



## Educator Safety Task Force (ESTF)

September 12, 2024

Remote, Via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Members Present</b>	Brent Reckman, Chris Zimmerman, Darren Joiner, Elsa Banuelos-Lindsay, Jamie Montoya-De Smidt, Jim Plott, Laura Carno, Lisa Humberd, Melissa Mahlke, Christina Monaco, Marsia Ronyak, Suzie McGhghy, Susan Rayburn, Matt Holtman
<b>Honorary Members</b>	Robin Singer
<b>State Employees</b>	Chris Harms, Director, Office of School Safety; Margaret Ochoa, Manager, Colorado School Safety Resource Center
<b>Facilitators</b>	Berrick Abramson and Carrie Steele, Confluence PSG
<b>Guests</b>	Amie Baca-Ohlert, former CEA President: Educator Perspectives; Natalie Seils, Legislative Policy Analyst, CDPS: Legal Policies, Practices

### Meeting Agenda, Purpose & Outcomes

<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Confluence PSG President, Berrick Abramson and the Director of the Office of School Safety, Chris Harms gave welcoming remarks.
<b>Agenda &amp; Overview of Meeting by Confluence PSG</b>	<p>Confluence PSG President, Berrick Abramson, gave an overview of the purpose of today’s meeting, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome &amp; Introductions</li> <li>● Meeting Overview</li> <li>● Educator Perspective</li> <li>● Legal Landscape</li> <li>● Local Policies, Practice</li> <li>● Group Brainstorm: Sources of data, perspectives &amp; exemplars; HB 24-1320 3.a.III: Incidents of Aggressive Student Behavior</li> <li>● Reflections &amp; Requests</li> <li>● Closing thoughts &amp; Next Steps</li> </ul>
<b>Key Themes &amp; Takeaways</b>	<p><b>Key Takeaways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schools face significant resource constraints, including availability of alternate educational sites, funding, staffing, training in implementing safety measures</li> <li>● Current laws/policies are insufficient to fully address educator safety concerns</li> <li>● Mental health needs of both students and staff have increased, straining existing support systems</li> <li>● Rural and small districts face unique challenges in accessing resources and specialized programs</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Members also discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schools Safety Plans, including conduct codes and safety reporting</li> <li>● Restraint/Seclusion practices</li> <li>● Crisis intervention training</li> <li>● Threat assessment protocols</li> <li>● SROs</li> <li>● Policy tensions at the state and district levels</li> <li>● Increase in workers comp cases</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Meeting Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● October 10, 3:30pm-5:30pm</li> <li>● November 13, 3:30pm-5:30pm</li> <li>● December 12, 3:30pm-5:30pm</li> </ul> <p><b><i>We welcome all perspectives critical to shaping the work of the Educator Safety Task Force. Please reach out to Chris Harms with questions and/or recommendations.</i></b></p>

*These minutes are intended to provide an overview of the discussions at the meeting and, where possible, the high-level themes or areas of consensus. The summaries of any topics are not presented as comprehensive notes of the full discussion. Neither the inclusion or omission of any comment or segment of a discussion should be interpreted as a judgment of the value or importance of such items.*

**If you have questions about this meeting or upcoming meetings, please contact:**

**Task Force Facilitators**

Berrick Abramson, President, Confluence PSG: [berrick@confluencepsg.com](mailto:berrick@confluencepsg.com)

Carrie Steele, Sr. Project Manager, Confluence PSG: [carrie@confluencepsg.com](mailto:carrie@confluencepsg.com)

**Task Force Lead**

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