



January 2024

E-UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO 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 oss.colorado.gov.**

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues:

- **New Grant Due Date:** The Office of School Safety/Grants Unit has launched the RFP for this year's School Security Disbursement Grant (SSD).
 - SB23-241 has made \$16 Million available to schools for various safety and security measures. Please [visit the OSS website for information on how to apply](#).
 - Application due date has **changed to Monday, January 29, 2024 by 5:00 PM.**
 - A webinar to answer your question about the grant will be held on January 10, 2024, 11:00AM
 - Please direct any questions to cdps_oss_ssd@state.co.us
- Margaret Ochoa, Manager of the School Safety Resource Center, has submitted the 2023 Legislative Report to the Colorado General Assembly. It will be linked on our website shortly.
- The Office of School Safety (OSS) is pleased to announce hiring of the following staff:
 - **Chelsey Lehmkuhl** joins us as our Northeastern Regional Training Consultant out of Sterling. Chelsey has served the RE-1 Valley School District and NE BOCES as a Social Emotional Learning Specialist and School-based Mental Health Coordinator. We are delighted to better serve the northeast with a connected local.
 - **Jae Dee Wood** will work out of the Denver office as our Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. She is known in the domestic violence/sexual assault survivor communities for her work providing direct services in the central mountains. We are thrilled that Jae Dee has decided to relocate and join the team.
- Positions still in process include:
 - Hiring is underway for Regional Training Consultants in the Northwest and Southwest and the final member of the Crisis Response Team.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy new year,

Chris Harms

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



NEW UPDATES FROM THE GRANTS UNIT - Watch for this section every month in the OSS E-Update

YVP Grant Updates: Awardees Notified!

- We're excited to announce that the awardees for the Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) grants have been officially notified! Congratulations to all successful applicants. To kick off the program, a Youth Violence Prevention Specialist Meeting is scheduled for January 11. During this session, awardees will have the opportunity to meet our grant unit and receive essential training on reporting. The **Youth Violence Prevention Grant**, established with [SB23-241](#), allocated one million dollars for school or community violence prevention and intervention projects. The OSS received 42 grant applications with a request for close to \$4.5 million. Thanks to everyone who applied. Thirteen recipients received funding. A revised list is below:

APPLICANT	AWARDED AMOUNT
Boys & Girls Club Metro Denver	\$100,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley	\$100,000.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County	\$99,657.00
Colorado Dream Foundation	\$57,089.00
Colorado Youth Detention Continuum Juvenile Services	\$99,487.00
Denver Public Schools	\$18,670.00
Eagle River Youth Coalition Inc (Mountain Youth)	\$34,228.00
EUREKA	\$21,262.00
Mosaic Unlimited	\$100,000.00
NXT Chapter	\$99,915.00
Riverside Education Center	\$100,000.00
South Central BOCES	\$100,000.00
YESS Institute	\$69,692.00

SSD Grant Deadline Extended - Act Now!

- Good news for those interested in the School Security Disbursement (SSD) grant! The deadline has been extended to **January 29, 2024, 5:00PM** providing you with more time to prepare your applications. To ensure you have all the information you need, we've organized a webinar on January 10, 2024 at 11:00AM . Join us for a comprehensive review of the SSD grant, followed by a Q & A session. [Register for the SSD Webinar today](#)

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates

- Youth Violence Prevention Specialist Kick Off Meeting- January 17, 2024 at 11:00AM
- SSD Grant Webinar and Q & A Session- January 10, 2024 at 11:00AM

Exciting News - SAFER Grant Coming Soon!

- To Be Announced (TBA): Be on the lookout for our School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant this spring. We're gearing up to provide support for initiatives that enhance school emergency response capabilities. Stay tuned for more details as we work together to make our schools safer and more secure.

Share Your Success - Be Featured in The Grants 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 paragraph detailing your project's impact, and you could be featured in our upcoming E-update. Your success inspires others—let's showcase the incredible work happening in our schools!

We're Here for You!

- Remember, our team is here to support you. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to our dedicated grant support team.
 - General Grant Inquiries: cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us
 - The School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER): cdps_oss_safer@state.co.us
 - The School Security Disbursement Grant Program (SSD): cdps_oss_ssd@state.co.us
 - Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program (YVP): cdps_oss_yvp@state.co.us
 - Stay Connected: oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview

Thank you,

Charli Pringle-North

Charli North, Grants Unit Manager

Charli.north@state.co.us

COLORADO SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORKING & TRAINING

NEW Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium **SAVE THE DATE**

- Although designed for Institutions of Higher Education, the workshops are applicable to K-12 school personnel as well. Feel free to join us!
- **When: Friday, May 31, 2024**
- **Location: Regis University, Mountain View Conference Room**
- **Cost: \$50**
- **Registration will open soon**

NEW 2024 NASRO Advanced SRO Training

- The Office of School Safety will hold two Advanced SRO trainings this summer:
 - **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - July 24, 25 and 26** at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver
 - **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - August 5, 6 and 7** at Mesa State University in Grand Junction
 - The class sizes will be limited so you must register early.

- The OSS has grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to pay NASRO fees and travel expenses for those officers coming from a distance.
- **Please note: We will need to charge for cancellations done within a week of the workshops or no shows.**
- Use the [online registration form](#) to register for one of the following:
 - Denver training - July 24 - 26, 2024, Lowry Conference Center
 - Grand Junction training - August 5 - 7, 2024, Mesa State University

Registration is Open! January Speakers' Series

- On Tuesdays in January, over the lunch hour, we will be hosting experts on several different topics. These presentations will be of interest to school staff, parents and guardians so feel free to add them to your community announcements using [this flyer](#).
- Scheduled:
 - **Tuesday, January 9th** - Sextortion presented by Angelie Donzanti, San Jose Police Department
 - **Tuesday, January 16th** - Porn Isn't Going Away: So What Do We Do About It? Margaret Ochoa and Kati Garner, OSS
 - **Tuesday, January 23rd** - Scammers Use of Artificial Intelligence presented by Colton Easton, Safer Schools Together
 - **Tuesday, January 30th** - Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D., cofounder of the Cyberbullying Research Center will present on Cyberbullying.
- Additional information
 - **No charge but you must be registered to get the Zoom link**
 - Live, virtual from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM. If you are registered and can't attend the live webinar, you can request the video link up to 30 days after.
 - [Register for the Speakers Series here.](#)

Safer Schools Together: VIRTUAL DIGITAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAINING

- When: **Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 8AM - 3PM**
 - BASIC DTA Training
 - [Register for BASIC DTA Training](#)
- When: **Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 8AM - 3PM**
 - ADVANCED DTA Training (You must have taken BASIC DTA to qualify for this workshop)
 - [Register for ADVANCED DTA Training](#)
- These workshops are being offered with funding provided by the Colorado legislature to the new Office of School Safety. Therefore, these workshops are being offered at no charge.
- Registration is limited so please sign up as soon as possible.
- [Check out the event flyer](#)

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention & Intervention Symposium

- This has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Threat Assessment Two-Day Workshop

SRO Supervisors' Training

- The Office of School Safety will hold a **NASRO Supervisors' Training** in collaboration with the annual CASRO Summer Conference on **June 10th, 11th and 12th at Keystone**.
- This opportunity is provided by a Bureau of Justice grant secured by the OSS. This means that the grant funds will cover the cost of the NASRO training fee, hotels, per diems and mileage for SRO Supervisors.

- It is a contract with NASRO and not open to anyone outside of Colorado so it will NOT be listed on NASRO's website.
- Space is limited so please [register early](#).
- If you have any questions, please reach out to Christine.harms@state.co.us.

● **New Opportunity - Project Unite**

- The staff of the CSSRC, along with partners from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence and CDE, have been trained for a new NASRO course called ***Project Unite: The Four Integrated Systems of School Violence Prevention***.
- This training provides instruction on each key violence prevention system, and best practices for implementation.
- Modules include group discussion and team exercises to assist multidisciplinary school safety teams as they assess their current school safety systems and identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- Time is allotted for school safety teams to develop a violence prevention action plan in support of safety for their school.
- Upon completion of this course, multidisciplinary school safety teams will possess knowledge to implement violence prevention initiatives using a systems approach and be equipped with an actionable plan and next steps for strengthening their own school's safety. Participants will also receive a participant manual containing tools and resources to assist in planning and implementation efforts.
- The training is 16-hours or two days which could be split over a period of time.
- It is intended for school safety teams including an administrator, SRO or community law enforcement partner, school mental health professional and anyone else on the school's safety team.
- **We are in the process of recruiting sites to present this program under a BJA STOP Violence grant.**
- **If participants attend outside of their contract time, compensation at their normal rate is available.**
- **If you are interested in attending or hosting, please contact me directly. My information is below. Thank you!**
- christine.harms@state.co.us or [303-912-6915](tel:303-912-6915)

Networking Groups for Threat Assessment and Suicide Prevention Professionals

- For the last few years, the CSSRC has facilitated informal meetings for any school staff who oversee either suicide prevention and intervention or threat assessments in their buildings. We have separated the meetings into two groups: Suicide Prevention Professionals and Threat Assessment Professionals.
- The Suicide Prevention Professionals group will only be for staff who have attended our Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) Toolkit training and are using the CSSRC Toolkit. Meetings will occasionally be opened to the mental health community at large. Those meetings will be announced in the Update.
- **The Threat Assessment Professionals group will only be for staff who have attended our Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) training and those trained under the STOP Grant - We have set these professional meetings for the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings will be virtual to allow more of our rural colleagues to join us. The calendar is below.**

- Others are welcome to join these groups based on the criteria described above. To join, contact Lea Bernstein Holmes at Lea.Holmes@state.co.us if you have not already been contacted. Please specify which group you are interested in attending although you are welcome to join both.

January 16, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	CTAMP Professionals Discussion
February 20, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	Suicide Prevention Professionals Discussion/CSSRC SRA Toolkit Users
March 12, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	CTAMP Professionals Discussion
April 9, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	Suicide Prevention Professionals Discussion/CSSRC SRA Toolkit Users
May 14, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	CTAMP Professionals Discussion

- The larger Threat Assessment Advisory Group begins next week. This group is for *all* professionals working in schools that are involved with Threat Assessments. The first meeting, we would like you to come with ideas, speakers and topics you would like to see covered in future events and we will do our best to resource these. Invites will be sent out for all three dates to those that may have already attended a TA meeting with us to include the CTAMP/STOP team leads. If you are interested in joining, please email Brad Stiles at brad.stiles@state.co.us.

January 10, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	Threat Assessment Advisory Group
March 6, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	Threat Assessment Advisory Group
April 17, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM	Threat Assessment Advisory Group

Networking Group for Managing Problematic Sexual Behaviors (PSB)

- The working group for professionals managing problematic sexual behaviors (PSB) in students will be meeting on the following first **Tuesdays of the month which started in November 2023**. The meetings will be virtual. Please contact Margaret Ochoa at Margaret.Ochoa@state.co.us if you are interested and have not already been contacted. The calendar is below.

March 5, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM
May 7, 2024 from 2PM - 3PM

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).
- 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 on the CTAMP with or without grant participation. We are now scheduling threat assessment training into the winter. Please contact Brad.stiles@state.co.us for scheduling.

CSSRC ONLINE

E COURSE OFFERINGS & ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS

CSSRC online course links:

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

CURRENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Overview of Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians

- When an emergency happens in a school, we want students and staff to be prepared by having practiced what to do before an incident occurs.
- Schools in Colorado practice drills routinely to create muscle memory NOT because there is a known threat to the community.
- [View the full resource on the OSS website](#).
- [Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians - PDF - English](#)
- [Emergency Drills for Parents/Guardians - PDF - Spanish](#)

NEW Resource Available for Migrants Newly Arrived in Colorado

- This [Welcome Packet](#) created by the [Colorado Department of Labor and Employment \(CDLE\)](#) is intended to assist asylum seekers and migrants who do not yet have an immigration legal status but are intending to call Colorado home.
- This guide is not legal advice and it does not include all of the information that migrants need to know. It is only a guide to help them get started.
- [Consult the Welcome Packet in English](#)
- [Consult the Welcome Packet in Spanish](#)

NEW NOAA Boulder Pen Pal Mentors Program

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is partnering with schools to match 35 students with NOAA Pen Pal Mentors.
- NOAA in Boulder has about 1,000 people working in support of weather and space weather forecasting, and understanding our climate, atmosphere and oceans.
- Mentors will write to students starting in December.
- **Sign up by January 12, 2024** using the QR code on [NOAA Boulder's Flyer](#).

Experimental Program: Invent2Prevent(I2P)

- [Invent2Prevent \(I2P\)](#) is an experiential program that challenges high school and university students to create and implement peer-developed initiatives, products and tools to prevent targeted violence, hate crimes and terrorism. The program allows essential prevention work to happen at the state and local level with the goal using a public health-informed approach to reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors within youth.
- The program is free of charge and sponsored by the [DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships](#). Invent2Prevent is managed by [EdVenture Partners](#) and [McCain Institute](#),

who work with students throughout the entire project period in a guiding, mentoring, and coaching capacity.

- Five students, the faculty and a chaperone from each of the top three high school teams are awarded an all-expense trip to Washington, DC to present to DHS leadership and compete for \$9,000 in prize money. Graduating seniors are eligible to apply for scholarship money.
- **Thirty-five spots will be made available to high schools for the spring 2024 academic period on a first-come first-served basis.**
- For more information or if you are interested in participating, please contact Tony Sgro, CEO of EdVenture Partners, at tony@edventurepartners.com and [415-264-7666](tel:415-264-7666).
- [Read the I2P Fact Sheet](#)

CDPS Launches a 24/7 Extreme Risk Protection Order Hotline

- The Colorado Department of Public Safety recently launched a new 24/7 Extreme Risk Protection Order Hotline to receive and refer calls from the public.
- The hotline provides information on the process to file for an order and relevant resources. Coloradans may call the hotline at [855-999-3776](tel:855-999-3776) (ERPO).
- The hotline does not provide legal advice or serve as an avenue for an individual to file a petition for a temporary order. It also does not advise callers on the consequences related to the filing or false filing of a petition for a temporary Extreme Risk Protection Order.
- The hotline may refer callers to the appropriate venue to file the order for further information concerning the results of filing the order.

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](#).

NATIONAL TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment: A Virtual Training Event

- This virtual training event, hosted by the [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center \(NTAC\)](#), will highlight the key findings and implications from NTAC’s research on school violence prevention.
- Attendees will learn about the background, thinking, and behavior of school attackers and how some schools discovered and stopped plots before violence occurred. This training will also provide guidance on how schools may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.
- When: **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - Friday, March 8, 2024 - Wednesday, May 8, 2024**
- [Register for the virtual event](#)

NEW Free to Learn Mini-Series Hosted by the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments

- This series, hosted by the [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#), will offer webinars focusing on evidence-based practices to prevent, address, and ameliorate the effects of bullying, violence and hate while also supporting school safety, school-based mental health, and positive school climates.
- The series will provide these strategies at the key moments in a student and family’s school experience as they enter the school or classroom, engage with learning and extracurricular activities, navigate circumstances that might result in differences of opinion or conflict, and utilize various supports and opportunities to enhance their school experiences and academic achievement.

- When: **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 - Wednesday, February 14, 2024**
- To learn more and register, visit SafeSupportiveLearning.ed.gov

NEW National Student Privacy & Data Security Winter Webinar Series

- These sessions, part of a Winter Webinar Series hosted by [ED's Student Privacy Policy Office](#), will cover the basics of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and provide training on current data security best practices for education data systems.
- It will also lead participants through a simulated data breach and explore how to assess online educational technology for privacy protections and general FERPA compliance.
- When: **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

NEW Virtual Training Event: Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities

- This [virtual training event](#), hosted by the [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center \(NTAC\)](#), will cover important findings from NTAC's research on mass attacks perpetrated in public and semi-public spaces, including businesses, restaurants, bars, retail outlets, houses of worship, schools, open spaces, and more.
- [This training](#) will provide guidance on how communities may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.
- When: **Monday, February 5, 2024 - Thursday, April 4, 2024 - Wednesday, June 5, 2024**
- [Register for the training](#)

NEW FentAlert Challenge: Empowering Youth for Safer Choices

- [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) issued a challenge to America's youth: Help raise awareness about fentanyl and reduce teen overdose deaths.
- [FentAlert: Empowering Youth for Safer Choices – SAMHSA Fentanyl Awareness Youth Challenge](#) is an opportunity for youth, ages 14-18, to develop a community strategy to educate their peers about fentanyl and fake pills – and prevent drug overdose deaths.
- There's a total prize purse of \$80,000, with individual prizes up to \$5,000. Youth can participate individually, or as part of a team.
- Please review rules and judging criteria. Submissions are due by **February 26, 2024**.
- [Learn more about FentAlert](#)

Series: Live Virtual Presentations on Targeted Violence Prevention

- The [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center \(NTAC\)](#) is pleased to announce a new monthly series of live virtual events. In these presentations, expert researchers will share findings and implications from decades of research on targeted violence and offer strategies for preventing acts of violence impacting the places where we work, learn, worship, and otherwise live our daily lives.
- The list of available virtual training events will be regularly updated, and presentation topics may change from month to month.
- [Learn more about this series of live virtual presentations, or to register for one or more of these events](#)
- **Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities Webinar**
 - Join the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center for a virtual training event and hear from researchers as they discuss important findings from their research on mass attacks perpetrated in public spaces.
 - This training will provide guidance on how communities may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.
 - [Learn more and register](#) for your choice of webinar dates:
 - **Monday February 5, 2024 | 10:00 - Noon MT**

- Thursday April 4, 2024 | 10:00 - Noon MT
- Wednesday June 5, 2024 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM EST

- **Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment Webinar**
 - Join the [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center](#) for a virtual training event where you will hear from researchers on key findings and implications from their research on school violence prevention.
 - This training will provide guidance on how schools may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.
 - [Learn more and register](#) for one of the following dates:
 - Tuesday January 9, 2024 | 10:00 AM - Noon MT
 - Friday March 8, 2024 | 10:00 AM - Noon MT
 - Wednesday May 8, 2024 | 10:00 AM - Noon MT

NEW Federal Government Announces Partnership to Distribute Free COVID-19 Tests to Schools

- [The U.S. Department of Education \(ED\)](#) and the [Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response](#), a division within the U.S. [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#), announced a partnership to [distribute free COVID-19 tests](#) to schools across the country.
- In a [letter](#) sent to local education agencies by ED, school districts are being encouraged to order tests directly from the federal government. Districts can then distribute these tests for free to students, staff, parents, and school communities, with the expectation that millions of tests will be sent out in the coming months allowing schools to stock nurses' offices, distribute at events, send tests home with students or parents, and more.

OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW Champion Change: What Can We Do To Thwart Violent Extremism?

- The [Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab \(CELL\)](#) in partnership with the [Colorado Department of Public Safety \(CDPS\)](#) is hosting a presentation on Radicalization in the Digital Age, by Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, professor, American University Director, Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL)
- **When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024**
- [Check out the event flyer for more information](#)
- [Register to the event](#)
- Subsequent events organized by the CELL are as follow:
 - Lesson Title: Radicalization in the Digital Age
 - Program Date & Time: **Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 12:30PM-1:30PM MT**
 - Lesson Title: Protecting Communities Against Extremism, featuring Dr. Gina Ligon
 - Program Date & Time: **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 11:30AM-12:30PM MT**
 - Lesson Title: Threats to Colorado, featuring CO Attorney General Phil Weiser
 - Program Date & Time: **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 11:30AM-12:30PM MT**

NEW The Colorado Safer Schools Initiative (CSSI) is Seeking Youth Involvement

- [CSSI](#) is seeking recommendations for youth aged 13-20 to participate in the coalition in a variety of ways.
- Please see [this flyer](#) for more information, and to nominate a youth to participate, use [this form](#).

Colorado School Mental Health Community of Practice (CoP) - New School Year Program

- The [Colorado School Mental Health Community of Practice](#) released their 2023-2024

program aimed at advancing school mental health.

- The CoP will host a Virtual CoP Sessions series with featured presenters, Q&A, and discussions on the **3rd Wednesday of the month in February and May.**
- Open Community Events on selected topics will be open to all interested parties on the **3rd Wednesday of the month in January and April.**
- [Use this form to register for upcoming events.](#)

Protection of Individuals from Restraint and Seclusion Act Online Moodle Course

- The [Colorado State Board of Education](#) has adopted the PPRA, which outlines the procedures to be followed:
 - In the administration of restraint and seclusion
 - Staff training
 - Documentation requirements
 - The review of the use of restraint and seclusion.
- The Colorado Department of Education has available a self-guided, self-paced Moodle course on PPRA Regulations. This course covers the Restraint and Seclusion regulations (PPRA) and will also share the changes to PPRA from [House Bill 22-1376](#).
- [Register for the course here](#)

Safe2Tell Presentations - Request Now

- [Safe2Tell](#) is accepting presentation requests for the rest of the 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](#).

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

NEW Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence (CO-PTV) Threat Evaluation and Reporting Training

- The Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence (CO-PTV) Program will be offering quarterly virtual training in 2024. Through this training, CO-PTV aims to build the knowledge and awareness necessary to prevent targeted violence within Colorado communities, and improve the prevention capabilities and resources available throughout the state.
- Please see [the attached flyer for more information](#).
- Share this training flyer with anyone in your professional networks who may be interested in attending.
- Upcoming trainings (click on desired date to register):
 - [Tuesday, January 16, 2024](#)
 - [Thursday, April 25, 2024](#)
 - [Monday, July 15, 2024](#)
 - [Tuesday, October 8, 2024](#)

Free Digital Course: Prescription Drug Safety - Know the truth

- [This free course](#) sponsored by [Truth Initiative](#) guides teachers and educates youth and parents about the dangers associated with misusing prescription medications, including counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl.
- Through real-world scenarios, students can better understand the growing youth fentanyl crisis and how to support others in situations involving prescription drug misuse and overuse.

American Heart Association Curriculum: Vaping - Know the truth

- To help schools address the vaping problem, [Truth Initiative](#) and [Kaiser Permanente](#) collaborated with the [American Heart Association](#) to produce a national youth vaping prevention curriculum [Vaping: Know the truth](#),
- A self-administered interactive course that takes students through four self-paced lessons to inform students about the harmful ingredients inside e-cigarettes, highlight how the tobacco industry has intentionally targeted young people, discuss the addictiveness of nicotine, the health risks associated with vaping, and provide resources to quit through [This is Quitting](#), a text message program.

Watch: Video Highlights SchoolSafety.gov Resources and Tools

- [This brief video](#) provides an overview of [SchoolSafety.gov](#), its school safety topic areas and related resources, and the various ways you can use the site to create safe, positive, and supportive school environments.
- This new video is part of the [SchoolSafety.gov Back-to-School Campaign](#), a public awareness effort launched by the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse to ensure schools have the tools they need to create and sustain welcoming, safe, and supportive environments for students and educators.

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Be sure to see the SSD grant from the Office of School Safety listed on the first page of this newsletter.

NEW HHS Announces Funding Opportunities to Improve Behavioral Health

- HHS, through the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#), announced [notices of funding opportunities for grant programs](#) that address behavioral health challenges in local communities by helping organizations implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to prevent substance misuse and promote mental health.
- These grant opportunities include the [Children’s Mental Health Initiative](#), which provides resources to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth at risk for or who have serious emotional disturbances, and their families:
 - [Grants for Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance](#)
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
 - [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for States](#)
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 - [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations](#)
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024
 - [Tribal Behavioral Health](#)
 - Application Due Date: Wednesday, March 06, 2024

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

NEW Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities

- [This infographic](#) from the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) highlights social media threats affecting school districts in the United States, provides mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connects school safety stakeholders to a suite of tools and resources available to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness.

NEW How to Talk About Mental Health: For Parents and Caregivers of Children

- [This webpage](#) from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) includes information for parents and guardians on how to talk about mental health with children, potential warning signs that a child may be struggling, and what to do if there are concerns about a child's behavior.

NEW Review Online Safety Resources During Winter Break

- School closures during winter break can lead to children and teenagers spending more time online, which can expose them to a range of potential online safety threats and risks.
- To educate children on the possible dangers of online environments and how they can stay safe in the digital world, [access the SchoolSafety.gov Online Safety Resources infographic](#), which outlines tips and resources for parents, guardians, and school communities to help prevent and protect against these threats.
- Other resources to check out: [2023 SchoolSafety.gov Resource Package](#), featuring a collection of [SchoolSafety.gov](#) infographics and one-pagers released in 2023. It provides high-level strategies, guidance, and resources on a range of school safety topics, including emergency planning, bullying prevention, targeted violence, and mental health. Families and Caregivers as Partners in School Emergency Management: this fact sheet provides strategies for forming partnerships and communicating with families and guardians, and for including them in efforts to develop, enhance, and maintain high-quality school emergency operations plans.

NEW FCC Proposes Creation of Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

- The [Federal Communications Commission](#) proposed the creation of a [Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#) that would allow the Commission to obtain valuable data concerning the cybersecurity and advanced firewall services that would best help K-12 schools and libraries address the growing cyber threats and attacks against their broadband networks.
- The proposed pilot program, which calls for an investment of up to \$200 million over three years, would be established within the Universal Service Fund, but separate from the Commission's E-Rate program.
- In addition, the program would provide funding to eligible K-12 schools and libraries to defray the qualifying costs of receiving the cybersecurity and advanced firewall services needed to protect their E-Rate-funded broadband networks and data from the growing number of school and library-focused cyber events.

NEW Resources Related to the situation in Israel from SchoolSafety.gov

- In the wake of the October 7 Hamas attacks in Israel and subsequent conflict, many Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian students report that they feel unsafe at school.
- SchoolSafety.gov hosts a range of resources to support schools and help ensure students are free to learn in a safe, inclusive environment. These include [Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms](#), [Preventing and Responding to Bias and Hate Incidents in K-12 Educational Settings: A Toolkit for School and Community Leaders](#), and [Resources Related to Combating Antisemitism and Islamophobia While Promoting Religious Inclusion in Schools](#).
- The White House has also issued a [fact sheet](#) on actions being taken to address the rise of reported Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents at schools.
- Visit [SchoolSafety.gov](#) to access additional school climate and violence prevention resources.

NEW Participate in the Colorado Department of Education School Safety District Efforts

Survey

- The [Colorado Department of Education](#)'s Office of Learning Supports invites **district-level staff members** to participate in a [survey](#) aimed at gathering insights for upcoming training and grant opportunities centered around enhancing systems that promote school safety.
- To ensure the effectiveness of our future initiatives, we are keen on understanding the various activities, initiatives, terminology, and operational aspects related to school safety within districts. We kindly ask that the survey be completed by individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of the district's efforts in supporting school safety, spanning from preventive measures to postvention strategies.
- Your responses will play a pivotal role in shaping our future training, coaching, and technical assistance programs tailored to the specific needs of Colorado districts and schools in the realm of school safety.
- [Surveys](#) should be completed by **Friday, January 19, 2024**.
- For questions, please contact Lynne DeSousa at desousa_l@cde.state.co.us

NEW Key Considerations for Bullying Prevention Guide

- [This new guide](#) from the [National Center for School Safety](#) presents key information that schools may wish to consider as they develop and maintain bullying prevention programs.
- Included in this resource: an overview of bullying, bullying prevention, context-specific considerations, information on youth engagement and empowerment, and resources related to the intersection of social media and bullying.

Resources for Children with Developmental Disabilities with The Arc of Aurora

- [The Arc of Aurora](#) is a nonprofit organization in Aurora, Colorado, dedicated to advocating for children and adults with developmental disabilities. They have published a number of resources that are designed to help professionals gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and nuances faced by the youth we serve in educational settings, as well as providing insights on how to address these challenges.
 - [Opinion Article: Behavioral Challenges Can Push Youth With Disabilities Into School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)
 - [Storytelling series: Disability and School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)
 - Online Courses:
 - [Developmental Disability and the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)
 - [Transforming the Special Education School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)
 - [Podcast/Vodcast: Trauma and Developmental Disability](#)

American Federation for Suicide Prevention Website & Resources

- [The American Federation for Suicide Prevention website](#) has evidence-based resources and information about innovative prevention programs.
- Additionally, presentations to organizations and schools can be requested.

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW Students Experimenting with Fire: A Message from the CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control

- The [Division of Fire Prevention and Control \(DFPC\)](#) wants to support you, your staff, and your students. Did you know that a student usually starts multiple fires before getting caught? Experimenting with fire without adult supervision requires professional intervention, as these fires could stem from curiosity, crisis, thrill-seeking, willful destruction/delinquency, or mental health needs.
- To maximize public safety, please remember the following:

- Reporting fire-related incidents is a requirement and the responsibility of principals/administrators;
- Reporting an unwanted fire on school grounds or under school control is required by law; and
- In addition to the local fire jurisdiction, **ALL** fire incidents on school property (regardless of intent, magnitude of fire, or age of the person(s) involved) need to be reported to the Division of Fire Prevention and Control using this [Fire Reporting Form](#).
- [DFPC](#) can refer youth who demonstrate firesetting behaviors to Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialists (YFIS), who are specially trained members of the Fire Service. They do not use scare tactics, and youth who have gone through a YFIS program have very low recidivism rates.
- [DFPC](#) is happy to serve you to keep your community safe!

NEW UNLV Shooting Misinformation Highlights Need for Effective Campus Emergency Notification Strategies

- The December 6 mass shooting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) led to a flood of social media posts filled with inaccuracies that led to the widespread dissemination of misinformation on the tragedy.
- One post on X (formerly Twitter) that said “FBI coverup incoming” in response to news coverage was reposted by more than 600 users and was liked more than 1,500 times, reports the Las Vegas Sun. This one post pushed down in the tags legitimate updates from the campus, law enforcement, and real news organizations, making it more difficult for people to get accurate information on the unfolding situation.
- Check a full article on the topic on the [Campus Magazine](#) website.

NEW 2023-2024 Colorado State of Education Report - Colorado Education Association

- [This report](#) was conducted by the [Colorado Education Association](#), which stands as the largest union in the state, proudly representing nearly 40,000 teachers, counselors, school nurses, and other special service providers (SSPs), as well as education support professionals (ESPs), higher education staff, retired educators, and aspiring education professionals.
- [The report](#) touches on various topics including the state of investment, the state of educator respect, and the state of educators’ safety.

NEW CISA Releases Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic

- The [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) released [this guide](#) on December 14, 2023.
- [The Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic](#) is a new CISA product. It highlights social media threats affecting school districts in the United States, provides mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connects school safety stakeholders to the suite of tools and resources provided by [CISA](#) and its partners to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness.

NEW Colorado Educator Support Resources from the University of Colorado

- The Department of Psychiatry at Colorado University (CU), Anschutz Medical Campus, is offering a [website](#) dedicated to helping Colorado’s educational workforce.
- It provides free mental health resources to help the workforce make it through the school year.
- New learning modules include:

- **Secondary Trauma Module:** Learn how to nurture your emotional health as you try to support others. This module will help you recognize and manage the emotions that come with your role, ensuring you can continue to make a positive impact.
- **Work/Life Balance Module:** Discover ways to find harmony between your professional and personal life. We're here to support you in reducing stress, improving focus, and ensuring your overall well-being.
- Visit ColoradoEducatorSupport.com to access the resources

NEW Mental Health Resource for Rural Communities

- The Office of School Safety has posted a new resource targeted at rural communities. It includes the [988 Hotline](#), the [Colorado Crisis Services](#), [iMatter](#), [Second Wind](#), and [Children and Youth MH Tx Act- BHA](#), among others.
- Consult the full resource on the [OSS website](#).
- As we become aware of more resources or the resources on this page change, we will update this list accordingly. If you are aware of additional resources that are available state-wide, please let us know so we can include these.

NEW Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Schools: An Action Guide for School and District Leaders

- Schools are prioritizing students' mental health, and there are many tools and resources to choose from. [CDC](#) created this [action guide](#) as a place to start. It can help school and district leaders build on what they are already doing to promote students' mental health and find new strategies to fill in gaps.
- The [action guide](#) describes six in-school strategies that are proven to promote and support mental health and well-being. For each strategy, [the guide](#) also describes approaches, or specific ways to put the strategy into action, and examples of evidence-based policies, programs, and practices.

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
 - Others by request
 - Please reach out to Brad.stiles@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) for the latest school safety information and upcoming trainings. Call us at: [303-239-4435](tel:303-239-4435).



Thank you for supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado!

Office of School Safety

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Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools