



August 2023

E-UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY ~ You are receiving this email as a subscriber of the Office of School Safety listserv. E-Updates from the OSS contain the most current information about the Office's activities and resources, as well as other school safety efforts throughout the state of Colorado and relevant national resources. **Please forward this to others on your email list who have an interest in supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado. They may register for this listserv on our website CSSRC.Colorado.Gov.**

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break. As school is about to reopen, I thought it helpful to revisit recent legislation that passed which will impact schools as well as one from the 2022 Legislative Session:

SB23-029	Disproportionate Discipline in Public School (Task Force/CDE)
SB23-070	Mandatory School Resource Officer Training (S2T)
SB23-241	Creation of the Office of School Safety
SB23-296	Prevent Harassment & Discrimination in Schools
HB23-1003	School Mental Health Assessment (CDPHE)
HB23-1009	Secondary School Student Substance Use (CDE)
HB23-1191	Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children
HB22-1376	Concerning Supportive Learning Environments for K-12 Students

The **Office of School Safety (OSS)** officially launched. Governor Polis signed [SB23-241](#) and the OSS began its work on July 1, 2023. I am honored to have been appointed as the new director of the OSS and officially started on July 15th. The Office of School Safety will comprise three units to include the School Safety Resource Center, the Crisis Unit and the Grants Unit.

- The **Colorado School Safety Resource Center** will continue to provide training, resources, consultation and technical assistance to any schools in Colorado on both physical and psychological safety. The Department of Public Safety appointed Margaret Ochoa as the Interim Director of the CSSRC. The legislation granted the CSSRC one additional Regional Training Consultant (RTC) and a part-time threat assessment analyst. **In order to fill the RTC vacancies, the positions for a Northeast Regional Training Consultant and a Southwest Regional Training Consultant are [posted here](#). The application process closes on August 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM (11.3 FTEs)**
- The **Crisis Unit** will provide training in crisis response and will be staffed by mental health professionals who can assist a school in a critical incident, when requested. This unit will include a unit manager and three additional mental health professionals. **The postings for the [unit manager](#) and the [staff](#) are here. The Crisis Unit Manager position closes on August 14, 2023 and the three staff positions close on August 21, 2023.**
- The third unit will be the **Grants Unit**. Charli North, who has recently been involved with both the SAFER and the School Security Disbursement grants from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, has moved over to the Office of School Safety. She will supervise one additional grant professional. That position is [linked here](#).

When all positions have been filled, the **Office of School Safety** will have a team of eighteen to assist schools. As the OSS has been formulated, there has been some confusion as to its mission and that of the **School Safety Working Group**.

You may remember that the **School Safety Working Group (SSWG)** was created in response to a 2019 audit of the work that five state agencies were doing to support school safety. Two subsequent bills ([SB20-023](#) and [HB22-1274](#)) outlined the mission of the Working Group:

- Study and implement recommendations of the state auditor's report regarding school safety released September 2019;
- Consider program organization and recommend reorganization if necessary;
- Identify shared metrics to examine program effectiveness;
- Facilitate interagency coordination and communication;
- Increase transparency and accessibility of state grants and resources, particularly for school districts without a grant writer, which includes improving outreach and may include developing common grant applications;
- Facilitate and address data sharing, including allowable data sharing at the local level, when appropriate and allowable under state and federal law; and
- Address school safety program challenges in a coordinated way.

The School Safety Working Group was imagined long before the Office of School Safety was proposed. There was never any suggestion that all state agencies that touch school safety be absorbed by the Office of School Safety. Rather, those state agencies need to “address school safety program challenges in a coordinated way.” Which is exactly what has been happening.

Under the guidance of consultants from Confluence Policy and Strategy Group, the SSWG has inventoried school safety resources from all of the state agencies, is considering how best to help schools access those resources, is conducting a gap analysis to uncover any additional resources necessary, is analyzing how programs are currently assessed making recommendations and is looking at how best to sustain this collaboration.

The Office of School Safety will take the lead in making sure all of this work is completed and schools are made aware of these resources. A report to the legislature on the progress of the SSWG is due at the end of this calendar year.

As soon as the inventory is complete in an easily accessible format, it will be shared with schools. In the meantime, if you are looking for a school safety resource from a state agency, contact the Office of School Safety (303-239-4534) and we will refer you to the appropriate state personnel.

We look forward to working with everyone as the new school year opens.

Chris Harms, Director

Office of School Safety

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303.912.6915

COLORADO SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER TRAINING

CSSRC Virtual Trainings Updated Schedule

- These will resume in the next academic year.

NASRO Basic SRO Training - **Last Opportunity this Summer.**

- The [Colorado School Safety Resource Center \(CSSRC\)](#) is partnering with the [National Association of School Resource Officers \(NASRO\)](#) to host a training opportunity to complete the NASRO Basic SRO course. The workshop is in Grand Junction the week of August 7th. This is being made possible through CSSRC's NIJ STOP Grant.
- **When and Where :**
 - [August 7 - 11, 2023, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Colorado Mesa University 1100 North Avenue, University Center Room 213, Grand Junction, CO 81501](#)
- **Cost: FREE** - Paid by the CSSRC's STOP Grant for Colorado participants.
- **Seats available:** 50 per training
- **What:** "The NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course is a forty-hour (40) training designed to prepare school resource officers, other law enforcement officers, and school safety professionals to fulfill their roles in the school setting effectively."
- **Register by clicking on the date and location above.**

Student/Staff Summits will be in September this year! **Registration has begun!**

- Three sites have been scheduled and registration is open. Just click the links below:
 - Monte Vista (Ski Hi Complex) - September 12th Register here for the [2023 Student-Staff Summit in Monte Vista](#).
 - Grand Junction (Mesa University)- September 14th Register here for the [2023 Student-Staff Summit in Grand Junction](#).
 - Ft. Morgan (Morgan Community College) - September 20th Register here for the [2023 Student-Staff Summit in Fort Morgan](#).
- Teams of middle and high school students (six students for every one staff member) are invited.
- A plenary by Rise Above Colorado will be followed by three workshops that each student and staff member will attend.
- Each day runs from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM so that buses can make their usual runs.
- Lunch and snacks are provided.
- Cost: Free
- It's a wonderful opportunity to hear student perspectives on school safety.
- **Please use the link after the date and location above to register your teams.** Student names aren't necessary, just a staff name and confirmation that you will bring a group of up to six students. Contact us if you would like to bring multiple groups.
- [Agenda is here](#).

Annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit **Registration is OPEN!**

- **Thursday and Friday, October 19th and 20th.** Once again we will have live plenary sessions on Thursday and virtual workshops on Friday. We will NOT be streaming Thursday's presentations. You must join us in-person on Thursday.
- **Location:** Adams 12 Five Star School District Conference Center on the first day and virtual workshops on the second day.
- All the plenary presenters are confirmed and they include:
 - **Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Ph.D.** an expert on youth and violent extremism. Dr. Idriss' presentation is being supported by [The CELL](#), Counterterrorism Education Learning

Lab. We welcome their partnership in making her presentation possible.



- **Johnnie Williams**, Executive Director Denver Youth Program: GRASP and Metro Denver Partners
- **Anna Mueller, Ph.D.** will discuss the suicide prevention research she has conducted.
- A team from the **Boulder Valley School District** with community partners to discuss lessons learned for school staff in recovering from the Marshall fire.
- Workshops on the second day will be designed for school staff, mental health professionals and/or emergency responders. [Here is a link to the workshops.](#)
- Registration here for the [2023 Safe Schools Summit](#)

Annual Colorado Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium [Register Now!](#)

- **Thursday, November 16, 2023**
- Location: [Lowry Conference Center](#) and Zoom
- This event is in collaboration with our colleagues in the [Department of Public Health & Environment's Office of Suicide Prevention](#).
- Presenters:
 - **Janel Cabbage**, Johns Hopkins University - Suicide and Racism
 - **Kristen Santel**, Santel & Kerr - Supporting Adoptees
 - **April Smith**, Auburn University - Eating Disorders and Suicide
 - **Kathryn Fox**, University of Denver - Understanding & Treating Self-Injurious Thoughts and Behaviors
- Register here for [the Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium](#).

CSSRC STOP Grants: Ongoing Threat Assessment Training & Implementation

- Grantees who were trained in the first STOP grant, have been notified of a two-hour virtual training on the new online case management system for the Colorado Threat Assessment Management Protocol (CTAMP). It is finally ready for rollout!
- We are conducting the STOP grant training sessions under the second STOP grant. Therefore, stipends are available for any teams that want training outside of contract time. Please complete the paperwork below and return it to Brad.stiles@state.co.us if you would like to be part of STOP #2.
 - [Letter of agreement](#)
 - [MOU with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence](#)
- If you have any questions about the grant please contact either Brad Stiles or Chris Harms at (303.912.6915) or christine.harms@state.co.us.
- We will also train any teams with or without grant participation. We are now scheduling threat assessment training into the fall. Please contact Brad.stiles@state.co.us for scheduling.

CSSRC ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS & ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS

CSSRC online course links:

- Online courses are listed on [the CSSRC website](#).

CURRENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Eagle County School District Job Postings

- [Eagle County School District](#) currently has three job postings available:
 - Battle Mountain High School-
<https://eagle.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=7501>

- Eagle Valley High School- <https://eagle.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=7500>
- School Level Counselor Position <https://eagle.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>
- View more information on the position and apply by clicking the specific links above.

Become a Safe2Tell Gold Star School

- [Safe2Tell](#) has announced this new opportunity to become a Bronze, Silver, or Gold star school.
- You can view more information on this [flyer](#).

Positions Available Within Adams 12 Five Star Schools

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools currently has a position available:
 - Threat Assessment Coordinator
- You can view the specific requirements and apply on the [career page](#).

Safe2Tell Student Ambassador Program

- [Safe2Tell](#) is now accepting applications for their Student Ambassador Program.
- “The ambassador program is an excellent opportunity to engage in challenging conversations and be part of the solution to issues teens face.”
- View more information on this [Ambassador Program flyer](#).

OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

Safe2Tell Presentations - Request Now

- [Safe2Tell](#) is accepting presentation requests for the upcoming school year.
- Training requests are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis so get your request submitted as soon as possible.
- You can submit your request on this [Presentation/Training Request Form](#).

NASRO Basic SRO

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NEW 2023 Queer Youth Summit - Save the Date

- [One Colorado](#) is hosting their one day Summit which “is a 1-day forum welcoming LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, parents, and educators for speakers and workshops to learn, share, dialogue, and connect in support of LGBTQ+ students.”
- **When: October 21, 2023**
- If you are interested in presenting a workshop you can submit your proposal on their [website](#)
- You can apply to be a vendor at the event on their [website](#)
- You can watch for additional information including a registration link on their [website](#)

WEBINARS and OTHER ONLINE LEARNING COURSES for K-12 & IHE

Safe2Tell Train the Trainer

- [Safe2Tell](#) is holding a virtual train the trainer session
- **When: August 7, 2023, 8:30 am - 11:00 am**
- View more information and register through this [Train the Trainer flyer](#)

NEW Conducting Readiness Evaluations For Transgender & Gender Diverse Youth

- [Partners for Children's Mental Health \(PCMH\)](#) is offering this “workshop which is a two-part series developed for Behavioral Health Practitioners. Gender diverse youth experience barriers to receiving adequate, gender-affirming care.”
- **When: August 8, 2023, and August 15, 2023, 4:00 pm**
- View more information and register on their [website](#)

NEW The Role of Students in School Safety Efforts

- [The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center \(REMSTA\)](#) is offering this webinar that “will focus on the role that K-12 students play in preventing, protecting the school community from, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.”
- **When: August 16, 2023, 11:00 am MST**
- View more information about the webinar and register on [their website](#).

NEW Case Study Approach: Utilizing Digital Threat Assessment

- [Safer Schools Together \(SST\)](#) is offering their “Digital Threat Assessment® which teaches participants to establish a Digital Behavioral Baseline through a Safety / Threat Assessment lens.”
- **When:**
 - August 30, 2023; September 19, 2023; October 26, 2023; November 21, 2023
- You can view more information and register for the date of your choice on [their website](#)

Miniseries on Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Well-Being and Success

- The [U.S. Department of Education](#), [Office of Elementary and Secondary Education](#), [Office of Safe and Supportive Schools](#), and [the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments \(NCSSLE\)](#) are holding this miniseries from August through October 2023.
- You can register for each session on the [NCSSLE website](#)

NATIONAL TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW The Regional Briefings

- [The I Love U Guys Foundation](#) is holding their two-day “symposium that fosters an environment for knowledge-sharing, relationship building, hands-on training, and countless actionable insights that you can put to use as soon as you leave.”
- **When: November 2 - 3, 2023**
- **Where: Cafe Escadrille Grand Ballroom, 26 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA 01803**
- You can view more information on both days and register on [their website](#)

NEW Campus Safety Online Conference

- The Campus Safety Online Conference “ is a 2-day virtual event, hosted by the organizers of Campus Safety Conference and supported by [Campus Safety magazine](#).”
- **When: December 6 - 7, 2023**

- **What:** “ Topics include active shooter response, threat assessments, reunification, crisis communication, leading in times of change, safety & security technology, and more.”
- You can view more information on the conference on [their website](#)
- [Register](#) by August 4th for a discounted rate - Use code CSSRC20 when registering to receive the lowest rate available.

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NEW Grants Awarded to the Help Expand the Number of School Psychologists and School Social Workers in Colorado

- [University of Colorado Denver](#), [University of Northern Colorado](#), [University of Denver](#) school psychology programs, and [Poudre School District](#), in cooperation with Colorado State University's school social work program, were awarded [federal grants](#) to help address the nation's mental health crisis.
- [University of Colorado Denver's Project ASPIRE](#) will support diverse school psychology students to serve high-need schools using equity-focused mental health practices, emphasizing serving bilingual, early childhood, and low-income children populations in partnership with Denver Public Schools.
- [University of Denver's SPIRIT program](#) will recruit and train school psychologists in Colorado's rural communities.
- [University of Northern Colorado's program](#) will focus on training school psychology graduates working within rural districts or Spanish-speaking populations.
- [Poudre School District](#), in cooperation with Colorado State University, will focus on supporting students with tuition support, paid internships, post-degree fellowship appointments, and clinical hours in PSD schools.
- If you would like more information or if you have a professional interested in applying to one of these programs, please contact Krista Klabo at klabo_k@cde.state.co.us.

Expelled and At-Risk Student Services

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is currently accepting new grant applications for the Expelled and At-Risk Student Services Program.
- **Request for applications is due August 21, 2023.**
- View more [information and application requirements](#).

Summer Food Service Program Technology Mini Grant

- The Meal Counter App is designed to streamline your Summer Food Service Program by providing high-level program management for counting and claiming procedures.
- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) announced a funding opportunity “to purchase the technology necessary to run the Mobile Meal Counter App.”
- View more information and apply with the [Meal Counter Program](#).

Nourish Colorado Grants Available

- [Nourish Colorado](#) formerly LiveWell Colorado has changed quite a bit and we encourage you to view the new program and information [on their website](#).

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

NEW Resources to Start Back-to-School Planning

- [SchoolSafety.Gov](#) has created a variety of school safety resources and tools to help K-12 schools and districts in your state prepare for the upcoming school year.
 - [“SchoolSafety.gov Offers ‘Tools to Get Started’ to Create a Comprehensive School Safety Program](#) K-12 leaders, school staff, and safety and security

professionals can utilize a variety of tools on SchoolSafety.gov to help prepare for the upcoming school year and create a comprehensive school safety program that fits the needs of their community. Through the site, school and district personnel can connect with specific resources and guidance, locate state and regional school safety programs, and prioritize school safety actions. School staff can also learn about and access federal school safety funding opportunities and grant programs through the SchoolSafety.gov [Grants Finder Tool](#), which includes an option to sign up for email alerts and notifications on newly released school safety funding opportunities throughout the year.

- [HHS Awards \\$31.5 Million in Behavioral Health Grants for Children, Youth, and Young Adults](#) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, recently announced the award of \$31.5 million in behavioral health grants for children, youth, and young adults. Funds will help to address social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and behavioral aspects of youth development; interventions for youth and young adults at high risk of psychosis; and treatment, early intervention, and recovery support services for adolescents and young adults with substance use disorders.
- [ED, HHS Take Additional Actions to Address Mental Health Needs of Students and Make Communities Safer](#) The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and HHS sent a joint letter to governors highlighting resources to help states, communities, and schools support students' mental health and well-being, particularly students impacted by gun violence. The letter highlights ED's and HHS's investments and efforts to expand and improve school-based mental health services and supports, prepare and train school personnel and others to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health impacts, and promote a safe and supportive school climate."

NEW What You Need to Know About Preventing Violent Extremism Through Education

- [UNESCO](#) has created this resource for teachers "a guide on how to talk about violent extremism and related contentious issues with learners. The tool helps teachers understand violent extremism and provides practical advice on when and how to discuss the issue of violent extremism with learners. It also helps teachers create a classroom climate that is inclusive and conducive to respectful dialogue, open discussion, and critical thinking."
- View the guide on [their website](#).

NEW Substance Misuse Prevention Program for Middle & High School Students

- [Vector Solutions formerly Safe Schools](#) is "expanding our Substance Misuse Prevention program in our Student Safety & Wellness library to help students develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills regarding alcohol, drug, and vaping misuse to make good decisions, understand consequences, and avoid risky behaviors."
- You can view more information and access the program on [their website](#)

NEW Living With Suicide Loss

- [The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention \(AFSP\)](#) created "a new series of videos, "Living with Suicide Loss," that spotlights survivors of suicide loss and their stories of hope and healing."
- You can access the videos on [their website](#)

Free Substance Use Resources From The DEA

- [The Drug Enforcement Agency \(DEA\)](#) has provided a number of resources for school staff

and parents.

- www.OperationPrevention.com
- www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com
- www.JustThinkTwice.com
- www.CampusDrugPrevention.gov
- www.dea.gov/redribbon
- www.dea.gov/OnePill
- www.deamuseum.org

2023 BIPOC Mental Health Toolkit

- [Mental Health America](#) has released its “2023 BIPOC Mental Health Toolkit in commemoration of Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month”
- View the [toolkit](#).

Practical Guide for Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach

- [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) has released this new guide that “specifically focuses on tools and strategies for implementing a TIA.”
- [View the guide](#) on SAMHSA’s site.

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Resources from the CSSRC

- Please remember that the CSSRC staff can provide services to any institution of higher education in the state.
- These might include:
 - Threat assessment training
 - Site assessments
 - Emergency planning for schools
 - Planning and conducting tabletop drills
 - Secondary traumatic stress
 - Adult Sexual Misconduct
 - Others by request

Follow the Colorado School Safety Resource Center on Twitter

- For the latest school safety information between monthly E-Updates, follow [@CoSSRC](#) on Twitter.
- Featuring daily updates on new research, resources, upcoming trainings, and Center activities.

[Follow us on Twitter](#) 

THE CSSRC IS AVAILABLE to any pre-K through higher education school to assist in your school safety planning. Our mission is to provide *no-cost consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance* that can help you create a safe, positive, and successful school. We can customize a variety of trainings for your school safety and crisis planning teams or your school staff as you plan and train this school year. We invite you to continue monitoring our website (<https://cssrc.colorado.gov>) for the latest school safety information and upcoming trainings. Call us at: 303-239-4435.

Thank you for supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado!

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

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Denver, CO 80215

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Website: cssrc.colorado.gov

Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools