



## December 2024

**E-UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY** ~ You are receiving this email as a subscriber of the Office of School Safety (OSS) 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 [oss.colorado.gov](https://oss.colorado.gov).**

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## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues: I'd like to update you on some ongoing school safety projects:

- State Interagency School Safety Working Group (SSWG)
  - Facilitated by the Office of School Safety and the Colorado Department of Education
  - This group meets monthly
  - They are updating resources and creating a website to house them
  - We will announce the release of the website when it is complete
- Educator Safety Task Force ([SB24-1320](#))
  - Facilitated by the Office of School Safety & Confluence Policy & Strategy Group
  - The Task Force has held three working meetings
  - [Subcommittee sign ups here](#)
  - [Committee updates are posted here](#)
- Colorado Education Initiative (CSSI)
  - Facilitated by Confluence Policy and Strategy Group and the Public Education and Business Coalition
  - Next meeting is December 11th virtually from 3:00 - 4:00. Anyone interested is invited to attend.
  - For more information, please contact either Berrick Abramson at [berrick@confluencepsg.com](mailto:berrick@confluencepsg.com) or Sue Sava at [ssava@pebc.org](mailto:ssava@pebc.org)



We hope everyone enjoys a relaxing and rejuvenating holiday.

*Kindest regards,*

***Chris Harms***

Christine R. Harms MS, Director,  
Office of School Safety  
[christine.harms@state.co.us](mailto:christine.harms@state.co.us) or 303-912-6915

# COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY NETWORKING & TRAINING

## SAVE THE DATES! School Based Professionals Networking Groups for 2024 - 2025:

- Suicide Prevention
  - Threat Assessment
  - Problematic Sexual Behaviors, and
  - **NEW THIS YEAR** Crisis Response
- For the last few years, we have facilitated informal meetings for any school staff who oversee either suicide prevention and intervention, threat assessments, and/or the management of students with problematic sexual behaviors. This year, our Crisis Response Team will convene a networking opportunity as well.
  - **Suicide prevention professionals** who have attended our Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) Toolkit training are welcome to join the “Toolkit/Online Platform Group” listed below. Those who aren’t trained in the use of our toolkit but would like some space to learn, discuss trends, and network are welcome to join the “Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.” Please contact [Cary.Lynch@state.co.us](mailto:Cary.Lynch@state.co.us) if you are interested in attending either of these groups.
  - Similarly, **Threat Assessment Professionals** will be divided between those who are using the **Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP)**, the “CTAMP/Online Platform Group,” and others interested in the topic generally “Threat Assessment Advisory Group.” [Brad.Stiles@state.co.us](mailto:Brad.Stiles@state.co.us) is your contact to be included in these groups.
  - **Professionals** working with youth with **Problematic Sexual Behaviors** should reach out to [JaeDee.Wood@state.co.us](mailto:JaeDee.Wood@state.co.us) to be included in this networking group.
  - School professionals responsible for **Crisis Preparation and Response** should contact [Jennifer.Mills@state.co.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mills@state.co.us) to be included in this new networking group.
  - We have set these professional meetings on **Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00PM MT.** The meetings will be virtual to allow more of our rural colleagues to join us. Calendar:
    - December 10, 2024 Threat Assessment Advisory Group
    - December 17, 2024 SRA Advisory Group
    - January 14, 2025 Problematic Sexual Behaviors Group
    - February 18, 2025 Statewide Crisis Response Group
    - March 11, 2025 SRA Toolkit Online Platform Group
    - April 1, 2025 CTAMP Online Platform Group
    - April 15, 2025 SRA Advisory Group
    - April 29, 2025 Threat Assessment Advisory Group
    - May 6, 2025 Problematic Sexual Behaviors Group

## Crisis Response Symposium- **THIS IS TOMORROW, December 3!!!!**

- [The Colorado Office of School Safety’s Crisis Response Unit](#) is holding this virtual symposium on crisis response that is designed for K-12 and Higher Education.
- **When: December 3, 2024**
- **Where: Virtual**
- Plenaries include:
  - **Dr. David J. Schonfeld, MD. FAAP**, who will address supporting grieving students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis.

- Dr. Marleen Wong, BA, MSW, PhD., on trauma skills to support students and staff after a crisis.
- Devin Cramer, Associate Dean of Students & Associate Vice Chancellor CU Boulder, who will discuss death notifications and messaging for higher education.
- Lisa Wobbe-Veit, MSW, on how to support impacted students and communities after a critical incident.

### January Speakers' Series **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

- These virtual lectures are designed for caregivers and families, but all are welcome. Two workshops will be presented from 11:30 - 12:30PM. Register at these links for:
  - [January 7 - Cannabis and Youth \(Julie Dreifaldt, One Chance to Grow Up\)](#)
  - [January 28 - Gaming and Gambling Among Youth \(Jamie Glick, LCSW, LAC, LAT, Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado\)](#)
- The workshops are free and will be recorded. Please share with your communities!

### **SAVE THE DATES** for our 8th Annual Student/Staff Summits: *Empowering Student Voices for Safe Schools!*

- Three sites have been scheduled.
  - [January 15 - La Junta \(Otero College\)](#)
  - [January 29 - Durango \(Durango Impact Center\)](#)
  - [February 26 - Sterling \(Northeastern Junior College\)](#)
- Each day runs from 9:45 AM until 2:00 PM so that buses can make their usual runs.
- Teams of 8th through 12th grade students (up to six students for every one staff member) are invited.
- Lunch and snacks are provided.
- [Rise Above Colorado](#) will remind students how few youth are using substances in Colorado, while empowering them to think critically about media messages and peer pressure. Workshops led by Center staff will follow, focusing on
  - places students feel safe,
  - how they use and consume media, and
  - concerns regarding substance use, specifically vaping.
- Student groups will share solutions and strategies to implement them in their schools. It's a wonderful opportunity to hear student perspectives on school safety and bring ideas back to your school.
- Cost: **FREE**. Please reach out to [Margaret.Ochoa@state.co.us](mailto:Margaret.Ochoa@state.co.us) if you have any questions.

### Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium **SAVE THE DATE**

- Every other year we host a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium. Please plan to join us and our schedule of national speakers.
- **Thursday, April 3, 2024**
- Location: Adams 12 Five Star Schools 1500 E 128th Ave. Thornton, CO
- Cost: \$50/person
- Plenaries will be announced soon.
- You can register on the [event registration page](#)

### **NEW** Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

- [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#) is a 2-day, two-trainer workshop designed by [LivingWorks](#) for members of all caregiving groups. Family, friends, and other

community members may be the first to talk with a person at risk of self-harm, but have little or no training. ASIST can also provide those in formal helping roles with professional development to ensure that they are prepared to provide suicide first aid help as part of the care they provide.

- **What You Will Learn:** Skills to provide a suicide first-aid intervention, work with someone to develop a personalized safety plan to keep safe-for-now, and connect with further help.
- **Who:** Open to professionals and the general public for participants aged 16 years and older.
- **Training format:** In-person skills-based workshop. Learn a 6-task suicide first-aid model through presentations, interactive discussion, and feature videos. Includes extensive opportunities for skills practice through trainer facilitated workgroups.
- **Time commitment:** 2 days (consecutive)
- **Cost: FREE** for the training, materials cost \$50 per person. Financial support opportunities may be available.
- [Reach out to the OSS](#) to schedule an ASIST training near you.

## CSSRC ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS & ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS

### CSSRC online course links:

- Upcoming workshops are listed on [the OSS website](#).

## GRANTS CORNER - UPDATES FROM THE GRANTS UNIT

### SAFER Grant

- Check out our [website](#) for the guidebook and the required reporting training for those schools that already have been funded.
- Have questions about reporting? Please join us for the Office of School Safety Cash Advance Grants Reporting Training on December 18, 2024 at 10:30am. During this session, we will review the reporting requirements for the School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program register [through this google form](#).

### School Security Disbursement (SSD) Grant

- Check out our website for the [SSD Grant Management Guide](#)
- Please join us for the Office of School Safety Cash Advance Grants Reporting Training on December 18, 2024 at 10:30am. During this session, we will review the reporting requirements for the School Safety Security Disbursement (SSD) grant program register [through this google form](#).

## Current External Grant Opportunities

### Botvin Lifeskills Training 2025 Grant Opportunity

- Grant Application and additional information can be found on the [LifeSkills Training Implementation webpage](#).
- Applications accepted between October 3, 2024 and February 3, 2025.

### Caring for Colorado Foundation Grant Opportunities

- Caring for Colorado Foundation has several open grant opportunities. Check out their [grant website](#) to see grants that may be of interest to your entity!

## Colorado Department of Education Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant Program

- For more information on the grant, please visit the Colorado Department of Education's Office grant [website](#)
- Important Dates:
  - December 15, 2024: [Intent to Apply](#) Due

## Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment- Colorado- National Collaborative (CNC) Kick-Start Communities - RFA #32652159

- For more information on the grant, please visit the Colorado Department of Health & Environment [website](#)
- Important Dates:
  - December 16, 2024: [Application](#) Deadline

## Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment- Community Prevention and Early Intervention (CPEI) Mini Grants

- The purpose of the Community Prevention and Early Intervention (CPEI) Mini-Grant Program is to distribute between 10 and 15 one-time awards between \$7,000 and \$10,000 to community-based organizations engaged in substance use primary prevention efforts to help with capacity-building efforts.
- For more information on the grant, please visit the Colorado Department of Health & Environment [website](#)
- Important Dates:
  - December 18, 2024: [Application](#) Deadline

## Fund Your School Safety Vision: Grant Writing Support for Colorado School Districts

- CU Boulder's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) and Greenlights Grant Initiative have partnered to offer a free grant writing course to provide training and assistance for select Colorado school districts to prepare a proposal for BJA STOP School Violence grant.
- For more information on the grant, please [see the flyer here](#).

## Colorado Department of Law Youth Mental Health and Wellness Opportunity

- The Colorado Department of Law is seeking applications for collaborative, community-driven projects in coordination with schools that increase protective factors for children and youth to decrease vaping.
- For more information on the grant, please visit the Colorado Department of Law (DOL)/ Attorney General's Office grant [website](#).
- Important Date:
  - January 15, 2025: Applications Due by 11:59 pm

## We're Here for You!

- Remember, our grants team is here to support you. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to [schedule a meeting](#) or reach out to our dedicated grant support team.
  - General Grant Inquiries: [cdps\\_oss\\_grants@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us)
  - The School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER): [cdps\\_oss\\_safer@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_safer@state.co.us)

- The School Security Disbursement Grant Program (SSD): [cdps\\_oss\\_ssd@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_ssd@state.co.us)
- Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program (YVP): [cdps\\_oss\\_yvp@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_yvp@state.co.us)
- Stay Connected: [oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview](https://oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview)

### **Feedback from Weld RE-5J Johnstown Milliken:**

*“Regarding the School Security Disbursement Grant 2024, Weld RE5J set out to improve district-wide interoperability. This grant allowed us to purchase radios and repeaters to enhance current coverage on school properties. In addition, it allowed us to reach multiple schools and the administration team at the administration building when emergencies arise. While a simple process, and relatively few hiccups along the way, the most difficult struggle was implementation and providing a policy standard practice on the operations and the context of the use of these radios.*

*Still an easy prospect, just needed to keep people on the point and direct them back if they strayed from the route established. Overall, this grant afforded the district a chance to have better communication when emergencies arise. We strive to push the bar for the safety and security of our schools and are proud we were able to use the Office of School Safety as a partner to achieve our highest priority goals for this grant.”*



### **Share Your Success - Be Featured in The Grants Corner of the OSS E-Update!**

We want to celebrate your achievements! If you've had success with any of our grants, share your story with us. Submit a short narrative detailing your project's impact, and you could be featured in our upcoming E-Update. Photos welcome. Your success inspires others—let's showcase the incredible work happening in our schools!

Thank you,  
OSS Grants Unit  
[cdps\\_oss\\_grants@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us)

### **UPDATES FROM THE CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT**

- Happy Holidays from the Crisis Response Unit! Our staff continues to be busy training schools across the state. This week we are pleased to be offering our first Crisis Response Symposium virtually on Zoom. We are excited to have 4 national speakers joining us for this amazing event. Make sure you are registered as you don't want to miss this event! Please remember we have a team of experienced school mental health professionals available to assist, for a limited time per incident, in the initial recovery period following a crisis incident when additional mental health resources are needed. Please reach out to Kati Garner at [kati.garner@state.co.us](mailto:kati.garner@state.co.us) for further information or to request services offered by the Crisis Response Unit for your school or district.

## Available Trainings From the Crisis Response Unit:

- **NEW** Crisis Response Skills for Varying Ages
  - This two-hour training helps prepare crisis responders to work with all students K-12. Participants will learn crisis interventions and strategies for varied student age groups and have the opportunity to practice those strategies and skills.

Please contact Kati Garner at [kati.garner@state.co.us](mailto:kati.garner@state.co.us) to bring any of these trainings to your site.

## CURRENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PARTNERS OF THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY

### **NEW** Colorado Department of Education Receives \$1.6 Million Annual Grant to Strengthen School-based Mental Health Services

- Colorado Commissioner of Education Susana Córdova announced the [Colorado Department of Education](#) will receive a \$1.6 million grant each year for five years from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance mental health services for students across the state.
- “The School-Based Mental Health Services Grant will support schools to hire more counselors and mental health professionals. It will provide funding to hire new workers, keep existing ones in their jobs and help some switch careers to work in schools. The grant includes funding for stipends, training for graduate-level school-based mental health supervisors, and developing pathways for clinic-based mental health professionals to transition to school-based roles.”
- For more information about the grant, please contact [SBMHS@cde.state.co.us](mailto:SBMHS@cde.state.co.us).

### **NEW** Join CDPHE’s new Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Program!

- The [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#) launched [the Wildfire Smoke Preparedness Program!](#) [This EPA-funded program](#) will provide community partners, such as yourself, with the tools to prepare for and respond to wildfire smoke and its health impacts.
- The focus of this program will include wildfire smoke preparedness planning, education, and training focused on healthy indoor air quality in community buildings and schools around Colorado, as well as how to establish community Cleaner Air Centers.
- If you are interested in receiving program updates and information on wildfire smoke preparedness, fill out the [Program Interest Form](#) to join the network. Network members will receive periodic newsletters, containing educational resources and updates, and invitations to webinars and hybrid workshops, on topics such as:
  - Understanding wildfire smoke impacts on indoor air quality.
  - Preparing community and school buildings to mitigate wildfire smoke exposures.
  - Implementing effective building management practices.
  - Planning for and implementing Cleaner Air Centers.
- You may ask questions by emailing [cdphe\\_indoorairquality@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_indoorairquality@state.co.us).

### COVID-19 Testing Supply Program for LEAs

- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has released guidance on [preventing the spread of infections in schools](#) along with the ability to request free rapid COVID-19 tests.
- You can [complete the request form online](#).

## Rise Above Colorado Sticker Contest

- [Rise Above Colorado](#) has launched its Fill Your World with Good Sticker Contest. This exciting opportunity is open to all teens across Colorado to share their creativity, win cash prizes, and have their design used on Rise Above Colorado's new swag.
- Important date!
  - December 9th is the deadline for entries.
- [You can view Rise Above Colorado's Contest Flyer through this link.](#)

## 2024 - 25 Colorado School Mental Health Community of Practice Registration Form School Mental Health Community of Practice

- [Finding Hope Counseling and Consulting, LLC](#) is partnering with the [Colorado Office of School Safety \(OSS\)](#), the [Colorado Behavioral Health Administration \(BHA\)](#), [Children's Hospital Colorado](#), [CU Anschutz Medical Campus](#), and [Mental Health Colorado](#) to host this Community of Practice to "bring together school professionals and community members from all regions of Colorado to engage in shared learning, conversation, and collaboration as we advance school mental health best practices that are known to work in our local communities."
- **When: Second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 am - 11:30 am from September 2024 - May 2025.**
- You can [view more information and register to participate online](#)

## OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

### Dealing with and De-Escalating Non-Compliance, Disruptive, Abusive and Other Conflicts During in Person and Phone Contacts

- [The DeAngelis Center Foundation](#) is hosting this training to "learn how to de-escalate situations in your community, school, and/or classroom."
- **When:**
  - January 3, 2025, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
  - January 6, 2025, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
  - February 14, 2025, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- You can view more information and register on the [DeAngelis Center Foundation's website](#)

### Single Officer Response to an Active Shooter

- [The DeAngelis Center Foundation](#) is hosting this training at two different times
- You can view the description of the training on the [DeAngelis Center Foundation's website](#)
- **When:**
  - January 19 - 20, 2025
  - February 16 - 17, 2025

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

### **NEW** The Art of Engagement: Exploring the Pueblo County History and Art Walk

- [Pueblo County Department of Public Health and Environment](#) and [Safe Routes Partnership](#) is hosting a webinar that "explores community engagement highlights from the Pueblo County History and Art Walk. Learn how a collaboration between County agencies, local partners, and community members brought forth a creative public space that encourages physical activity and celebrates the vibrant neighborhoods of Pueblo, Colorado."
- **When: December 4, 2024**



- You can view more information and register on the [Zoom event page from the hosts.](#)

### Foundations of Targeted Violence Prevention eLearning

- [The Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) Office of Intelligence and Analysis, National Threat Evaluation and Reporting \(NTER\) Office](#) has partnered with the [Wisconsin Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#) and the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\)](#) to release an eLearning module for the public titled, ‘Foundations of Targeted Violence Prevention.’
- You can access more information and the [online course through DHS’s website.](#)

### Special Education Evaluation Webinar Series

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is hosting a five-part webinar series on foundational concepts of special education evaluation.
- Remaining topics and dates:
  - Meaningful Family Participation and Collaboration in the Special Education Evaluation Process - **December 17th**
  - Best Practices in Tele Assessment: Leveraging Technology for Effective Evaluations - **January 28th**
  - Effective Psychoeducational Reports and Data Communication - **March 5th**
- You can view more information and register for any and all dates on [CDE’s registration form.](#)

## RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

### Chalkbeat Colorado Article on Bullying for Parents

- [Chalkbeat Colorado](#) has released this article for parents on things they believe parents should know about their child being bullied including what is and isn’t bullying, signs, how to talk to your child about it and more.
- You can view the article on [Chalkbeat’s website.](#)

### Safe and Sound Student Clubs

- [Safe and Sound Schools](#) is a national nonprofit for the advocacy of school safety and resource center that provides research-based tools and gives support to help schools and students with crisis prevention, response and recovery.
- [Safe and Sound Student Club](#) is a student-led organization made up of high school students seeking to make a difference with school safety in their community.
- Learn more and [Download Your Kit and Start Your Club.](#)

### REMINDER Naloxone (Narcan) Bulk Purchases

- Please remember that school districts are eligible for bulk purchases of Naloxone from the [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment \(CDPHE\).](#)
- This program allows eligible entities to purchase opiate antagonists, such as naloxone or Narcan, at low or no cost.
- For more information go to [CDPHE’s webpage on Naloxone](#)

## RESOURCES and INFORMATION for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Resources from the OSS

- Please remember that the OSS 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
  - Concurrent Enrollment considerations
  - Others by request
  - Please reach out to [Brad.stiles@state.co.us](mailto:Brad.stiles@state.co.us) or [Kelly.addington@state.co.us](mailto:Kelly.addington@state.co.us) for more information, or use [this form](#).

### Follow the Office of School Safety on X (formerly Twitter)

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

[Follow us on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)  

**THE OSS 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 ([oss.colorado.gov](http://oss.colorado.gov)) for the latest school safety information and upcoming trainings. Call us at: 303-239-4435.



**COLORADO**  
Office of School Safety  
Department of Public Safety

***Thank you for supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado!***

Office of School Safety  
700 Kipling Street #1000  
Denver, CO 80215  
303-239-4435

Email: [cdps\\_OSS\\_CSSRC@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_OSS_CSSRC@state.co.us)

Website: [oss.colorado.gov](http://oss.colorado.gov)

**Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools**