

USING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY AND PREVENT VIOLENCE

CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION
OF VIOLENCE

Amanda Matthews, MSW

amanda.matthews@colorado.edu



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STUDY AND PREVENTION
OF VIOLENCE



University of Colorado **Boulder**

Addressing Root Causes



TIP:

Mass shootings on the rise in the U.S.

UNDERNEATH:

Bullying victimization, physical fights, depression, and suicidal ideation

ROOT CAUSES:

School climate challenges, lack of social emotional skills, and ineffective systems to address safety concerns



Comprehensive Approach

- Provides upstream prevention and intervention to address root causes
- Includes strong school safety systems to identify and address warning signs
- Recognizes a positive school culture and climate as foundational



Comprehensive Approach

Includes School Systems that Support School Safety:

- Culture, Climate, and Community
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Bystander Reporting and Response
- Information Sharing
- Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management



Example of a Comprehensive Approach

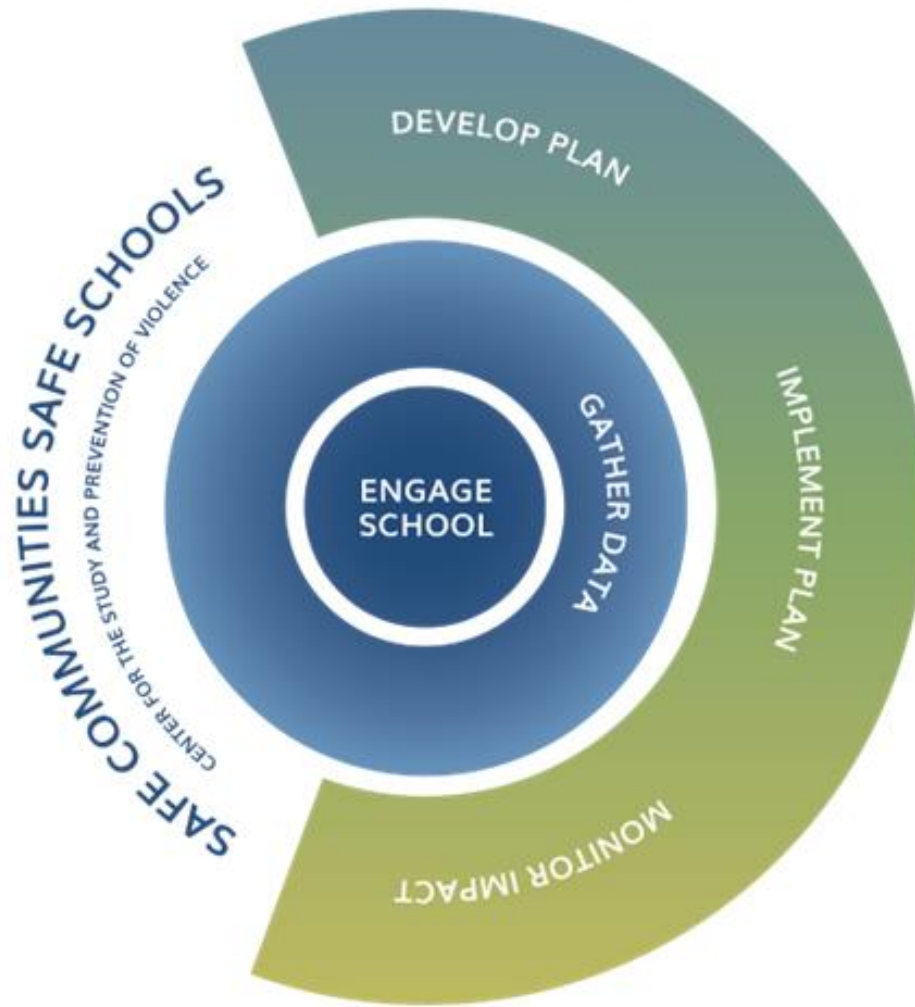


Safe Communities Safe Schools (SCSS)

- Operationalize a comprehensive approach
- Designed to be feasible, actionable, and tailored to each school's needs
- Recommended in the Colorado Attorney General's School Safety Guide



SCSS Model Components



ENGAGE SCHOOL



GATHER DATA



DEVELOP PLAN



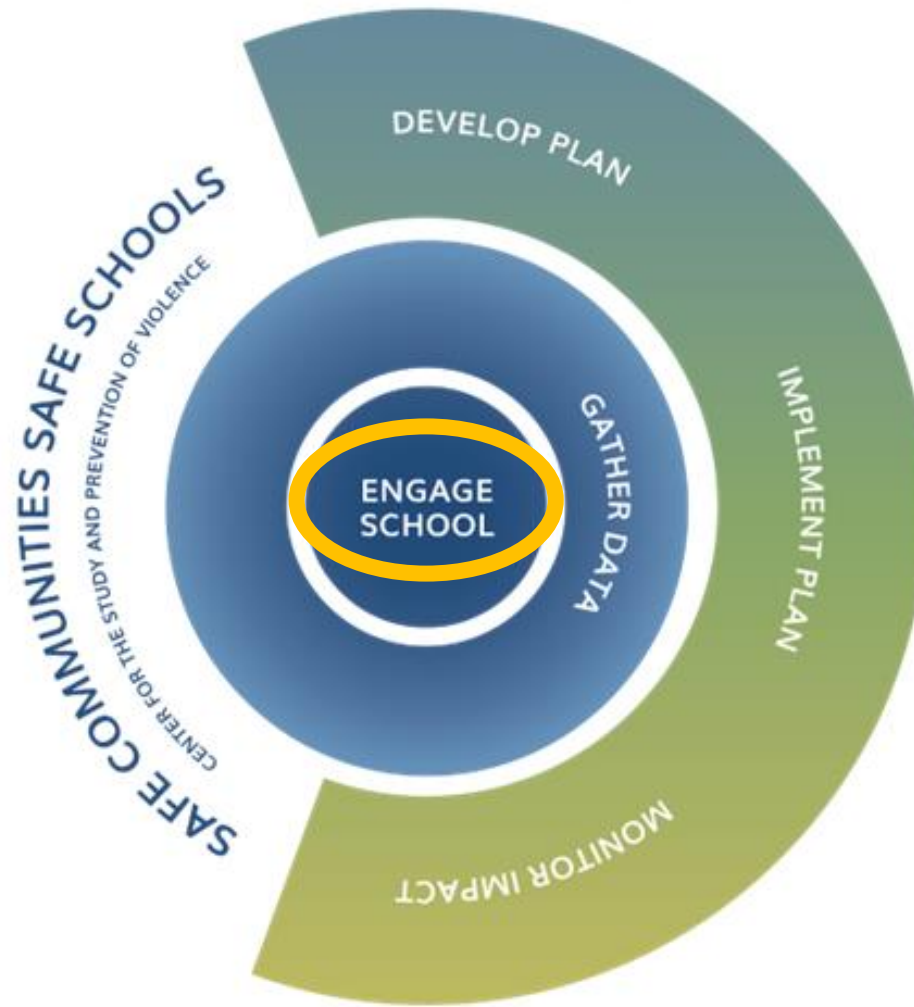
IMPLEMENT PLAN



MONITOR IMPACT



Engage Schools



Engage Schools – SCSS Teams

Role of the SCSS Team is to:

- Represent various perspectives
- Champion the school safety and violence prevention efforts
- Collaborate internally and externally
- Ensure equal voice and ownership in the process

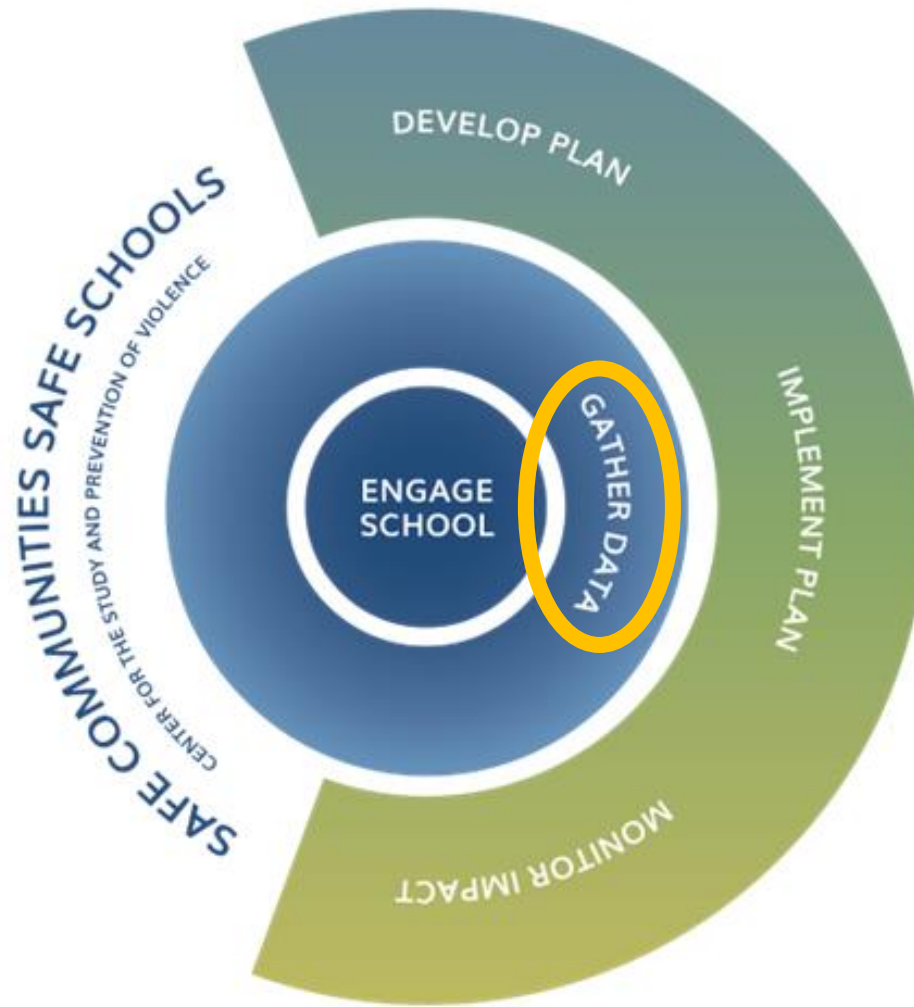


Engage Schools – Community Partnerships

- Including “communities” in the title of the SCSS Model was intentional to acknowledge its role in school safety
- SCSS Teams determine the best way to engage community partners
- Community partners may include:
 - Mental health agencies
 - Law enforcement
 - Health care providers
 - Local businesses
 - Faith community



Gather Data



Gather Data - Process

- Administer whole school and team surveys
- Map current strategies for supporting students
- Use information to understand strengths and prioritize ways to address needs and gaps



Gather Data – Climate Surveys

Climate Surveys Provide:

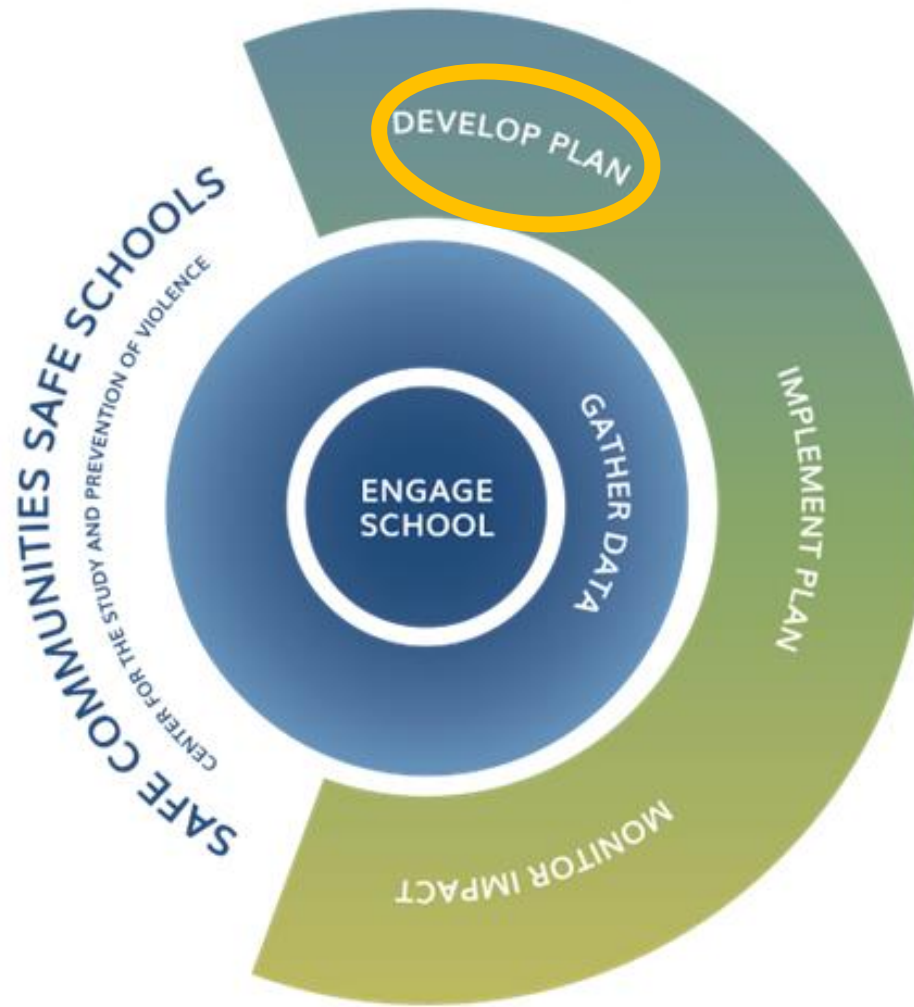
- Valid and Reliable Scales
- Self-reported and anonymous data
- Student and Staff Perspective



Gather Data – Safety Systems Assessment



Develop Plan



Develop Plan - Purpose

School Action Plans Identify Strategies for Addressing Priority Areas and Outline:

- Selected evidence-based programs and/or strategies
- Changes to systems, policies, and processes
- Strategies for monitoring progress and addressing barriers



Implementing Evidence-Based Programs

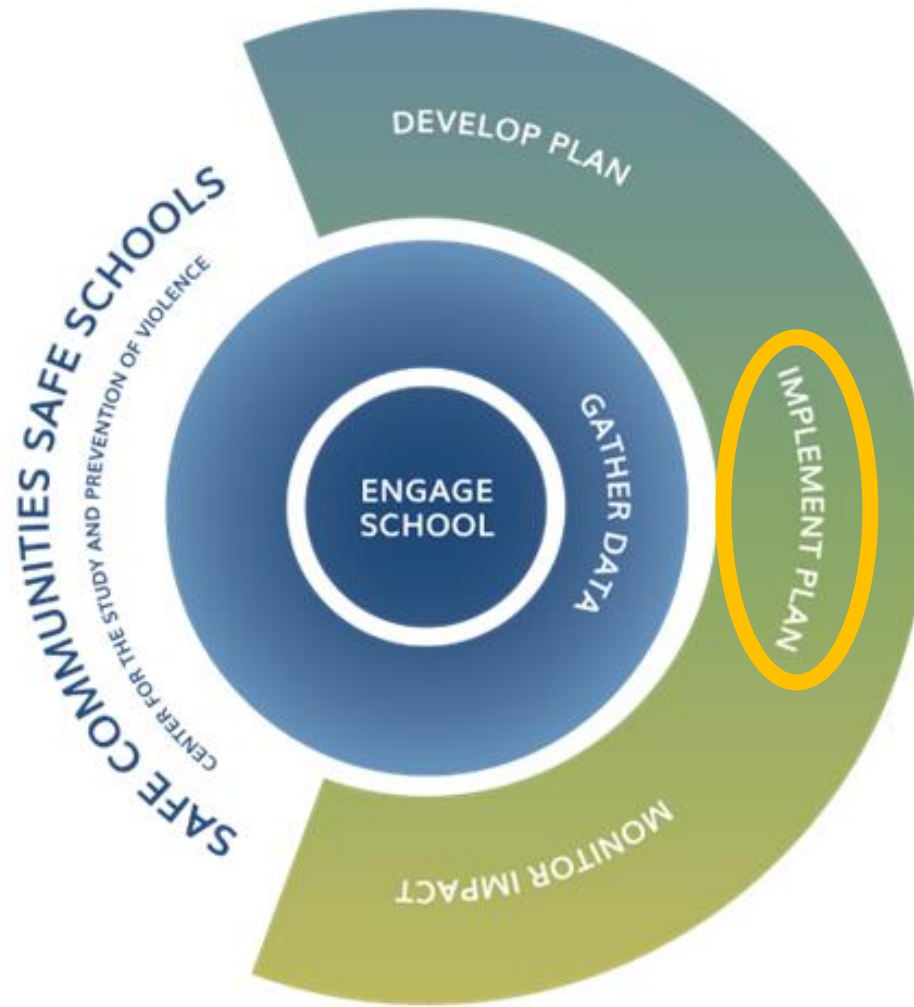
Using scientifically proven and scalable programs could
reduce violence by 30%



www.blueprintsprograms.org



Implement Plan



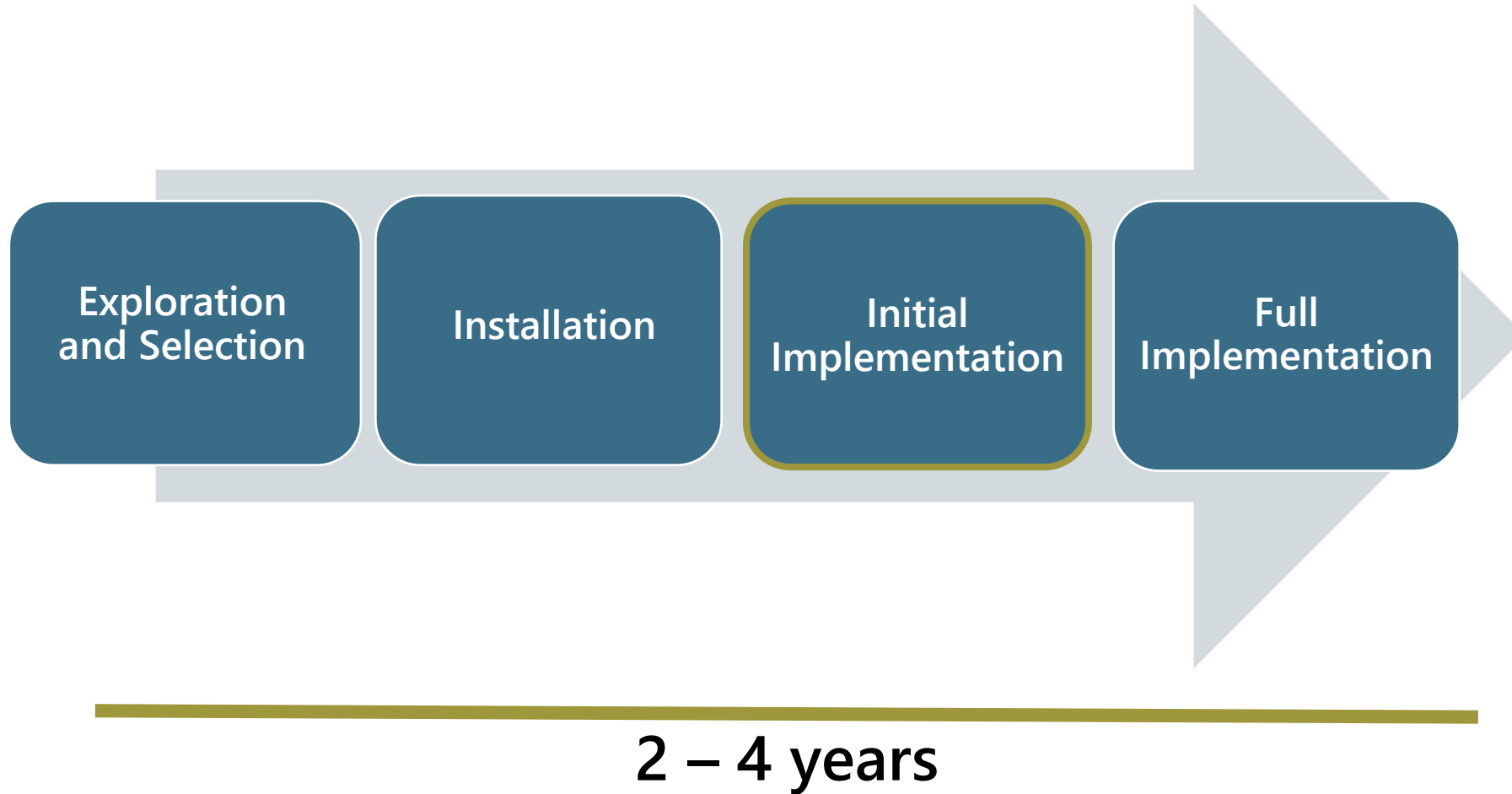
Implementation Planning

Implementation Planning is used to Support:

- Building motivation
- Ensuring buy-in of staff, students, and leadership
- Identifying “champions” to organize and lead action items
- Providing necessary training, coaching, and technical assistance
- Monitoring of all implementation efforts



Implementation Planning

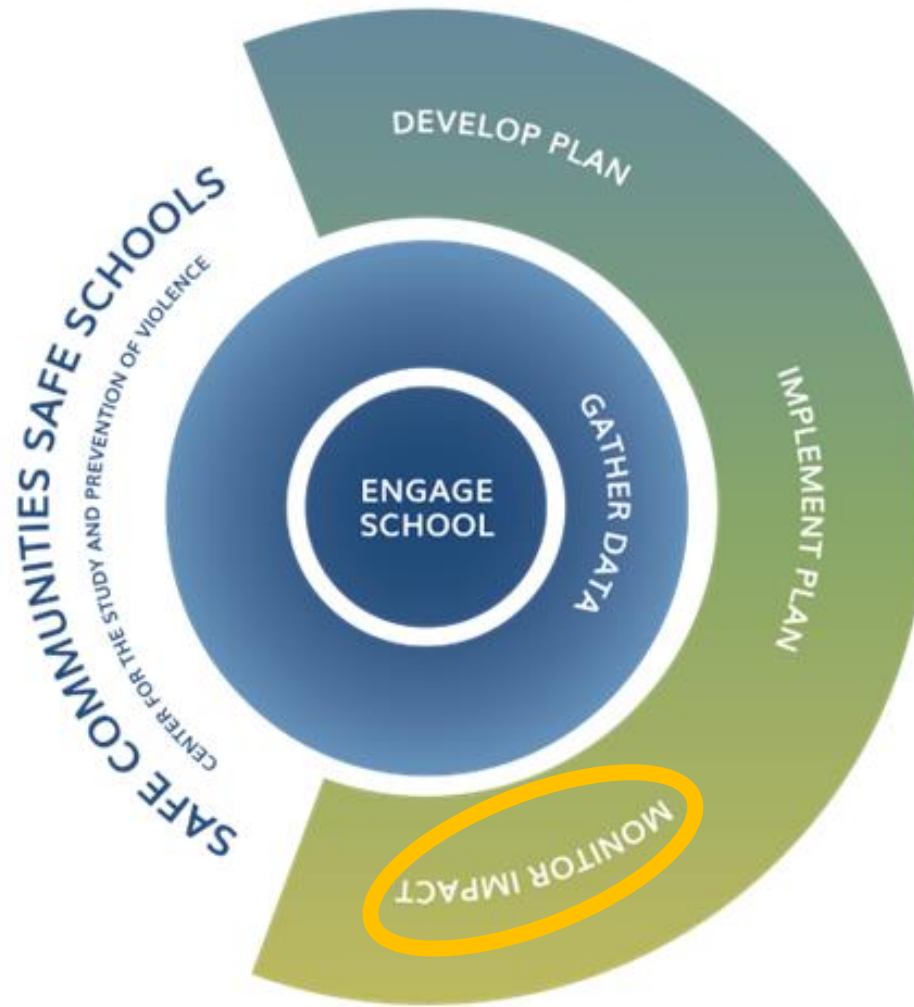


Critical Factors of Implementation Success

- Motivation
- Organizational capacity
- Administrative support
- Staff support and buy-in
- Program or strategy champion
- Training, technical assistance, coaching
- Monitoring the quality of implementation



Monitor Impact



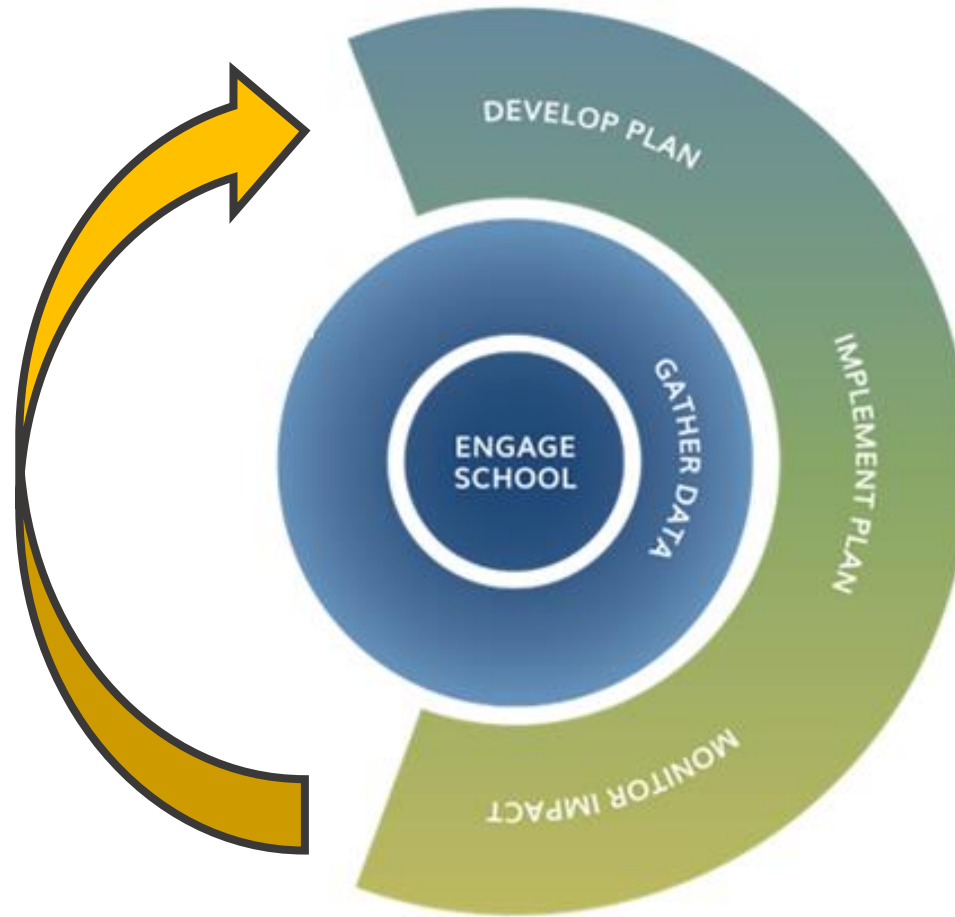
Understanding Impact

Monitoring Implementation Progress and Overall Outcomes to:

- Explore if strategy is producing the intended effects
- Identify helpful adjustments to implementation early
- Detect new and/or emerging needs and challenges concerning school safety and climate
- Inform school community on the progress being made toward accomplishing goals
- Support sustainability



Monitoring Impact – Next Steps



Review data and adjust school action plan to address emerging needs & challenges



Monitoring Impact – Next Steps

School Safety Partnership Opportunity for Colorado Schools

**WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A UNIQUE SCHOOL
SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORT.**

The Center for the Study and Prevention of
Violence at the University of Colorado Boulder is
currently seeking school/district partners for a
project designed to help schools implement the
Safe Communities Safe Schools Model.

If you are interested, please contact Jody Witt
jody.witt@colorado.edu | 303-492-6404



This project is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program.



SCSS Resources

- Student and Staff School Climate Surveys
- School Safety Systems Assessment
- Readiness and Capacity Survey
- School Resource Mapping
- School Action Planning
- Implementation Support Systems



For more information visit:
cspv.colorado.edu/safeschools



Other Resources

Colorado Attorney General School Safety Guide & Resources

<https://coag.gov/office-sections/office-community-engagement/foster-school-safety>

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development Programs

www.blueprintsprograms.org

Identifying Youth Mental Health Challenges (free course)*

www.canvas.net/browse/cu-boulder/courses/safe-resilient-schools

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