



January 2025

E-UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY ~ You are receiving this email as a subscriber of the Office of School(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.**

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues: **Happy New Year!**

I hope everyone had a restful holiday season and you are returning with new energy and passion for the spring semester.

I have been reminded recently that with the change of administration in Washington, there may be additional concerns for families of immigrants within our schools. The Crisis Response Unit here at the OSS is preparing in case any school needs **additional support for students in the aftermath of possible deportations**. Please feel free to reach out to our Crisis Unit Manager, Kati.garner@state.co.us, if you need assistance.

I wanted to remind school officials that the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) within the Department of Public Safety has a list of schools that would be alerted to receive important threat bulletins. If you haven't signed up already, [here is the link to get your information to the CIAC](#). For further information, [please see this link on the OSS webpage](#).

[Educator Safety Task Force \(HB24-1320\) Updates:](#)

- The large Task Force has conducted four working meetings with the next scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at 3:30. These meetings are open to any interested parties.
- Three of the subcommittees have had three working meetings each.
- The next are scheduled as follows:
 - Incident Response - Tuesday, January 7th at 3:30
 - School Climate & Community Relations - Thursday, January 9th at 3:30
 - Educator Perspectives - Tuesday, January 14th at 3:30
 - Alternative Placements - Tuesday, January 21st at 3:30 (First Meeting)
- If you would like to join any of these meetings, please reach out to christine.harms@state.co.us. I would be happy to have you added to the list.

Happy New Year,

Chris Harms

Chris Harms



Christine R. Harms MS, Director,
Office of School Safety
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 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 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 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 to be included in this networking group.
 - School professionals responsible for **Crisis Preparation and Response** should contact 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:
 - 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

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 if you have any questions.

NEW Trauma-Informed Responses to Children's Disclosures of Sexual Abuse

- Children who disclose sexual abuse are looking for support and the abuse to end. Children disclose to people they see as safe adults who can help them. As a safe adult, we want to provide the best trauma-informed support.
- Join us for an hour long workshop where we cover best practices for responding to disclosures including immediate responses to the disclosure, mandatory reporting, and follow-up support.
- **When: Friday, February 14, 2025, from 12 pm - 1 pm**
- [Register for this virtual training by emailing \[Melissa.Rubeo@state.co.us\]\(mailto:Melissa.Rubeo@state.co.us\)](#)

NEW School Safety Considerations for Special Populations

- This one hour training will explore school safety considerations for a variety of special populations including newcomers and students with physical, intellectual, and social emotional disabilities.
- **When: February 27, 2025, 12pm - 1 pm**
- Participants will learn about these unique students, their needs and how to support them during an incident or emergency.
- [Register for this virtual training through this Google Form.](#)

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium - **REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

- 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, 2025**
- Location: Adams 12 Five Star Schools 1500 E 128th Ave. Thornton, CO
- Cost: \$50/person
- **Amanda E. Ruzicka, MA, the Deputy Director of Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at Johns Hopkins will present on Problematic Sexual Behavior Prevention.**
- **Dee BigFoot, PhD, a child psychologist and associate professor at the Native American Programs at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center will present on cultural considerations for child sexual abuse prevention for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families.**

- Another plenary will be announced as well as prevention programming tables.
- You can register on the [event registration page](#)

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) - [Reach out to schedule](#)

- [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.

School Security Disbursement (SSD) Grant

- Check out our website for the [SSD Grant Management Guide](#)

Thank you to all recipients who attended the Cash Advance Reporting Webinar that took place on December 18, 2024. All updated forms and webinar slides have been uploaded to the OSS Grant Unit [Grant Guidance and Forms](#) webpage.

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**.

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

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!

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](#).

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
 - 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

Feedback from St. Vrain Valley School District:

“The St. Vrain Valley School District takes a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to school safety. When evaluating school safety solutions, St. Vrain evaluates the various ways a particular product or service addresses known or potential hazards. Through the School Safety Disbursement Grant, we were able to provide enhanced protective solutions for school windows. Keeping true to our all-hazards approach, this solution allowed our schools to be more energy efficient, reduce UV exposure, and protect the occupants in a variety of natural and human-caused events.

The School Safety Disbursement Grant provided us an opportunity to test these safety upgrades and evaluate their effectiveness prior to moving forward with a district-wide initiative to improve safety across all of our schools. Because St. Vrain was able to test the enhancements on a small scale at a few schools, the district was ready to scale the improvements district-wide in its November 2024 bond package, which passed overwhelmingly. As a result, the grant had a broad impact far beyond the schools it directly supported, enhancing school safety for every student in St. Vrain.”



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

UPDATES FROM THE CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

Welcome back everyone! Myself and the Crisis Response Unit hope you had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break. Our staff is gearing up to continue providing you all with crisis response training in the New Year. Remember that we now offer Crisis Response Skills for Varying Ages training. This training will help prepare your crisis responders to work with all students K-12. We had the pleasure of presenting this training to a large group of professionals in District 27.



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 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.

PREPaRE Workshop Two, Mental Health Crisis Interventions. Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools

- This two-day workshop, designed primarily for mental health professionals, helps to develop the knowledge and skills required to provide immediate mental health crisis interventions to students, staff, and school community members who have been exposed to an acute traumatic stressor.

PREPaRE Workshop One, Comprehensive School Safety Planning Prevention Through Recovery

- This one-day workshop, designed primarily for administrators and safety team members, addresses critical components needed to develop, exercise and evaluate safety and crisis teams plans.

Crisis Response Plan Template

- Designed to provide K-12 school districts with essentials in writing crisis response plans, including sample policies, procedures, and crisis-related resources.
- Required 1 hour training on writing crisis response plans in order to access the template.

Psychological First Aid (PFA)

- An evidence-based approach to help students, staff, and community members in the immediate aftermath of a crisis.
- Options for PFA range from a brief two-hour training of the essentials of the model up to a full-day comprehensive training.

Calm-Engage-Distract

- Provides information on pediatric distress and developmentally appropriate strategies for responding to children in crisis.
- A brief training for educators on how to calm students after a critical incident.

Critical Incident Group Debriefing (CIGD) for staff

- Critical Incident Group Debriefing or CIGD, is a short-term group intervention process that focuses on an immediate event.
- CIGD is one of several methods that may be utilized to lessen the likelihood of people experiencing symptoms of trauma and stress after a critical incident.
- This group debriefing process provides a place for participants to talk and share experiences, and for the facilitator to teach and provide information about the impact of critical incidents.

Please contact Kati Garner at 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 The US Department of Homeland Security's Invent2Prevent, Student-Led, Peer-Developed Initiative to Prevent Targeted School Violence

- Colorado high schools are once again invited to participate in a free school safety and prevention program sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](https://www.dhs.gov/) starting January 2025 through May 2025.
- Invent2Prevent challenges high school students to create and implement peer-developed

initiatives, products, and tools to prevent targeted violence and hate in ways “they believe” will be most effective in their schools and communities.

- The program is free of charge and for the last four years has been sponsored by the [DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships \(CP3\)](#). Invent2Prevent is managed by EdVenture Partners who work with students throughout the entire project period in a guiding, mentoring, and coaching capacity.
- Each high school receives a \$1,000 budget to implement their Invent2Prevent project. Top teams present and participate in a national competition in DC in June, all expenses paid and compete for \$9,000 in cash awards. These experiential Invent2Prevent projects are developed by youth for youth and are extremely creative and effective.
- Thirty-five spots will be made available to high schools for the January through May 2025 academic period on a first come first served basis.
- For more information and if you are interested in participating, please contact Tony Sgro, CEO of EdVenture Partners, at tony@edventurepartners.com and (415) 264-7666.

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.

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.

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 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](#)

NEW Digital Well-Being Challenge

- [The Office of Educational Technology](#) “ invites students aged 13+ and the schools that serve them to address critical topics in digital citizenship and well-being, including healthy social media use, digital citizenship education, and responsible technology policies.”
- “The Challenge has one overarching goal: for school- or district-based teams to co-design, alongside students, innovative approaches and strategies for addressing a range of digital citizenship and well-being issues facing their school community.”
- You can view more information and apply to participate on [the Office of Educational Technology’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

NEW 2025 Colorado Association of School Resource Officers Conference

- [The Colorado Association of School Resource Officers \(CASRO\)](#) announced the dates for their 2025 CASRO Conference.
- When: June 8, 2025, - June 12, 2025
- Where: Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Rd, Colorado Springs, 80906
- You can view more information on [CASRO’s 2025 Conference page](#)

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

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:
 - 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 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 or 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) 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!

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Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools