



November 2024

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: We want to thank everyone who participated in the annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit last month. Special thanks to our partners, Safe2Tell in the Attorney General's Office and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool once again was a sponsor of the event and we always appreciate their support. Thank you to all of our wonderful presenters who shared their expertise and time to deliver some very interesting workshops!

If you registered for the Summit but were unable to attend, you can still request a recording of a workshop or plenary session that you missed. Simply email melissa.rubeo@state.co.us and she will forward it to you. Zoom only allows us to share the recordings for 30 days after the event so don't delay. [The agenda can be found here.](#)

We also want to thank Governor Polis who declared October as Colorado Safe Schools Month. [The Governor's proclamation is linked here.](#)

Educator Safety Task Force: This task force was the mandate of [SB24-1320](#). Work of the statutorily appointed members began in September. Now the task force is recruiting members for three virtual subcommittees:

- Incident Response: Models, Considerations & Key Elements
- School Culture & Community Relations
- Educator Perspectives, Support & Training

If you are interested in serving, [please see the survey here](#) and you will find further information on the subcommittees. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

November Elections: With the impending elections, we have gathered some helpful resources for your schools. [Please find them here.](#)

Finally, we wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Kindest regards,

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 2024 - 2025:

- Suicide Prevention
 - Threat Assessment
 - Problematic Sexual Behaviors, and
 - **NEW THIS YEAR** Crisis Response
- For the last few years, we have facilitated informal meetings for any school staff who oversee either suicide prevention and intervention, threat assessments, and/or the management of students with problematic sexual behaviors. This year, our Crisis Response Team will convene a networking opportunity as well.
 - **Suicide prevention professionals** who have attended our Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) Toolkit training are welcome to join the “Toolkit/Online Platform Group” listed below. Those who aren’t trained in the use of our toolkit but would like some space to learn, discuss trends, and network are welcome to join the “Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.” Please contact Cary.Lynch@state.co.us 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:
 - November 5, 2024 Statewide Crisis Response Group
 - November 19, 2024 CTAMP Online Platform Group
 - December 10, 2024 Threat Assessment Advisory Group
 - December 17, 2024 SRA Advisory Group
 - January 14, 2025 Problematic Sexual Behaviors Group
 - February 18, 2025 Statewide Crisis Response Group
 - March 11, 2025 SRA Toolkit Online Platform Group
 - April 1, 2025 CTAMP Online Platform Group
 - April 15, 2025 SRA Advisory Group
 - April 29, 2025 Threat Assessment Advisory Group
 - May 6, 2025 Problematic Sexual Behaviors Group

November Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposium - **REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

- The annual Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium hosted by the [Office of School Safety](#) and the [Office of Suicide Prevention at CDPHE](#) will be IN-PERSON on
- **Thursday, November 14th at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver.**
- We will also be live-streaming it on Zoom.
- This year’s plenaries include:

- **Thomas Joiner, Ph.D.** researcher and author. Dr. Joiner will conduct two sessions, one on his latest research and book, *The Perversion of Virtue: Understanding Murder - Suicide*. His second workshop will be on sudden-onset Acute Suicidal Affective Disturbance.
- **Anna Mueller, Ph.D.**, will discuss her recent suicide research in Colorado.
- **Susie Reece** is a child survivor of suicide loss. She will discuss youth perspectives and how we can assist other survivors.
- Cost: \$50 for virtual or in-person
- [Registration is available online](#)

Crisis Response Symposium- REGISTRATION IS OPEN

- [The Colorado Office of School Safety's Crisis Response Unit](#) is holding this virtual symposium on crisis response that is designed for K-12 and Higher Education.
- **When: December 3, 2024**
- **Where: Virtual**
- Plenaries include:
 - **Dr. David J. Schonfeld, MD. FAAP**, who will address supporting grieving students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis.
 - **Dr. Marleen Wong, BA, MSW, PhD.**, on trauma skills to support students and staff after a crisis.
 - **Devin Cramer, Associate Dean of Students & Associate Vice Chancellor CU Boulder**, who will discuss death notifications and messaging for higher education.
 - **Lisa Wobbe-Veit, MSW**, on how to support impacted students and communities after a critical incident.
- There is no fee for this but you must be registered to get the Zoom links.
- [Registration is available](#)

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.

Crisis Response Plan Template

- The Crisis Response Unit is pleased to release a new 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.
- Schools must complete a brief training on writing crisis response plans in order to access the template.
- Requests can be sent to Jenny Mills at Jennifer.mills@state.co.us.

CSSRC ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS & ARCHIVED PRESENTATIONS

CSSRC online course links:

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

UPDATES FROM THE GRANTS UNIT

SAFER Grant

- Check out our [website](#) for the guidebook and the required reporting training
- Fully executed agreements and disbursements have begun to go out. Please make sure that your entity has submitted all required documents and reporting.
- Q3 (July 1- September 30) reporting was due Oct 30, 2024.
- Throughout the month of October we hosted 10 SAFER Check in Meetings. These meetings are an essential opportunity for us to discuss your project's progress, any challenges you may be encountering, your current budget status, and any areas where you might need additional support. These meetings will continue throughout the month of November. If you have not done so please utilize the spreadsheet sent via email to request your entities check-in meeting time!

SSD Grant

- Check out our website for the [SSD Grant Management Guide](#)
- Q3 (July 1- September 30) reporting was due October 30, 2024.
- All fully executed agreements and disbursements have gone out. Please make sure that your entity has submitted all required documents and reporting.
- Throughout the month of October we hosted 84 SSD Check in Meetings. If you have not done so please utilize the spreadsheet sent via email to request your entities check-in meeting time!

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.

Grant Funding Application Period with Safer Routes to School Coming Up!

- [Safer Routes to School](#) has a new grant that opened in August.
- They have approximately \$7M "to distribute for infrastructure and non-infrastructure

projects supporting communities in providing students and families with safe, accessible means of active transportation to and from school.”

- The online application will close at noon on Monday, November 4, 2024.
- You can view information as it becomes available on [their website](#) but they recommend that you sign up for an account in the meantime.

Colorado Department of Education Preventing School Violence Grant Program

- For more information on the grant, please visit the Preventing School Violence [website](#).
- Grantees can receive up to \$30k per year for two years to enhance school safety through targeted interventions and comprehensive strategies.
- Important Dates:
 - November 7, 2024: [Intent to Apply](#) Due
 - November 21, 2024: [Applications](#) Due by 4 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!

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

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

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

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

Colorado Department of Law Youth Mental Health and Wellness Opportunity

- For more information on the grant, please visit the Colorado Department of Law (DOL)/ Attorney General's Office grant [website](#).
- Important Dates:
 - November 12, 2024 12:00-1:30PM: Pre-Application Webinar - Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant - [Register to attend](#).
 - January 15, 2025: Applications Due by 11:59 pm

We're Here for You!

- Remember, our 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

The Grants Corner

Feedback from the Superintendent at Sanford School District:

"I want to thank you guys for working with us on this grant! I just have to report that last Thursday we had a scenario that the new cameras were vital to our investigation. The previous would not have been helpful but the new ones we purchased with the grant very well may have saved a life. Their high resolution provided the view we needed and we had concrete evidence that helped us sort out the issue. Thanks again! We really appreciate it!"



Sanford School District

Go Big Green!

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

October disappeared in a blink and it is finally feeling like fall across the state. Our staff has continued training schools across the state in PREPaRE and the Crisis Response Template. Last month also brought our first response. 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:

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 Office of Facility Schools Seeking Interim Board Member

- [The Office of Facility Schools](#) is looking for someone to join the Facility Schools Board as an interim member!
- Seeking applicants with a background in special or general education who can represent Colorado school districts at the board's monthly meetings through June 2025.
- If interested, send your resume and a brief letter of interest to Judy Stirman at Stirman_j@cde.state.co.us by Friday, Nov. 15.

NEW COVID-19 Testing Supply Program for LEAs

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

NEW Rise Above Colorado Sticker Contest

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

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

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

NATIONAL TRAININGS and EVENTS

The Briefings

- The [“I Love U Guys” Foundation \(ILUG\)](#) is holding its next Briefings Symposium in San Mateo, California. As a proud partner, we are looking forward to the event. It promises to be a unique and invaluable opportunity to engage with individuals from schools, districts, departments, agencies, and organizations worldwide.
- **When: November 7 - 8, 2024.**
- ILUG has teamed up with one of their incredible Mission Partners, Verkada, whose passion for school safety and bringing this program to California led them to offer their training facility in San Mateo, CA for The Briefings!
- We invite you to attend and are excited to provide you with a discount code to register for the Briefings Symposium.
- Over the course of two dynamic days, you will delve into a diverse range of topics essential for preparedness, including insights into handling both small-scale incidents and large crises, valuable lessons gleaned from past experiences, strategies for effective recovery, and immersive training sessions on the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM).
- Beyond the informative sessions, the Briefings Symposium offers a conducive environment for networking and fostering meaningful connections. It's not just about what you learn, but who you meet. By participating, you'll not only gain actionable knowledge but also forge enduring relationships that will help you achieve the goals you set.
- The normal fee of \$375 will be reduced to \$225. [Register now](#) with the discount code **CA-SEP24**.

OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS

360 Degree SRO

- [The DeAngelis Center Foundation](#) is hosting “a three hour training that explores SRO/School Safety from the trainer’s background of working in the schools for 20+ years and in Law Enforcement for 33 years.”
- **When: November 4, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- You can view more information and register on the [DeAngelis Center Foundation’s website](#)

NEW Joint Threat Assessment Training

- [The National Association of Threat Assessment Professionals \(ATAP\)](#) is hosting this training that “is designed for threat assessment and threat management professionals from diverse fields, including law enforcement, mental health, workplace violence, insider threat,

education, and threat management groups.”

- **When:** November 14 - 15, 2024
- **Where:** Colorado Springs 3320 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80904
- You can view more information on [the registration page from ATAP](#)

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

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

NEW Single Officer Response to an Active Shooter

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

WEBINARS and OTHER ONLINE LEARNING COURSES for K-12 & IHE 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](#).

Healthy Schools Priorities: Creating Focus Across the WSCC Model

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is hosting this webinar to “dig further into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model and how to use data and tools to help prioritize your efforts.”
- **When:** November 14, 2024, 12:00 pm
- You can view more information on [this flyer](#) and register on [CDE’s registration form](#).

Special Education Evaluation Webinar Series

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

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

Chalkbeat Colorado Article on Bullying for Parents

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

Safe and Sound Student Clubs

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

REMINDER Naloxone (Narcan) Bulk Purchases

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

RESOURCES and INFORMATION for INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Resources from the OSS

- Please remember that the OSS staff can provide services to any institution of higher education in the state.
- These might include:
 - Threat assessment training
 - Site assessments
 - Emergency planning for schools
 - Planning and conducting tabletop drills
 - Secondary traumatic stress
 - Adult Sexual Misconduct
 - Concurrent Enrollment considerations
 - Others by request
 - Please reach out to Brad.stiles@state.co.us 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!

Office of School Safety

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303-239-4435

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Website: oss.colorado.gov

Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools