



July 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 [Newsletter sign up](#).**

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Some important updates:

- The **Roadmaps for Action** created from the work of the Educator Safety Task Force were submitted to the Colorado legislature as required. [Please find the link to all of the current information here including results of the survey completed by over 1,100 Colorado educators and an interview video by some of the task force members.](#)
- The Office of School Safety has created an updated version of the very popular online course, **Mental Health Awareness for Educators**. The online course is free and once completed, entitles the participant to a certificate for one hour of work. Please access the course through [Co.train](#).
- This will be the last chance to register and attend for free the **Basic NASRO SRO Training** to be held at Summit High School in Breckenridge. We are sorry but the La Junta workshop was cancelled as we did not attain the requisite number of participants in that location. However, since we are paying all fees including mileage, hotel costs, and per diems, Southeastern officers are welcome to register to attend in Breckenridge. Please see the information below and register as soon as possible. Thank you!
- Please use this link to see the [school safety related bills](#) that were signed into law this 2025 legislative session.



Happy Summer,

Chris Harms

Christine R. Harms MS, Director
Colorado Office of School Safety
christine.harms@state.co.us or 303-912-6915



COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY NEWS, TRAINING & NETWORKING

NEW Psychological First Aid (PFA) for Schools

- Join Jenny Mills, LPC, and Leah Lefever, LCSW, for an evidence-based approach to help students, staff, and community members in the immediate aftermath of a crisis.
- Virtually, July 15, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
- [You can register through this link](#)

NEW A Brain-Based Foundation for Supporting Students After Trauma (for Educators)

- This 1.5 hour presentation covers a basic introduction to the neuroscience of trauma along with strategies for supporting youth who have experienced trauma in their lives. It aims to equip educators with the knowledge and tools to create a more supportive and effective learning environment for students who have experienced trauma.
- Virtually, August 8, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
- [You can register through this link](#)

October Safe Schools Summit: **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

- The Office of School Safety is hosting its annual Safe Schools Summit on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Conference Center 1500 E 128th Ave., Thornton, CO.
- Our three confirmed keynote speakers will be:
 - Dorothy Espelage, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapelhill - Dr. Espelage will share her recent research on educator safety and what can work to help prevent educator injury.
 - Will Bowen - An internationally bestselling author and founder of a Complaint Free World will help us turn complainers into collaborators.
 - Gina Ligon, Ph.D. is coming to us through the generosity of the CELL. Dr. Ligon is the founder and director of the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE). She is an internationally known industrial and organizational psychologist with proven terrorism expertise in both the academic and policy spheres.
- If you are interested in tabling as a sponsor, [you can apply using this form](#).
- [You can register through this link](#).

Trauma-Informed School Discipline

- This 1.5 hour training will equip administrators and other disciplinary staff with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to approach discipline with a trauma-informed lens. Through a blend of foundational pre-teaching and an interactive case study, participants will explore the impact of trauma, proactive approaches that create positive school environments, practical techniques for de-escalation, discipline, and relationship-building.
- Complete the [request for training](#) form to schedule your training.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) - **Reach out to schedule**

- [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#) is a 2-day, two-trainer workshop designed



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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-Congratulations are in Order!

The State of Colorado's legislature allocated \$4,850,000 for the Fiscal Year 2026 School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program. The Colorado Office of School Safety received 39 grant applications for a total requested amount of \$14,676,039.71. For this round of the School Access for Emergency Response grant 14 applicants were selected to receive funding as directed by SB23-241. Thank you to all of those who applied for the FY2026 SAFER.

Organization	Award Amount
Adams Arapahoe 28-J	\$ 421,766.50
Cardinal Community Academy, WELD RE3-J	\$ 128,103.50
Center Consolidated School District 26JT	\$ 222,029.00
Englewood Schools	\$ 860,170.00
Lake County School District R-1	\$ 83,172.00
Morgan County School District RE-3	\$ 1,286,915.00
Park County School District Re-2	\$ 216,062.00
Peak to Peak Charter School, Boulder Valley School District	\$ 25,825.00
Peyton School District 23jt	\$ 262,742.00
Sangre de Cristo School District	\$ 15,004.00
Sargent School District RE33J	\$ 408,174.00
Summit School District	\$ 78,863.00
The STEAD School	\$ 118,326.00
Weld School District RE-1	\$ 722,848.00



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If you have not done so, please submit the required documentation to begin award processing.

Current SAFER Awardees

Have you completed your project? [Schedule your closeout meeting with us here!](#)

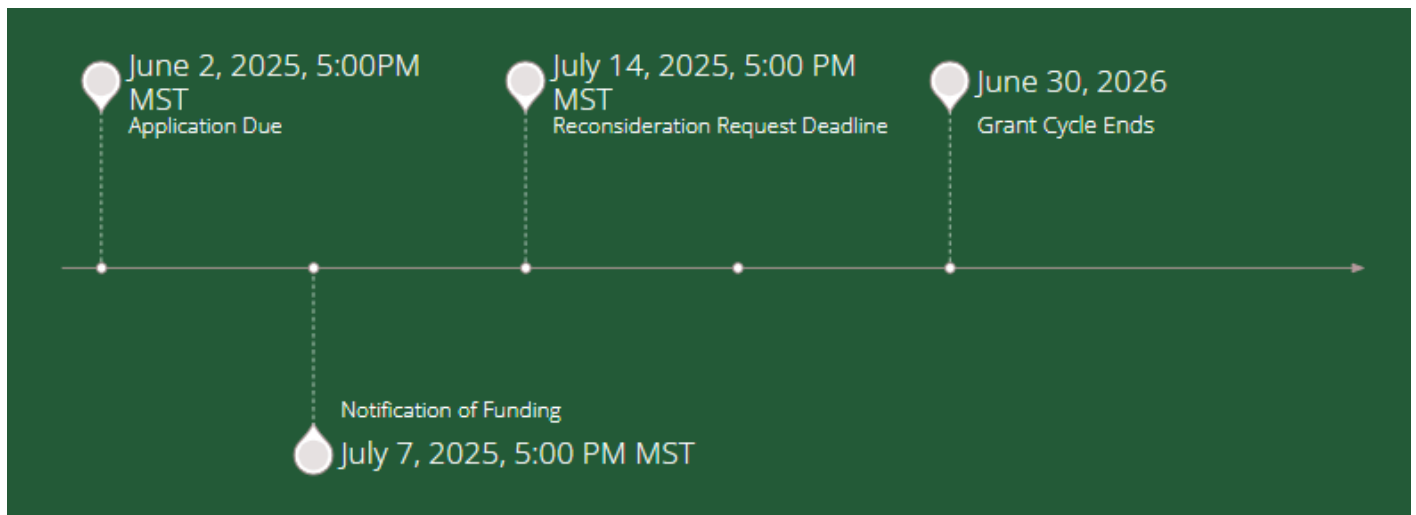
Reminder: The end of the period of performance is quickly approaching for SAFER FY2025 awards, be sure that your entity is on track to complete your project by June 30, 2025, and that all reporting requirements have been met!

Were you a 2023 SAFER recipient? We are conducting an internal review of the SAFER FY 2023 Grant Program. Please respond to email titled “2023 SAFER Grant Program Audit - Office of School Safety”

School Security Disbursement Grant Program

I have applied. What's Next?

Thanks to all the applicants who applied. We received 47 applications totaling over \$4,183,024 of requests.



Current SSD Awardees

Have you completed your project? [Schedule your closeout meeting with us here!](#)

Reminder: The end of the period of performance is quickly approaching for SSD FY2023 and FY2025 awards, be sure that your entity is on track to complete your project by June 30, 2025, and that all reporting requirements have been met!

Current STOP Violence CTAMP Grantees

- Please be sure to get your final data into Sabrina Arredondo Mattson, PhD. (sabrina.mattson@colorado.edu) as quickly as possible so that she can submit the report due at the end of June.
- If you are submitting an invoice for staff payments to cover training held outside of contract time, please submit that as soon as possible to Brad.stiles@state.co.us or



Melissa.rubeo@state.co.us

- Thank you for all your hard work on this grant with the OSS team!

Current External Grant Opportunities

- There are currently no open external school safety funding opportunities that we are aware of at this time.

Feedback from Adams 12 Five Star Schools:

“ Thanks to SSD grant funding and the support of OSS, Adams 12 School District was able to significantly enhance its radio communication system. We installed additional repeaters at each school to help eliminate dead zones in and around the buildings, and added larger repeaters throughout the district to strengthen radio transmissions with our buses during student pick-up and drop-off. This critical upgrade has greatly improved our communication capabilities and enabled us to complete a project that would have otherwise taken several more years without the SSD 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!

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

Thank you,
OSS Grants Unit
cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us



UPDATES FROM THE CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

Hopefully you are all staying cool and enjoying some much-needed relaxation! Please remember that the Crisis Response Unit is available to provide professional development for your staff throughout the summer or the upcoming school year.

Although it is summer, we will continue to be available to assist, for a limited time per incident, in the initial recovery period following a critical incident when additional mental health resources are needed. If your school is experiencing a loss or incident, do not hesitate to reach out directly to Kati Garner via email kati.garner@state.co.us or phone 303-909-3672. We are here to assist you and want to make sure you get connected with the services you need.

We are excited to be offering a new long term recovery training for schools! This training will help schools plan for the months and years following a school crisis. Please refer to the description below and email leah.lefever@state.co.us with any questions or to schedule your training.

Available **New** Trainings From the Crisis Response Unit:

NEW *Long-Term Recovery & Support After a Crisis: A Comprehensive Approach for Schools*

- This 60-minute presentation offers educational leaders and mental health professionals a roadmap for understanding and implementing effective crisis recovery strategies in schools. The session will explore the multifaceted approach required to support students, staff, and communities through complex healing processes following traumatic events. We go beyond traditional crisis management by offering a holistic, compassionate approach to healing that prioritizes human experience and collective resilience. Email leah.lefever@state.co.us with any questions or to schedule your training

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

2025 Summit in the Rockies on Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management

- [The Office of Domestic Violence & Sex Offender Management \(ODVSOM\)](#) is hosting its 2025 conference, themed "Evolving through Reflection: Teamwork, Compassion, Innovation."
- **When:** July 8-11, 2025
- **Where:** Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center, 620 Village Rd, Breckenridge, CO, 80424
- [You can view more information and register on ODVSOM's website.](#)

NEW Rural Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports Summit

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#), [SLV BOCES](#), and [Adams State University](#) are hosting this summit with multiple workshops to explore topics like
 - Leadership strategies for rural success
 - Fostering positive school culture and climate
 - Building strong family, school, and community partnerships across the tiers of support
 - Delivering high-quality instruction across a layered continuum of support



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- **When:** July 31, 2025 - August 1, 2025
- **Where:** Adams State University, McDaniel Hall, 1500 First St, Alamosa, CO 81101
- [You can view more information and register for this summit through the attached flyer.](#)

37th Annual COVA Conference

- The 37th Annual [COVA](#) Conference has been announced! “Over the course of 2.5 days, featuring 2 Keynotes and 80 workshops, learn new skills and best practices for the victim services field.”
- **When:** September 29, 2025 - October 1, 2025
- **Where:** Keystone Conference Center, 0633 Tennis Club Rd, Keystone, CO 80435
- [You can view more information and register on COVA's website](#)

988 Updated Partner Toolkit Resources

- [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) has shared its updated Partner Toolkit
- “New in the Toolkit”
 - [988 Branded Photography](#)
 - [988 Print Materials](#)
 - [988 Judgment-Free Bus Stop Banner](#)
 - [What is 988 and How Does it Work?](#)
 - [988 & 911 Social Media Content](#)”

OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

NEW School Safety Workshop

- [Redbag](#) is hosting “an immersive day of school safety training focused on collaboration, empowerment, and practical preparedness.”
- **When:** July 29, 2025
- **Where:** Aspen Academy, 5859 S University Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80121
- **What:** “Through scenario-based learning, real-world strategies, and hands-on application, participants will gain the tools, confidence, and collaboration needed to lead during emergencies and build resilient school communities.”
- [You can view more information on Redbag's event page](#)

Colorado Shakespeare Festival in the Schools: Shakespeare & Violence Prevention Tour

- [The Colorado Shakespeare Festival](#)'s touring program uses live performance and the latest school violence research. Students improve their Shakespeare literacy AND learn safe and effective intervention strategies they can use when they see mistreatment happening around them.
- Workshop Guidelines
 - Limit of 30 students per classroom
 - Workshops are typically scheduled on Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the school day.
 - Study Guides | Guías de Estudio for 2024-25
 - "Twelfth Night" (English | Español)



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- "Much Ado About Nothing" (English | Español)
- There is a fee to bring this program to your school, but partial subsidies are available to schools with funding challenges. In the 2025-26 school year, CSF also has limited funding available to provide free programming to Title 1 schools and rural communities. Please inquire for details.
- [See CSF's website](#) for details and booking. This is a project of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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](#).

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

Save the Date - The Landscape of Wellbeing and Belonging

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is hosting this webinar for "all Colorado educators, including grant program managers, building and district administrators, school counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and more."
- **When: September 17, 2025**
- **What:** "The goal of the Landscape project is to blend guidance, resources, systems, and best practices to improve outcomes for students, staff, and families across all PK-12 schools in Colorado."
- [View more information on CDE's website](#)

Facing History and Ourselves Summer Learning

- [Facing History and Ourselves](#) has a variety of learning opportunities over the course of the summer, including virtual and in-person trainings.
- [You can view the full list of opportunities on Facing History and Ourselves website](#)

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

NEW Measles Information

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) has shared that there is an increase in the number of confirmed cases of measles in Colorado.
- Even though a number of schools are on summer break, some continue to host student-related events and activities throughout the summer months.
- This has prompted them to share the following resources related to the measles:
 - [Current Colorado Measles Information - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#)
 - [Measles School Community Checklist](#)
 - What you can do to prevent and prepare for measles



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- [Measles Quick Sheet for School and Child Care Communities](#)
 - Risk evaluation and recommendations for schools and child care settings

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, see our [Trainings Offered](#) page.

Follow the Office of School Safety on LinkedIn

- For the latest school safety information between monthly E-Updates, connect with us on LinkedIn oss.colorado.gov/linkedin
- Featuring weekly updates on new research, resources, upcoming trainings, and Center activities.

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.



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Thank you for supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado!

Office of School Safety

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Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools