



## September 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](https://oss.colorado.gov).*

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### THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Colleagues:

- I hope your school year is off to a great start. Please remember that the staff of the Office of School Safety (OSS) are here to support you. [Here is a link to the OSS webpage where you can request a training.](#)
- The Office of School Safety, in cooperation with the [National Association of School Resource Officers](#), held its first [Project Unite Training](#) with representatives from three different Colorado school districts. The training provided information on:
  - (1) positive school culture and climate
  - (2) bystander reporting and response
  - (3) information sharing, and
  - (4) behavioral threat and suicide assessment and management with best practices for implementation.

Modules include group discussions 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.

If your district would be interested in learning more about this project, and possibly bringing it to your area, please contact [Christine.harms@state.co.us](mailto:Christine.harms@state.co.us) or 303-912-6915.

- Recently, I was reminded of the wonderful resources provided by the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#). One outstanding resource is ["Take It Down."](#) NCMEC has contacts with a number of social media platforms and when a student's inappropriate photo has been posted, they can help get it taken down. This information should be shared with students as they can make an anonymous and free request to have an inappropriate photo removed.



Kindest regards,

**Chris Harms**

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

# COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY NETWORKING & TRAINING

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

- Suicide Prevention
  - Threat Assessment
  - Problematic Sexual Behaviors, and
  - **NEW THIS YEAR** Crisis Response
  - **Please see the calendar below**
- For the last few years, we have facilitated informal meetings for any school staff who oversee either suicide prevention and intervention or threat assessments. In 2022, we added a group for Problematic Sexual Behaviors. This year, our Crisis Response Team will convene a networking opportunity as well.
  - **Suicide prevention professionals** who have attended our Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) Toolkit training are welcome to join the “Toolkit/Online Platform Group”, listed below. Those who aren’t trained in the use of our toolkit but would like some space to learn, discuss trends, and network, are welcome to join the “Suicide Prevention Advisory Group”. Please contact [Cary.Lynch@state.co.us](mailto:Cary.Lynch@state.co.us) if you are interested in attending either of these groups.
  - Similarly, **Threat Assessment Professionals** will be divided between those who are using the **Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) training**, the “CTAMP/Online Platform Group”, and others interested in the topic generally “Threat Assessment Advisory Group”. [Brad.Stiles@state.co.us](mailto:Brad.Stiles@state.co.us) is your contact to be included in these groups.
  - **Professionals** working with youth with **Problematic Sexual Behaviors** should reach out to [JaeDee.Wood@state.co.us](mailto:JaeDee.Wood@state.co.us) to be included in this networking group.
  - School professionals responsible for **Crisis Preparation and Response** should contact [Jennifer.Mills@state.co.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mills@state.co.us) to be included in this new networking group.
  - We have set these professional meetings on **Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00PM MT**. The meetings will be virtual to allow more of our rural colleagues to join us. Here is the calendar:
    - September 17, 2024                      Statewide Crisis Response Group
    - October 8, 2024                        Problematic Sexual Behaviors Group
    - October 29, 2024                       SRA Toolkit Online Platform Group
    - 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

## Reunification Training with the I Love You Guys Foundation - **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

- The [Office of School Safety](#) is pleased to announce that we have a new partnership with the [“I Love U Guys” Foundation](#). This means that the OSS will work with ILUG for a series of workshops over the next few years. The first is listed below:
- **Reunification training**
  - When: **September 24th and 25th**

- Where: Ski Hi Event Center, Monte Vista, CO
- Cost: No fee as it is part of our partnership
- Limited space: This is limited to the first 90 participants so get your team registered!
- [Registration](#) Please note that the link to the left is temporarily unavailable. Use [the link to this google registration sheet](#) until September 16, 2024.

### October Safe Schools Summit - **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

- The annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit will be **COMPLETELY** virtual on **Thursday and Friday, October 17th and 18th, 2024.**
- Plenary sessions include:
  - Preventing staff burnout
  - Supporting students involved in the juvenile justice system, Joseph Silva, Ph.D.
  - Restorative Practices in Schools
  - Transforming Conflict
- The 30 workshops to be held on Friday have been confirmed. [Please see the schedule here.](#)
- There is no fee for this but you must be registered to receive the Zoom links.
- [You can register online](#) Please note that the link to the left is temporarily unavailable. Use [the link to this google registration sheet](#) until September 16, 2024.

### 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 will 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 and will discuss youth perspectives and how we can assist other survivors."
- Cost: \$50 for virtual or in-person
- [Registration](#) Please note that the link to the left is temporarily unavailable. Use [the link to this google registration sheet](#) until September 27, 2024 or until the link is no longer available.

### 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 will include:
  - **Dr. David J. Schonfeld, MD. FAAP**, will be addressing supporting grieving students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis.
  - **Dr. Marleen Wong** will be addressing trauma skills to support students and staff after a crisis.
  - **Devin Cramer** will discuss death notifications and messaging for higher education.

- Lisa Wobbe-Veit, MSW, will discuss 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](#) Please note that the link to the left is temporarily unavailable. Use [the link to this google registration sheet](#) until September 27, 2024 or until the link is no longer available.

### **NEW** 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](mailto: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.

### **SSD Grant**

- Check out our website for the [SSD Grant Management guide](#)
- Partially Executed agreements have begun to go out, please make sure that your entity has submitted all required documents.

## **The Grants Corner**

### **Feedback from the Staff at Riverside Education Centers (REC):**

One REC student experienced tremendous character development this school year. He was initially apathetic about his academic goals and socially withdrawn from peers at REC. Now, because of REC, he is learning social skills that connect him to those around him. He feels a stronger sense of connection and is building the foundations for long-lasting friendships and community. This sense of community fuels his motivation to work hard in math. “It is an honor to witness firsthand this underdog’s exceptional growth socially and academically,” said a REC tutor. “This is a testament to REC’s mission to improve academic achievement and foster positive social and emotional development in a supportive environment.”

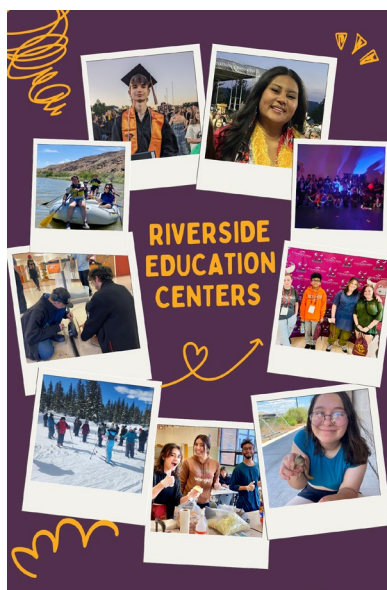
An 8th grader and tutor were making small talk when they asked him how his day was going. He responded, “My day was terrible until REC happened”.

The pictures below include two high school graduates, a group picture of a high school night out glow party, a visit to Colorado Mesa University, summertime outdoor fun, afterschool enrichment (marble track making & cooking), and a cross-country ski trip. These are examples of some of the opportunities REC provides students.

Here are some stats from our 2023-2024 program year:

- REC served over 1300 K-12th grade students.
- 891 students attended at least 75 hours of programming.
- 95% of REC students surveyed report they feel like part of a community

Thank you for your funding support.



### 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 team is here to support you. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to [schedule a meeting](#) or reach out to our dedicated grant support team.
  - General Grant Inquiries: [cdps\\_oss\\_grants@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_grants@state.co.us)
  - The School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER): [cdps\\_oss\\_safer@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_safer@state.co.us)
  - The School Security Disbursement Grant Program (SSD): [cdps\\_oss\\_ssd@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_ssd@state.co.us)
  - Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program (YVP): [cdps\\_oss\\_yvp@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_oss_yvp@state.co.us)
  - Stay Connected: [oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview](http://oss.colorado.gov/grants-overview)

Don't miss the other federal and state grant opportunities further down.

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

## Crisis Response Unit

As school kicks into high gear we would like to remind you that the Crisis Response Unit is here to assist in overall crisis management, from preparing and preventing incidents to responding to and helping with a school's post crisis needs. We are excited to have a team of experienced school mental health professionals available to assist, for a limited time per incident, in the initial recovery period following a crisis incident when additional mental health resources are needed. Please reach out to Kati Garner at [kati.garner@state.co.us](mailto:kati.garner@state.co.us) for further information or to request services offered by the Crisis Response Unit for your school or district.



## **Meet the Team:**

**Kati Garner, M.Ed.**, was promoted from the Center's Western Regional Training Consultant to the Crisis Response Unit Manager in September. A former teacher, high school counselor, and district administrator, Ms. Garner led the Mental Health and Crisis Response Team for her district. She has represented the Center locally, statewide, and nationally on a variety of school safety topics.

**Jennifer Mills, M.A., LPC**, joined the Crisis Unit staff in November of 2023. Ms. Mills brings both school experience as a former school counselor and private practice experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor. Ms. Mills comes to us from Golden View Classical Academy.

**Brandi Vos, Ed.S., NCSP**, joined the Crisis Unit staff in March of 2024. Ms. Vos is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist bringing 20 years of school experience to the team. Ms. Vos has led and participated on crisis teams in the Denver Metro area for the entirety of her career. Ms. Vos comes to us from Littleton School District.

**Leah Lefever, LCSW**, joined the Crisis Unit staff in July of 2024. Ms. Lefever is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and brings experience in child protection, forensic social work, crisis response and education both inside and outside of the classroom. Ms. Lefever comes to us from Centennial Mental Health in the Fort Morgan area.

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

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

## CURRENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OSS

### **NEW** CDPHE Position Posted

- [The Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#) is hiring for the position of Director.
- **Applications are due by September 16, 2024.**
- [You can view details about the position and apply online.](#)

### **NEW** The CELL Exhibit - Reopened

- [The CELL](#) has opened their redesigned exhibit: “This unique experience chronicles and investigates how hatred can lead to targeted violence and how terrorism has evolved and influences global security.”
- You can view more information on the exhibit and purchase tickets on the [CELL’s website](#)

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

- [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](#)

### Colorado’s Queer Youth Network Seeking New Participants

- [Colorado’s Queer Youth Network with the Colorado School of Public Health](#) is seeking rural queer youth between the ages of 14 - 18 years old wanting to create art and advocate for unmet queer youth wellbeing needs.
- Individuals who participate can earn \$40 for each session they attend
- You can obtain more information on how to register and participate by emailing [Noah.Jansen@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Noah.Jansen@cuanschutz.edu)

### Healthy Kids Colorado 2023 Survey Results Released

- [CDPHE releases the latest Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data: Responses offer signs of resilience among Colorado students](#)
- The [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#) released the latest statewide and regional results from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, the state’s most comprehensive survey on the health and well-being of young people. More than 120,000 youth responded to the voluntary survey in the fall of 2023, and the results are promising.
- “We’re very happy to see overall improvements in many areas. There have been dramatic changes in the right direction around indicators of mental health, suicide risk, and substance use,” said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, CDPHE. “We’re hopeful this is an indication of state and community investments in prevention programming and

protective factors paying off.”

- Between 2021 and 2023 high schoolers experiencing persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness dropped by 14 percentage points. While these are the lowest rates in Colorado since the survey’s inception, we remain committed to connecting youth with the help and support they need to further decrease the rate of youth who have suicidal thoughts, planning, and attempts.

Significant key findings from the 2023 statewide high school results include:

- Youth who seriously considered suicide in the last year decreased by 6 percentage points.
- Youth who planned a suicide attempt decreased by 4 percentage points.
- Youth who attempted suicide decreased by 1 percentage point.
- Similar to prior years, the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results consistently illuminates disparities in health outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth in Colorado. Disaggregated 2023 high school data show:
  - Transgender youth seriously considered suicide in the past year at more than four times the rate of their cisgender peers (45% vs.10%).
  - Nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide in the past year at more than three times the rate of their female and male peers (37% vs. approx. 10%).
  - Bisexual, gay/lesbian, pansexual, and asexual youth seriously considered suicide in the past year at more than three times the rate of their heterosexual peers (approx. 29% vs.8%).
  - “We hope to build on some of the positive trends coming out of the survey to close the gaps we see for LGBTQ+ youth in Colorado,” said Lena Heilmann, director of the Office of Suicide Prevention. “Protective factors, such as supportive adults, clear family rules, and feeling safe and connected at school, help youth to thrive.”
- The 2021 results highlighted sharp declines in youth substance use. This trend continued into 2023 with decreases in current use of most substances. Youth marijuana use and cigarette use remained stable between 2021 and 2023 at 13% and 3%, respectively.
- Youth who currently drink alcohol decreased by 3 percentage points.
- Youth who currently vape decreased by 7 percentage points.
- Youth who currently use prescription pain medications without a prescription or differently than prescribed decreased by 2 percentage points.
- The latest middle school results show similar improvements in mental health and suicide outcomes, but a concerning increase in youth alcohol use. In 2023, 24% of middle schoolers reported ever drinking alcohol, up from 11% in 2021. Early initiation of substance use is associated with future substance misuse. In 2023, 14% of middle schoolers reported having their first alcoholic drink before age 11, almost triple the rate from 2021 (5%).
- The Colorado School of Public Health Survey Team within the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus helps schools administer the survey in the fall of odd-numbered years. In 2023, 120,239 students participated in 344 public middle and high schools in 46 Colorado counties. CDPHE and the Colorado Departments of Human Services, Education, and Public Safety support this survey. For more details—including results that are disaggregated by geography, age, grade, race & ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity—visit [healthykidscolo.org](https://healthykidscolo.org).

## Title IX Regulations Released

- [The U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov) has finally released its new Title IX regulation.
- The rule enforces the promise of Title IX that no person experiences sex discrimination in federally funded education.
- This will also help ensure that all persons, including students and employees, will receive the appropriate support if they were to experience sex discrimination in schools and that the procedures created by schools for investigating and resolving complaints involving sex



discrimination are accurate and fair to all parties.

- Some of the final regulations include
  - Providing full protection from sex-based harassment.
  - Requiring schools to take prompt and effective action to end any sex discrimination in their education programs or activities as well preventing any recurrence and remedy the effects.
  - Requiring schools to provide supportive measures to those affected by conduct that may represent sex discrimination, including sexual violence and other forms of sexual harassment.
- More about the final update to Title IX
  - [Final Rule Unofficial Version](#)
  - [Summary of Revisions](#)
  - [Title IX Final Rule FACT SHEET](#)
  - [Resources for Drafting Nondiscrimination Policies](#)

### Safe2Tell now has a text code!

- Safe to Tell, from the [Office of the Colorado Attorney General](#) has a new text code.
- Students who text **STCO** to **738477** will receive a link to the report form.
- Learn more at [Safe2Tell](#)

## NATIONAL TRAININGS and EVENTS

### The Briefings

- The [“I Love U Guys” Foundation](#) is holding its next Briefings Symposium in San Mateo, California.
- When: **November 7 - 8, 2024.**
- They have 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!
- As a proud Partner of The “I Love U Guys” Foundation we are looking forward to the upcoming Briefings Symposium on November 7 - 8, 2024, in San Mateo, CA. This event promises to be a unique and invaluable opportunity for you to engage with individuals from schools, districts, departments, agencies, and organizations worldwide.
- We invite you to attend and are excited to provide you with a discount code to register for the Briefings Symposium.
- Register now with the discount code **CA-SEP24**: <https://iloveguys.org/The-Briefings.html>  
The normal fee of \$375 will be reduced to \$225.
- 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.
- Learn more & register now using the code **CA-SEP24**: [On the I Love You Guys website.](#)
- [The registration link is here.](#)

### **NEW** National School Safety Summit

- “The National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security, hosted by the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#), brings federal, state and local school leaders

together to share actionable recommendations that enhance safe and supportive learning environments in kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools.”

- **When: September 25 - 26, 2024**
- **Where:** Virtual
- **What:** “This two-day, virtual event brings together K-12 school leaders and practitioners to discuss and share actionable recommendations that enhance safe and supportive learning environments. The Summit is designed to foster a nationwide dialogue on some of the most critical school safety issues, as well as equip school stakeholders and personnel with resources, training and best practices to apply in their local school settings and communities.”
- View more information and register on [CISA’s website](#).

### **NEW Dangers of Youth Vaping: What Parents Need to Know in 2024**

- [Parents Against Vaping \(PAVe\)](#) is hosting this webinar to share “the essentials for helping kids avoid or quit vaping and tobacco use.”
- **When: September 10, 2024, 10:00 am MST.**
- You can [view the flyer](#) for more information and [register online](#)

## **OTHER COLORADO TRAININGS and EVENTS**

### **2024 Fall CDE Conference**

- The [Colorado Department of Education](#) is hosting the [Landscape of Wellbeing and Belonging](#) Conference, supporting various school programs from leadership support of wellbeing and belonging to educator wellness.
- The conference is aiming to promote collaboration as it addresses the growing social, emotional, and comprehensive wellness needs of students, staff and families.
- The event is being hosted in collaboration with specific offices within the department
- **When: September 18 and 19, 2024**
- **Where:** [DoubleTree Hilton, Colorado Springs](#)
- You can view more information, including when registration is available, on the CDE Conference [website](#).

### **2024 Colorado School Social Work Conference: Growing Connected Communities**

- [The Colorado School Social Work Association \(CSSWA\)](#) conference is “for an audience of school social workers and other mental health professionals or educators who support the social, emotional and mental health needs of Colorado students and youth.”
- **When: September 19, 2024, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**
- **Where:** Adams 12 Conference Center, 1500 E. 128th Ave, Thornton, CO 80241
- View more information and register [online](#)

### **NEW Enhancing School Safety Regional Training: Integrating Prevention and School Climate Improvement Efforts**

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is hosting this training that “will explore the fundamentals of preventing school violence by emphasizing the creation of systems and structures essential for positive school environments.”
- **When: September 20, 2024**
- **Where:** Northeastern Junior College, 100 College Ave, Sterling, CO 80751
- View more information and register on [CDE’s website](#)

### **The 2024 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Conference is coming to Fort Collins!**

- The [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) is pleased to be the presenting sponsor for

the 2024 SRTS National Conference! Hosted by [Safe Routes Partnership](#), Colorado has been chosen for the first in-person SRTS National Conference since 2019.

- The 2024 SRTS National Conference will be held at the Fort Collins Hilton from **October 22-24, 2024**. Save the date and prepare to connect with fellow active transportation, public health, and Safe Routes champions from across the country.
- [The Safe Routes Partnership is now accepting session proposals for the event](#), which will bring together hundreds of Safe Routes to School and active transportation professionals to exchange ideas and share knowledge. The Conference and the wider Safe Routes to School movement benefit from the innovative contributions, creative solutions, practical know-how, and community insights from people of different backgrounds.
- Contact Colorado SRTS Program Manager Melissa Trecoske Houghton at [melissa.houghton@state.co.us](mailto:melissa.houghton@state.co.us).

### **NEW Behavioral & Digital Threat Assessment Management**

- [The Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool \(CSDSIP\)](#) is partnering with [Safer Schools Together](#) to host this Behavioral & Digital Threat Assessment Management training.
- **When: October 8, 2024, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm**
- **Where:** The Conference Center at RidgeGate 9978 Sky Ridge Ave Suite 401, Lone Tree, CO 80124
- **What:**
  - “Carly Posey - Anticipating the Unthinkable
    - Carly will share her powerful story of what happened inside Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. She will discuss what went wrong and what went right that day, as well as the lessons learned in the days and years that followed. Carly will share her perspective on how a school community can proactively prepare for such events, offering real solutions for school safety and recovery. L
  - Safer Schools Together Communication through Crisis: Navigating Critical Incidents
    - In this session, attendees will explore effective critical incident response strategies for school administrators. As a school administrator, you are often at the center of a critical incident and are responsible for managing the crisis and communicating with staff, students, parents, and others about the situation. The form and scope of a critical incident can vary, but there are some key strategies you can use to effectively and quickly communicate with different audiences. By understanding these strategies, you can ensure that you are sharing the appropriate information in the most effective and timely way.”
- You can view more information and register on [CSDSIP’s website](#)

### **NEW Safety Summit - Communication Strategies in Crisis**

- [The Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool \(CSDSIP\)](#) is hosting this conference at no cost to attendees.
- **When: October 29, 2024, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm**
- **Where:** The Conference Center at RidgeGate 9978 Sky Ridge Ave Suite 401, Lone Tree, CO 80124
- You can view more information and register on CSDSIP’s [website](#)

## **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](#)

### Office Hour for Special Education Leaders on School-Based Mental Health Licensure

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) is hosting “an office hour session focused on recent legislative changes in school-based mental health licensure. This session is for special education leaders, hiring managers, directors, and coordinators.”
- **When: September 6, 2024, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
- You can view more information and register through [this link](#)

### **NEW** Creating a Culture of Violence Prevention in K-12 Schools

- [The Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships](#) is presenting this webinar to “Learn about strategies to create a culture of violence prevention in the K-12 education system from school safety experts.”
- **When: September 16, 2024, 11:00 am MDT**
- [You can view more information and register for the webinar on DHS’s website](#)

### **NEW** Making Sense of Health Privacy Laws: HIPAA and FERPA for School-Based Health Professionals

- [The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network \(MHTTC\)](#) is hosting this webinar “to assist mental health professionals working in K-12 schools in understanding how the federal health privacy laws apply to student mental health information.”
- **When: September 19, 2024, 11:00 am MST.**
- [View more information and register on MHTTC’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.”
- Specific topic and when:
  - Comprehensiveness in Special Education Evaluation and Data-Based Decision Making - **September 24th**
  - Best Practices in Non-Discriminatory Assessment for Special Education - **October 29th**
  - 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 through [this link](#).

### Early Childhood Mental Health Online Moodle Course

- [The Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\)](#) has created this online course that will “cover principles of early childhood mental health, common and unusual presentations of early childhood mental health needs, and strategies educators can use to support mental health, including for students with disabilities.”
- When:
  - **October 2, 2024**
  - **November 13, 2024**
  - **December 12, 2024**
- You can view more information and register for the online course through [this link](#)

## CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **NEW** Application for Suicide Prevention Trainings for Schools and Districts

- [The Office of Suicide Prevention](#) releases an annual application for schools to request grants. Awarded funds may be used for staff training related to suicide prevention and crisis response. Grants may be awarded up to \$5,000.
- Contact: Office of Suicide Prevention, Kirstin Hoagland, [Kirstin.hoagland@state.co.us](mailto:Kirstin.hoagland@state.co.us)
- Application Deadline: September 30, 2024.
- Approximate Award Notification: October 15, 2024

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

- [Safer Routes to School](#) will have a new grant period that will begin 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 “In the meantime, all prospective applicants who haven’t done so already should be sure to sign up for an account.”

## RESOURCES and INFORMATION for Pre K-12 SCHOOLS

### BIPOC Mental Health Toolkit

- [Mental Health America \(MHA\)](#) has released their 2024 BIPOC Mental Health Toolkit which “provides free, practical resources to help navigate mental health stigma, bridge generational differences, dismantle mental health myths, and encourage meaningful conversations.”
- You can access more information and [the toolkit from MHA’s website](#)

### Understanding Firearm-Related Injury and School Violence Series

- [The National Center for School Safety](#) has released “this podcast interview series, experts will discuss topics such as youth suicide prevention, anonymous reporting systems, and community engagement. Listeners will gain a broad understanding of the intersection of school safety strategies and firearm-related injury.”
- You can [access all five episodes of the podcast online.](#)

### CASEL Program Guide

- The [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#) has released the “CASEL Program Guide to filter programs based on your local priorities, compare program features, and determine opportunities for training and implementation support.”
- You can view the [program guide online.](#)

### 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

### Clery Act State of the Field Survey - **They need your input!**

- [The Clery Center](#) has announced this field survey: “The goals of the survey are to identify what institutional resources and support are being dedicated to Clery Act implementation, trends in how institutions are interpreting and implementing Clery Act requirements, what external resources and systems are being utilized for Clery Act implementation, and challenges or concerns institutions are navigating with Clery Act implementation.”
- You can access [more information and complete the survey online](#).

### Multi-Hazard Emergency Management for Higher Education

- “This [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) course is designed to be delivered to teams of campus personnel who are responsible for managing and supporting emergency plans.”
- Deadline for applying to host 2025 offerings is August 16, 2024.
- You can view more information on how to host and the details of the training course on [FEMAs training page](#)

### Resources from the OSS

- Please remember that the OSS staff can provide services to any institution of higher education in the state.
- These might include:
  - Threat assessment training
  - Site assessments
  - Emergency planning for schools
  - Planning and conducting tabletop drills
  - Secondary traumatic stress
  - Adult Sexual Misconduct
  - Concurrent Enrollment considerations
  - Others by request
  - Please reach out to [Brad.stiles@state.co.us](mailto:Brad.stiles@state.co.us) or [Kelly.addington@state.co.us](mailto:Kelly.addington@state.co.us) for more information, or use [this form](#).

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

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

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



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

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**Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools**