those in districts that had not exercised their emergency operations plans within the last year. By the end of December, the number of districts with exercised plans had increased to 123, or 69%. The Center will continue these efforts through the remainder of this academic year and beyond, if necessary.

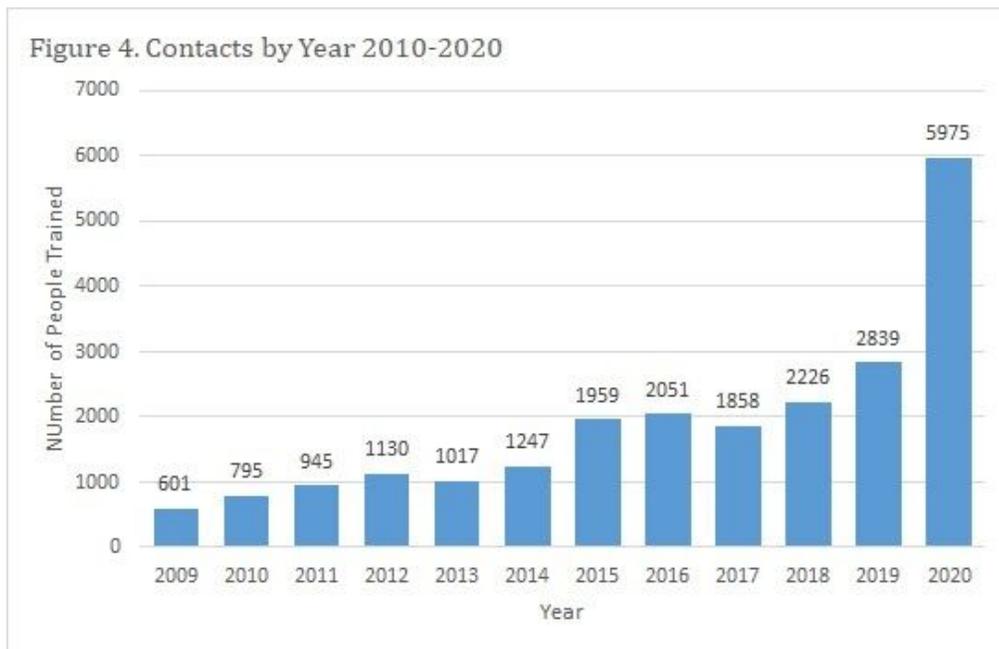
### CSSRC Contacts, Consultations, and Collaborations

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 5,975 contacts, including phone consultations, meetings, emails, assistance with training registrations, and site visits were conducted during the 2020 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information. This represents the total workload of the Center and this data helps the staff track that workload. Figure 4 (below) 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 2020 included only contacts with school personnel, parents, or agency professionals when staff have given resources, information on best practices, or suggestions for training that would be helpful to their site. Consultations totaled 361 by the second week of December, 2020. Please also see the chart Figure 3 above for the schools that have had CSSRC staff directly serve their sites.

Center staff also tracked collaborations with other state agencies that serve youth and schools. These collaborations totaled 114 in 2020. CSSRC staff work closely with CDE, CDPHE’s Office of Suicide Prevention and Office of Violence and Injury Prevention, CDHS’s Office of Behavioral Health, and the Colorado Attorney General’s Office of Safe2Tell, among others.



## 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 first-of-the-month meetings are facilitated by the Director of the National School Safety Association (NSSA). The CSSRC Director was invited to facilitate a mid-monthly meeting of the NSSA. These meetings began in April 2020 and Director Harms continues to host them monthly.

Ms. Harms also presented a virtual workshop for the Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health. This conference is hosted by the National Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, partially funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Director Harms presented on the CSSRC's new Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit. Her Colorado co-presenters were from Partners for Children's Mental Health, supported by the Colorado Children's Hospital, and Mental Health Colorado. A link to the workshop can be found [here](#).

Mr. Stiles, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, also participated virtually in a national Public School Security Simulation Experiment, or SIMEX, for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Experimentation Laboratory. This experiment may lead to further developments in best practices in school safety.

The School Outreach Consultant, Mr. Dustin Hunter, and Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, Mr. Stiles, were requested by the Teton County School District in Jackson, WY, to conduct a Threat Assessment training. This training was executed in March of 2020 and resulted in 37 district employees being trained.

Ms. Garner, the Northwest Regional Training Consultant, was requested to present two virtual Secondary Traumatic Stress workshops for Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, for their School Counseling Internship Students. These trainings were provided in November of 2020 and resulted in 23 internship students being trained.

## Training

### Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP Grant

Since shortly after the Center's inception in December 2008, staff have taken a lead role in facilitating threat assessment training for Colorado schools. In an effort to enhance the work already done in Colorado and five other states, the Center applied for a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant in the summer of 2019.

In October of 2019, the Center was awarded a \$999,987 grant from the BJA, known as the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP) Grant. The CSSRC staff spent the winter and spring of 2020 refining the Colorado Threat Assessment & Management Protocol (CTAMP). Over the summer, trainers conducted workshops for the first five pilot sites. With the assistance of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) of the University of Colorado Boulder as the qualitative evaluators of the project, improvements were made to the procedures and protocol before embarking on the training for an additional 30 sites.

Trainers from CSSRC and CSPV conducted six more rounds of training in the fall and will continue into January 2021. Trained teams will gather data on their threat assessments over the next two years in an effort to evaluate their experiences with the project, and a final report will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice by the end of 2022.

Additionally, the Governor's Office of Information Technology is working with CSSRC staff to develop a secure, online portal to house the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP), as well as the Response, Management, and Support (RMS) Plans, which are always developed after a threat assessment is conducted on any student. A prototype of the online document is currently being tested and will be piloted by grantees early next year.

The expectation is that the newly-refined CTAMP will be a more efficient and effective method of identifying and supporting students initially thought to be at-risk. The statewide portal to house the assessments and the RMS plans will make it easier for districts to share information vital to providing individual students with additional assistance and creating safe environments for all. A future grant project would be undertaken to prove the CTAMP as an evidence-based protocol for Colorado and the nation.

## 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 usually hosted in multiple locations to allow for maximum attendance from various school districts, with deference to their limited budgets and funding for travel. However, in this year of COVID, except for co-hosting a regional training in January with the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation, all other regional trainings were virtual. If there has been a silver lining to remote work, it has been the Center's ability to extend its reach through technology.

### Colorado School Safety Law - January 24th (Cable Center, Denver)

Professor Bernard "Bernie" James, J.D., of the Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law, spent a half-day in January reviewing and updating school personnel and law enforcement officers on the school safety laws in Colorado. The School Safety Resource Center had been asked by the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation to co-sponsor the event, which the Center was happy to do. Two hundred sixty (260) were registered for the workshop.

### Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium - June 11th

Using a plenary-only format, this IHE Symposium highlighted the recent changes made by the U.S. Department of Education on Title IX, considerations for concurrently enrolled students, utilizing drones on college campuses for large scale events, and the subculture of incels. The Center appreciated the assistance of CSSRC Advisory Board member Greg Busch as one of the excellent presenters. All four workshops were enthusiastically received, but the number of participants was disappointing with only 55 in attendance. However, as this annual workshop is highly anticipated by many of our partners, it will continue in 2021.

Comments from participants:

- "Thanks to the CSSRC team for making this happen virtually."
- "Good symposium. Thank you for organizing it."
- "Very thorough."

### I Love U Guys - SRP 2021 Updates - September 17th

In mid-September, the Center was pleased to host a workshop by the I Love U Guys Foundation (ILUG), highlighting their updates to the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Foundation Executive Director John-Michael Keyes also walked the participants through the Standard Reunification Method and shared a dashboard to keep schools updated on their COVID cases within their geographic regions. This half-day workshop drew 262 participants, including attendees from at least 13 other states. The audience very much appreciated the information, as evidenced by their evaluation comments:

- "This was very informative and helpful. Thank you!"
- "I'm new to this field. It was a great training and helped me to better understand."
- "Great presentation, very well put together, great information, great speaker!"

### Colorado Safe Schools' Month/Speakers' Series - October 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

Governor Polis declared October Safe Schools Month in Colorado. Usually, the Center marks this occasion with a two-day in-person Summit. Fortunately, staff had anticipated the need to remain virtual and requested the four scheduled keynoters to present remotely on the first four Fridays of October instead. The presenters agreed and the Speakers' Series was launched. With lower overhead costs, the Center was able to present the series at no cost to those in attendance.

- The first lecture featured Marc Schoen, Ph.D., and author of *Your Survival Instinct is Killing You*. Dr. Schoen enhanced the group's understanding of stress reduction in times of fear, then shared a resiliency exercise.
- Week two featured Jason Kilmer, Ph.D., from the University of Washington. His workshop, "Emerging Science on Cannabis: Implications for Schools, Parents, and Prevention," enlightened the audience on current marijuana research.

- Nick Thompson, MSW, a blogger and much sought-after speaker on adolescent behavior, captivated the audience on October 16th. His overview of the adolescent brain and innate drives helped those working with youth understand the difficulties presented by isolation during the pandemic.
- The Series was successfully brought to a close with Madelyn Gould, Ph.D., from Columbia University. Dr. Gould is an expert on suicide contagion among teens and shared the latest research on this topic.

Attendance varied each week and it is assumed that many people watched all four sessions. The total for the four weeks of the Series was 338 participants.

### CSSRC Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit Symposium - November 19th

The Center staff spent months researching suicide risk assessment and monitoring documents, as many districts in the state did not have reliable tools. Dustin Hunter, the School Outreach Consultant, discovered the book *Suicide in Schools: A Practitioner's Guide to Multi-level Prevention, Assessment, Intervention, and Postvention* written by Terri Erbacher, Ph.D.; Scott Poland, Ph.D.; and Jonathan Singer, Ph.D. After contacting the authors, the Center was given permission to utilize the documents from the revised 2020 version of the book to create a Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit for Colorado school mental health providers.

Dr. Erbacher was gracious enough to arrange a half-day presentation in November to walk professionals through the toolkit. One hundred sixty-three (163) professionals participated in this half-day workshop and a poll at the end of the session showed a marked increase in confidence moving forward with using the toolkit.

Comments from the participants included:

- “This was well done. This is my first experience taking any training from your agency. I will not miss any opportunity to learn from anything your agency offers. Thank you!”
- “I appreciate the ability to access this training. Had it been an in-person training it is likely that I would not have been able to attend.”
- “Thank you! An invaluable training and resource!”

### Student/Staff Safety Summit - December 10th

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 YES<sup>2</sup>) funding to conduct more in-person workshops in both 2018 and 2019.

Not to be deterred by COVID, the Center staff went virtual with the Student/Staff Safety Summit in 2020. The youth council took a great deal of responsibility for the Summit. They requested a keynote speaker to discuss cultural responsiveness and school safety and Ersaleen Hope, an equity, diversity, and inclusivity trainer from the Division of Criminal Justice within CDPS, agreed to provide the morning keynote address. Then everyone participated in three workshops on other safety topics chosen by the youth council and presented by CSSRC staff and YES<sup>2</sup> students.

The day ended with an inspiring presentation by Colorado high school student Kyra Dooley and FBI Victim Specialist Anne Darr on the ability of youth to positively impact their communities. Specifically, Ms. Dooley discussed the efforts of a nonprofit organization she founded to assist in combating human trafficking. Ms. Darr supplemented the presentation with FBI information on risk factors and warning signs of trafficking, as well as education to prevent internet luring of youth.

Two hundred fifteen (215) participants, staff, and YES<sup>2</sup> students were registered for the day with 150 participating at some point during the six hours. Even virtually, the student participation was phenomenal. Here are some of the comments from those in attendance:

- “It was really informative, engaging, and interesting. I personally really enjoyed it, so thank you all for all your hard work in making this happen!!”
- “Thank you for bringing all of this together today. It was great to hear from the students also to hear about their opinion/approach or their involvement with the various topics.”

- “I cannot wait until next year and I truly hope it is in person! My students were messaging me the whole day about all that they were learning. “

We will be repeating this in 2021.

## 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 when possible. In 2020, from April through December, school trainings were done virtually. The numbers and types of workshops or presentations offered by CSSRC staff are summarized below. Future workshops will be developed based upon survey results, priority of needs, requests, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the total number of trainings provided in 2020. The Center delivered 218 training opportunities in 2020. The workshops have been well-received and there continue to be requests for training by various groups. The trainings include the STOP Grant workshops, the October Speakers’ Series, regional trainings, conference presentations, and individual virtual trainings offered from April until December, as well as those presentations for 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 others across Colorado, continue to raise the profile of the CSSRC and increase the services requested.

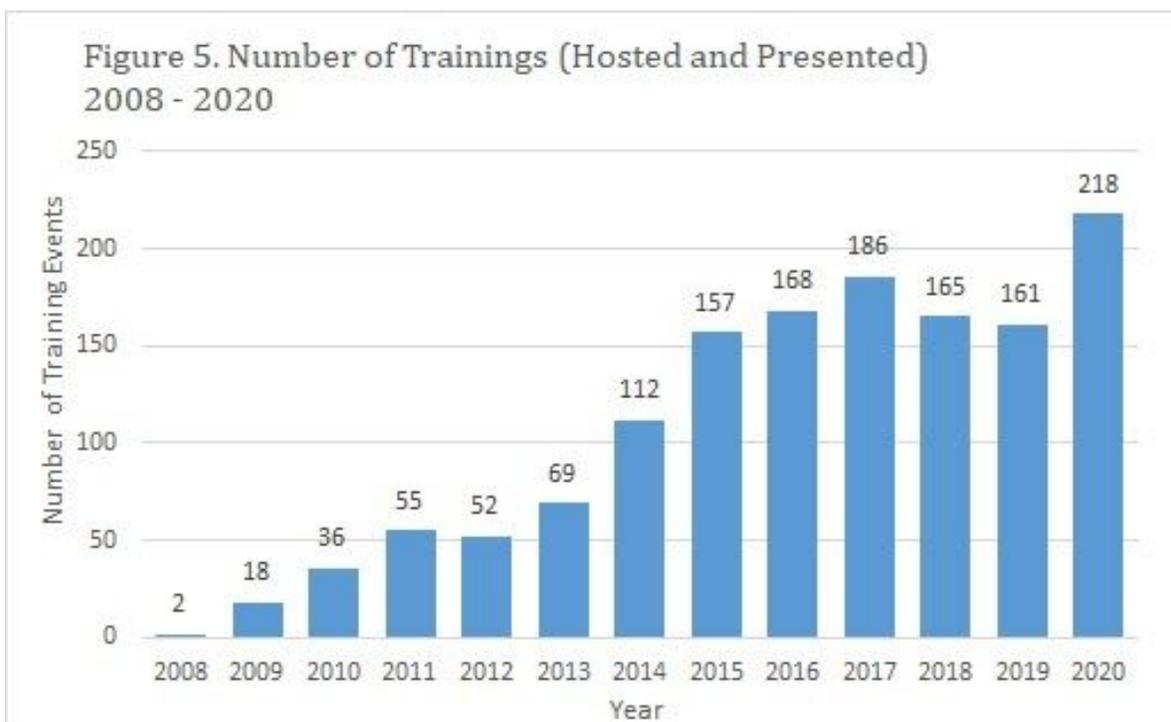


Figure 6 shows the number of training participants in 2020, which was 5,436. Since the Center’s inception in 2008, 58,450 participants have attended a training event or workshop presented by the CSSRC. Each year, the number of people trained varies, partly with the quantity of trainings provided and partly with the location of the trainings and district circumstances. Being able to provide virtual workshops has increased not only the number of opportunities for school staff to attend and participate, but allows the Center to have a greater reach across the state.

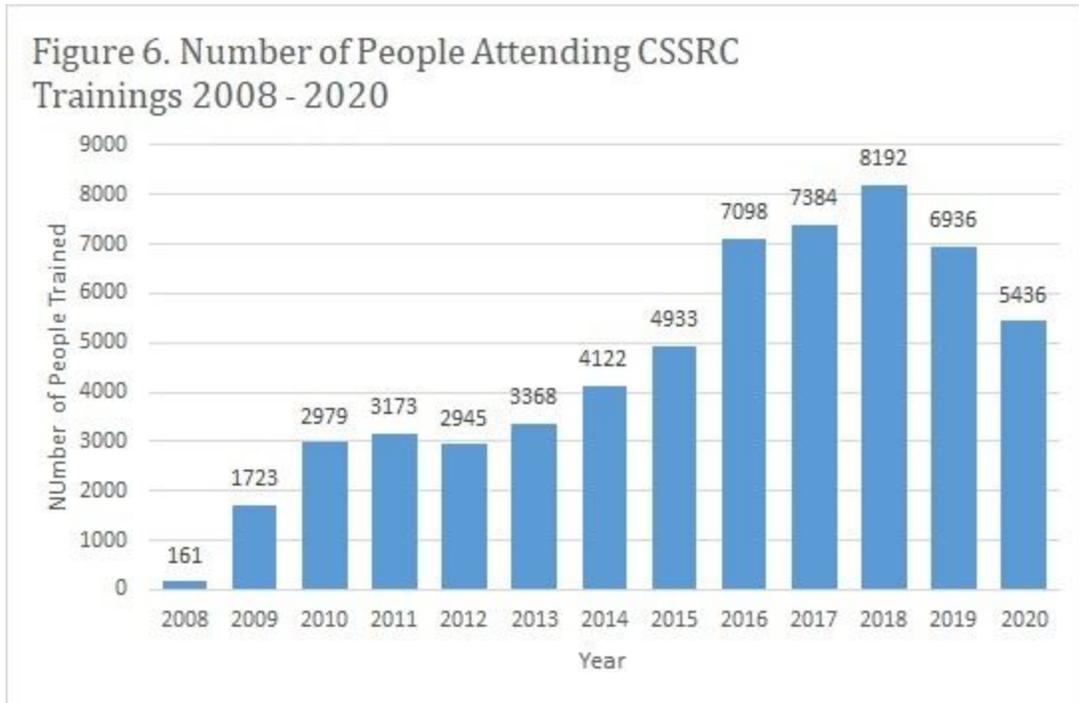


Figure 7 is a breakdown of the training events last year by training topic.

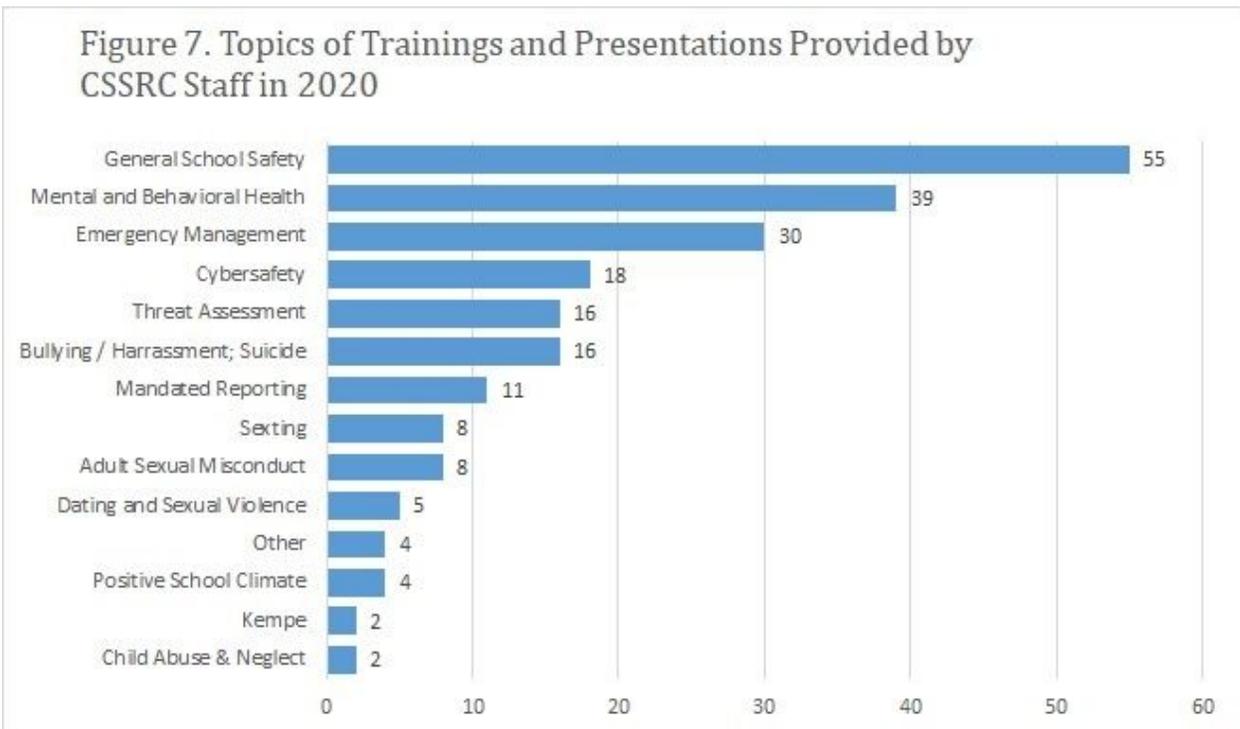
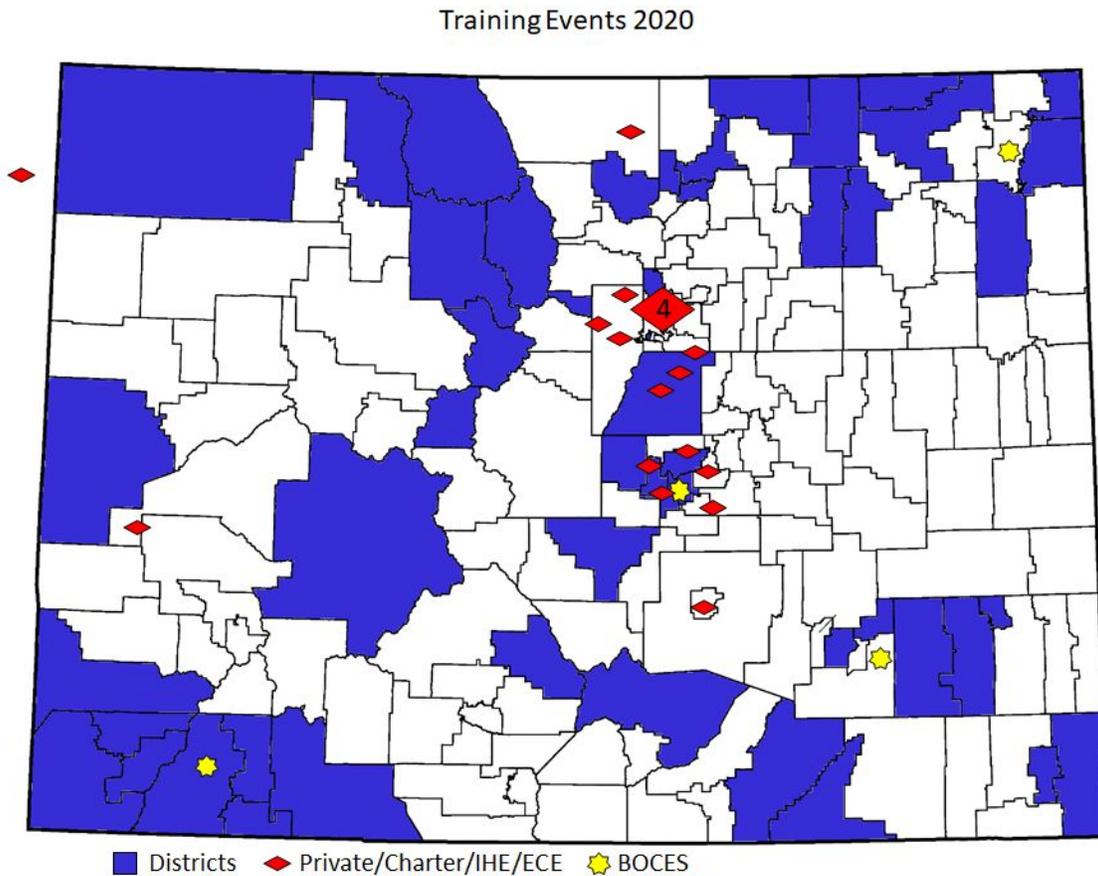


Figure 8 outlines the school districts in Colorado with the colored portions showing the locations of all CSSRC outreach and training activities in 2020.

Figure 8- Locations of all CSSRC Outreach and Training Activities in 2020



### Statewide Conferences & Regional Presentations

In addition to regional and site-specific training, staff continue to be invited to present at statewide conferences. However, with COVID, many of the statewide conferences were cancelled or the number of presentations were limited and, therefore, CSSRC staff presented at fewer in 2020. This year, staff presented at conferences for the following organizations:

- Arapahoe Family Childcare Association
- Association of Colorado Independent Schools
- Colorado Association of Private Schools
- Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)
- Colorado Department of Education - Regional Meetings
  - Northeast
  - Southeast
  - Northwest
  - North Central
  - West Center
  - Metro
  - Southwest
  - Pikes Peak
  - Schools of Choice
- Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)
- Strengthening Colorado Families Conference

## 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. Because it has been eight years since the first courses were posted, and due to COVID-related budget limitations, staff decided this spring/summer to spend time updating all 17 courses instead of adding any new ones.

The training staff reviewed the courses, updated information and resources and then handed them over to the Resource Specialist, Isaac Baah. Mr. Baah has been working with other CDPS staff to learn the software in order to make the necessary changes to the courses. The learning curve has been enormous, but, when completed, Mr. Baah will have the expertise to design and implement new courses for the Center and eliminate the costly step of contracting with an outside vendor. Staff plan to add two more courses in 2021.

All online courses (with the exception of *Sexting*, as described below) are exclusively hosted through the Colorado TRAIN system ([www.CO.Train.org](http://www.CO.Train.org)). The CO TRAIN system is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a comprehensive 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. The Center has been informed that one district is requiring a number of these online courses be completed by their new school security staff as part of their initial training.

View Figures 9 and 10 with the understanding that the metrics do 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 Child Welfare Training System (CWTS). Those learners are able to print a certificate for their diversion/probation officer, but are not counted by CWTS. The Center has not been provided analytics regarding the number of youth that completed *Sexting* and/or provided evidence of that through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 9. Online Course Participant Summary 2012-2020

Online Course Title	2020 Participants	Total Participants to Date
Adolescent Development	108	997
Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	238	2258
Bullying Prevention and Intervention Under Colorado Law	100	1149
Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event	24	376
Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	188	826
Informed Supervision for Schools	148	191
Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	605	1904
Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	571	2058
Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	45	224
Proactive School Discipline (online)	76	596
School Security Personnel: Emergency Management	158	898
School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications	98	624
School Security Personnel: Observation Skills and Incident Reporting	96	919
School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics	160	639
*Sexting: What You Need to Know	51	255
Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs	222	342
Youth and Marijuana in Colorado	137	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,025</b>	<b>14,440</b>

\**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 have included:

- “Excellent overview of adolescence. Straight forward information (helpful reminders too!) for anyone working with adolescents.” (**Adolescent Development**)
- “This was very useful beginning knowledge to identify mental health in a school setting.” (**Basic Mental Health**)
- “Great presentations of materials and courses were easy to interact with and follow.” (**Bullying Prevention & Intervention Under Colorado Law**)
- “Good info for front office staff. Stresses the importance of preparedness.” (**Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers**)
- “Very helpful in clarifying the proper steps and methods to be utilized.” (**Informed Supervision**)
- “Good refresher in what to look for and report when a situation arises.” (**Making Referral to Your Threat Assessment Team**)
- “Hard material to digest, but vital for everyone to be aware of and to be educated about. We are a line of defense for children/youth and we need to be prepared to step into these hard spaces and conversations and do what is required of us to intervene and help children in an abusive relationship. This training gives you the information, tools, policies, procedures and tips to fulfill the requirements and duties we have as mandatory reporters.” (**Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff**)
- “Great outline for having a training meeting” (**Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School**)
- “Very informative course, it expanded my knowledge of the definition of sexting and how I can further educate my teenage population on what not to do while sharing things on their cell phones. Thank you.” (**Sexting : What You Need to Know**)

## Colorado School Safety Academy

After conferring with a number of other agencies within Colorado addressing school safety, including the I Love U Guys Foundation (ILUG), the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) and the Jeffco/DeAngelis Foundation, it was decided that the CSSRC would take responsibility for creating a Colorado School Safety Academy. With the initial list of best practices compiled, the Center is developing a curriculum for this academy. Based on the five preparedness missions as outlined by the U.S. Department of Education, CSSRC staff have identified the baseline areas of knowledge deemed necessary for those taking a leadership role in school safety in their districts, and begun creating the learning modules.

This academy will be a week-long, virtual training of half-day sessions for School Safety Specialists for any district/school staff who attend. The Academy is slated to open in the summer of 2021 and the partner agencies will lend their expertise to the Academy as well. Margaret Ochoa, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist at CSSRC, is taking the lead on this project.

## 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’s research and information management. However, as the state is moving to an updated web platform, a more thorough review of the website was undertaken in 2020 so the entire website can be migrated to a new platform in early 2021.

With the assistance of the Public Information Officer for CDPS, Patricia Billinger, a Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) grant has been submitted to secure a more efficient cataloguing system for the 2,000+ documents currently on the CSSRC website. The Center will learn sometime in February if the grant application was successful.

Highlights of the website include:

- Creation of a COVID Page with School Safety Resources
  - Zoom & Click Interactive Map: US Schools & Local Health Contacts
  - Resources and Guidelines
  - Grief/Loss Resources for Schools
  - Webinar Series, Videos, and Articles on COVID-19
  - Safer Schools Together (SST) COVID Toolkit
  - National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Resources for Suicide During Distance Learning
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines
  - Remote Learning Precautions (CSSRC Staff)
  - Information on Student Medications during COVID-19
- Links to Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Results (HKCS)
- Links to Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) website for the Partnership with School Personnel for receiving the latest information on emergencies, closures, and safety information.
- Training opportunities for school staff, including a calendar of national and CSSRC virtual trainings
- Federal and state resources organized according to agency and topic
- Links to Colorado school safety legislation and current grants
- Links to agencies related to school safety efforts
- New highlighted topics and features updated weekly

## 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 2020, there were approximately 73,867 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. Most Visited Pages of the CSSRC Website (Beyond the Homepage) in 2020

Page Title   Created By
Coronavirus Disease   School Safety Resource Center
Mandatory Reporting   School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Online Training   School Safety Resource Center
Guns in Schools   School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act   School Safety Resource Center
Colorado & National School Safety Training Calendar   School Safety Resource Center

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*

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. Some of the resources created by CSSRC staff this year included the following:

- Colorado Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit
- Concurrent Enrollment Resources
- Coronavirus Resource Page
- Elementary School Social Emotional Learning Activities
- Mindfulness Activities
- Organizing a School Crisis Response
- Resources for Grief
- Suicide and Non-Suicidal Self Injury Resources
- Trauma-Informed Drills Resources

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

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

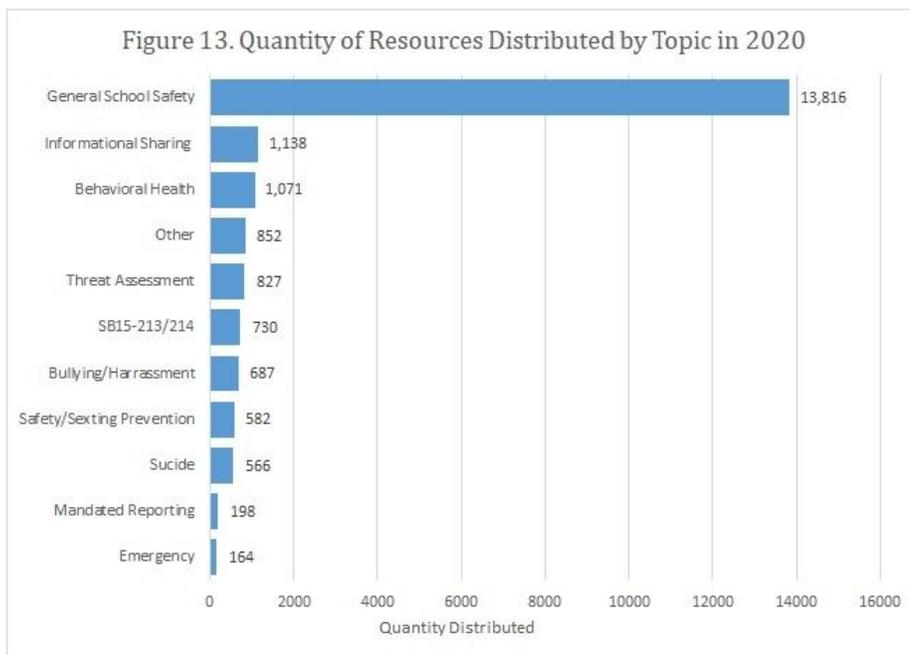
Top Countries			
Canada	Japan	Philippines	Vietnam
Germany	Liberia	Ukraine	Zambia

### Resource Acquisition and Distribution Highlights

The CSSRC staff continue to spend considerable time in research, review, and evaluation of available materials and resources for distribution to support school safety efforts. These methods of distribution are critically considered when researching materials to support safe and positive schools.

During 2020, the CSSRC researched, acquired, and distributed to colleagues and training participants 20,631 electronic copies of 233 school safety-related resources covering a variety of topics. This decrease is the result of virtual training and is in keeping with the Governor’s goal toward greener government. The expectation is for the number of hard copy resources to continue to decrease even when in-person workshops resume.

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 copies of resources by topic.



Other resources include information on COVID and information on new virtual training topics.

## Working Groups

One responsibility the Center has adopted since its inception is to facilitate working 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 2020, 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 larger group has met 12 times since 2014, and has participated in five one-day IHE Summer Safety Symposia, held in June since 2016. Two additional meetings of some of the members were held in 2020 to prepare the concurrent enrollment workshop for the June 2020 symposium.

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, as it was reported that 40,000 high school students are also taking college level courses. 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 continued into 2020, and resources were sent to all IHE participants. Additionally, this topic was one of the plenary workshops at the June 2020 IHE Summer Safety Symposium.

### Youth Advisory Council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES<sup>2</sup>)

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 YES<sup>2</sup> is to collect youth recommendations to the Colorado School Safety Resource Center's Advisory Board, staff, and other agencies about school safety issues.

The Center decided to take a different approach to engaging youth in the mission of school safety for the last three school years. Whereas past YES<sup>2</sup> participants have worked throughout the year to create a final project focused on a school safety-related topic, the three 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 and state speakers and Center staff.

This year's Student/Staff Safety Summit was held virtually on December 10th. Students from the youth council decided on the topics for the keynote addresses as well as the three CSSRC presentations. The students also presented some of the material during the workshops and collected notes on the outcomes from the presentations. A summary of the highlights from the Student/Staff Safety Summit held this year can be found on the [CSSRC website](#).

This year's youth team is also in early planning of presentations to middle school groups on what they wish they had known about access to school safety supports when they were in middle school. The students have adjusted their expectations due to pandemic restrictions, but are moving forward on project ideas.

### Suicide Intervention and Prevention Working Group

Since 2017, the CSSRC has been facilitating informal meetings of school mental health professionals, particularly to discuss suicide. Last year, the group urged the Center to create suicide risk 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. The Center, working with professionals from around

the state, 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 presented a half-day workshop on the protocols on November 19, 2020. The working group reviewed the toolkit and training on the use of the new toolkit started in the spring of 2020.

While the Center continues to facilitate these networking meetings, when asked, colleagues from Partners for Children's Mental Health and Mental Health Colorado have initiated communities of practice (CoPs) at the start of this school year. These CoPs may decrease the requests for the Center's informal meetings. The CSSRC supports and markets these CoPs. Until the suicide rates decrease, these groups 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 2019, the CSSRC, in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) and 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, and Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP) Grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant was approved for \$999,987.00 and the work began in earnest at the beginning of October of 2019.

The grant work will last three years, ending in September 2022. The evaluators from CSPV will prepare a final report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U. S. Department of Justice. 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 play a pivotal role as ongoing 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 and 2020, the ADL provided excellent materials, which the Center shared in the E-Update, to educate schools as to how to speak with students about social justice issues and 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 64 School-Based Health Centers in the state, which is an increase from 62 last year.

#### Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

The CSSRC has worked with CASB on a number of initiatives and working groups. Staff did not have an opportunity to present or participate in the CASB annual conference due to COVID this year. Kathy Plomer is the representative of CASB on the CSSRC Advisory Board and is a member of the Adams 12 Five Star School District's board.

### Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)

The CSSRC Director presented with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Safe2Tell staff at the February conference of CASE. CASE also consults with the Colorado Department of Education on recommendations for the superintendent representatives on the CSSRC Advisory Board. Representing the rural districts is Superintendent Sheldon Rosenkrance of Estes Park; and representing the Front Range districts, Carolena Steen, Ph.D., the Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District.

### 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, whose annual conference was cancelled this year. 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.

### 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. This year, CCASA was instrumental in the passage of SB20-102, which protects patients from sexually abusive medical providers. CCASA was also at the helm of the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee, which provided fifteen detailed recommendations to the Education Committees of the Colorado General Assembly and all Colorado institutions of higher education after the passage of the new Title IX Final Rule in May of 2020. This year's session was one of uncertainty and low workflow due to restrictions at the capitol, but Ms. Ochoa now serves on CCASA's Policy Committee and will have early access to information on pending legislation. The Center will continue work with CCASA to track metrics on juveniles impacted by the 2017 sexting bill, and prepare for the post-enactment review, which was tabled until 2021.

### 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. Once the pandemic is finally over, the Center plans to work with CoCERN and other state partners on training for responding to school crises. Preliminary meetings on this topic were tabled during the COVID emergency.

### 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. In 2020, staff of the CSSRC were invited to participate in the CDE Regional Meetings at the start of the new academic year.

Previously 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.

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, Christina Larson is the CDE staff member serving on the Advisory Board. Others appointed by the Commissioner of Education include Carolena Steen, Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, Melanie-Voegeli Morris, Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator for the Poudre School District, and Sheldon Rosenkrance, Superintendent of the Estes Park School District.

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. Ms. Ottenbreit and the CDE website have proven to be valuable resources to Center stakeholders.

The schools of Choice Office requested a general school safety presentation for Charter administrators. Those administrators have already reached out to the Center for additional training.

Members of the Center's staff have also begun collaborating with CDE staff on creating suicide prevention-related content for their virtual academy on multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS).

### 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 Student/Staff Safety Summits.

### Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)

The Center looks to the Division of Child Welfare for expertise regarding child abuse and neglect. Shared messaging across departments is key to consistency for stakeholders in education and beyond. When Comprehensive Sexual Health Education was passed in the 2019 session, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist began working closely with the Colorado Sexual Health Initiative (CoSHI) to make programming available to schools who are opting to offer it. The partnership ensures that Center resources reflect programs that have been approved for funding under state and federal grants.

### Office Early Childhood (OEC)

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist works with the OEC and its colleagues to stay current on trending trainings and recommendations. She served on the Planning Committee for the 2020 Strengthening Colorado Families & Communities Conference, bringing together nearly 1,000 social workers from across the state. The conference is a joint collaboration across CDHS' family support continuum and nonprofit organizations.

### Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Office of Violence and Injury Prevention

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, along with CDE, have taken the lead on providing schools with COVID information and resources since the pandemic began in March 2020. The CSSRC has contributed to their information as well as prominently displaying their website on the School Safety Center's website as instructed by the Governor's office.

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 12 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's working groups. Partners in both the Office of Suicide Prevention and Sexual Violence Prevention Program have trained at regional conferences for the Center. The Center's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist sits on the Sexual Violence Prevention Program's Advisory Workgroup.

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 of CSSRC and a representative from the Division of Criminal Justice both serve on the steering committee for the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey and the Smart Source Survey. CDPHE staff facilitate this work. These

surveys are conducted by the University of Colorado, Denver in alternating years. The surveys collect youth health and risk-related data around the state from a random sample of middle school and high school students. Both surveys are 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 has worked with Center staff to update the online courses.

More recently, as the CDPS representative on the statewide Suicide Commission, the CSSRC Director has been asked to join the CSP Wellness Coordinator on a committee to address suicide prevention among first responders.

## 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 Center meets regularly with the staff from the Human Trafficking Council and Front Range Anti-Trafficking Council (FRAC) to share resources and get updates on trends and concerns.

## Offices of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management

The Sex Offender Management Board (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.

The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) was similarly created to standardize the evaluation, treatment, and continued monitoring of domestic violence offenders to reduce recidivism and protect victims and potential victims. However, unlike the SOMB, there is no authority to create standards for juvenile treatment providers, resulting in a dearth of providers who specialize in this work. Ms. Ochoa sits on the Juvenile Treatment Providers Best Practices Working Group and its subcommittee on Legal Considerations, a collaboration of the DVOMB, Stand Up Colorado, SOMB, private juvenile treatment providers, juvenile probation officers, and school officials. The goal is to create guiding principles for providers to serve this population of juveniles, with the hope to remedy the gap. The final product is expected to be released in early 2021.

## Evidence-Based Implementation Capacity Resource Center (EPIC)

The CSSRC has called on the EPIC staff to assist with equity, diversity, and inclusion this year. The School Safety Center staff have all participated in EPIC trainings on topics such as implicit bias and microaggressions. EPIC staff have also attended CSSRC workshops and given feedback on how to make the workshops more culturally sensitive.

## 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.

With most schools either being held remotely or a combination of remote and in-person, questions have arisen about conducting drills and the construction of temporary fixtures to reduce airborne particles and promote social distancing in schools. DFPC created and disseminated documents to cover both instances with assistance from the CSSRC.

## 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 worked together in 2019 and 2020 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 oversee 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 the Center continues to serve on the grant selection committee for the SAFER grant.

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 took responsibility 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. The Center and staff from CEI have worked together on many projects in the past. With COVID, there have not been any opportunities in 2020 for collaboration.

## 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.

## Colorado Office for Victim Assistance (COVA)

COVA is a 501(c)(3) committed to fairness and healing of crime victims, their families, and communities through leadership, education, and advocacy. COVA is a recognized leader in statewide training for professionals and volunteers who work with victims of crime. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist meets quarterly with a

group of statewide trainers from COVA and its partners to promote one another's training opportunities and avoid redundancies.

### 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. This year, CSDSIP supported the Speakers' Series during Safe Schools Month. 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 Suicide Prevention Best Practices and Secondary Traumatic Stress at the 2020 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. In the past, CSSRC staff routinely presented and provided resources at the annual conference. The School Outreach Consultant was scheduled to present at the annual CSSP conference in 2020 until the event was shortened when it went virtual.

### 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 investigate domestic and international terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, and many others.

At the Student/Staff Safety Summit in December, a Victim Specialist with the Denver Division co-presented on human trafficking awareness for students, including prevention, warning signs, tips for online safety, and how young people can help.

### 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 colleagues at DCJ, the FBI, and elsewhere. FBI Victim's Specialist Anne Darr, who hosts the FRAC meetings, presented with a local high school student at the 2020 Student/Staff Safety Summit on trafficking indicators.

### Illuminate Colorado

Illuminate Colorado is a cohort of agencies whose mission is effective prevention of child maltreatment. They are the Colorado branch of Prevent Child Abuse America. 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. This year, Ms. Ochoa has met regularly with Illuminate's facilitators to enhance opportunities for training, and with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition to refine research recommendations on attitudes about child sexual abuse, and use the data for next spring's child abuse prevention campaign. Illuminate also collaborated to present the Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference in 2020. Ms. Ochoa sat on that planning committee and Ms. Garner was a presenter.

### 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. They also presented at a number of the Student/Staff Safety Summits prior to 2020.

## Partners for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH)

PCMH is a recently 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 has been focusing on youth suicide in Colorado. Staff from PCMH have worked 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. The mental health staff from CSSRC attend the monthly community of practice meetings hosted by PCMH.

## Sexual Assault Interagency Council (SAIC)

The SAIC created a working group to address perceived gaps in education and awareness related to Title IX, specifically in the Denver area. Colleagues from Denver Public Schools, the University of Colorado Denver Center on Domestic Violence, law enforcement, nonprofit agencies, and county and state offices staff real and hypothetical cases to test systems and discuss opportunities for better understanding. The Final Rule from the U.S. Department of Education created challenges for implementation between its release in May and its effective date in August this year. The group was an ideal place for staff charged to enforce the Rule to discuss existing resources and inconsistencies. It allowed the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist an opportunity to observe decision making at the district level.

## 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 a subcommittee 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. This group did not meet in 2020 due to COVID 19 considerations.

## Summary and Conclusion

This year of the COVID-19 pandemic will go down as one of the most unusual in the country's history. While staff adjusted to virtual training and meetings, students and their families had to adapt often very quickly between in-person, online, and hybrid combinations of learning. Regardless of these challenges, Center staff continued to train and provide consultation services and resources to schools across the state.

As one of CDPS' Wildly Important Goals for FY 2020-21 from CDPS, the CSSRC persisted in soliciting information from districts on the exercising of their emergency operations plans. Undoubtedly, this was made more difficult by the uncertainty of school configurations from week to week and the complexity of conducting drills under these circumstances. However, Center staff responded by offering to facilitate virtual tabletop exercises for any school teams. This work will continue into 2021.

Center staff will persevere in meeting the timeline for the BJA STOP Violence Threat Assessment grant work. The response from districts on the refinement of both the documents and the training have been very encouraging. Once the online portal is completed and school staff have been trained to implement and store their threat assessments and RMS plans on this platform, the effect will be a time-saving, secure solution for Colorado schools, particularly those in the rural communities.

Staff have been excitedly working on the first Colorado Safe Schools Academy now scheduled for the week of June 7, 2021. Presenting it in a virtual format will allow school staff members from any district in the state to attend. Besides providing a baseline of school safety knowledge, the hope is that every district that attends will realize the opportunities for further training from the CSSRC and its partner agencies at the conclusion of the Academy.

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 policies 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. 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 2021.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter](http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter) or [www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC](http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC)  
Colorado School Safety Resource Center  
Department of Public Safety  
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