

Legislative Report 2021

**A Report to the Colorado House and Senate
Education and Judiciary Committees**

**Colorado School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety**

C.R.S. 24-33.5-1801, et seq.



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Executive Summary

Mission

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC – also referred to as the “Center”) in the Colorado Department of Public Safety (“CDPS/Department”) was created by Senate Bill 08-001 ([CRS §24-33.5-1801, et seq.](#)). The mission of the Center is to assist local schools and communities in creating safe and positive school environments for Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The CSSRC has ten staff positions, as of June 2019. Three positions are currently vacant. In 2020, the CSSRC was refinanced from a General Funded operation to a cash funded unit. The cash fund that supports the CSSRC will run out in the next couple of years, and the CSSRC has requested a decision item to secure a more stable source of long term funding for the Center. Staff provide consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance to foster safe and secured learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention to prevent crises. Information and resources from the CSSRC are available to all schools, school officials, and community partners throughout Colorado. The Center supports schools and local agencies in the five missions of school safety preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery (as outlined by the United States Department of Education, the Presidential Directive—National Preparedness Directive PPD-8).

The Center has a 19-member advisory board from various state agencies and others with a stake in school safety issues in Colorado. The board meets formally four times each year with Center staff to provide input on their work.

Key Accomplishments in 2021

The staff demonstrated their flexibility and creativity when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country in early 2020. By March, staff were required to quarantine and work remotely. Immediately, staff pivoted to providing virtual training in place of in-person workshops. Statewide training also went virtual, along with the workshops of the STOP Grant. Starting in the summer of 2021, some workshops resumed in-person. The Center has remained a repository of resources for school-safety related issues, and received high praise from school personnel for the continuity of services through the pandemic. The following are highlights of key accomplishments for 2021.

- **STOP Violence Grant** - The School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado Boulder and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), applied for funding from the National Institute of Justice in the summer of 2019. The Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence Act Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools (STOP Violence) grant was awarded to CDPS in the amount of \$999,987. The grant entails refining the Center’s threat assessment documents and training, piloting the revised materials at five schools, then rolling out the final product and training to an additional 30 schools. The grant period is from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022.

Phase One, the refining of the documents and training materials, was completed by April 2020. The evaluation materials were confirmed. Workshops in the five pilot sites began in June 2020. Phase Two was under way. By the end of the summer of 2020, Center staff had trained all five pilot sites. Trained school staff started using the revised materials during the 2020-21 academic year, and training continued for the 30 remaining sites.

Recently, the CSSRC staff hired a vendor to develop a secure, online version in a protected portal to house the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP). Training on the new online protocol will begin in 2022.

- **Wildly Important Goals (WIG) - The CSSRC contributes to several of the Colorado Department of Public Safety's Wildly Important Goals for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.**
 - The CSSRC's WIG for FY2021 was that Center staff would work with school districts to provide exercise support (of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program or "HSEEP" exercise design and implementation) to increase the number of exercised school emergency operations plans (EOPs) to 95%. In spite of the Center's repeated reminders and offers of assistance to schools across the state, this goal was not reached. The final tally received was 115/178 or 65% had exercised their EOPs within the last year. This was most likely due to COVID and the chaotic school year in 2020-21. The CSSRC will continue to offer help to schools to meet this goal.
 - The Department's WIGs for FY2022 include the CSSRC providing a virtual option for some of the Center's training, along with preparing materials with accessibility in mind. Additionally, the CSSRC is to proactively ask about accommodation needs and is tasked with educating at least 100 school personnel in the higher concentrations of THC in the marijuana sold in Colorado. Since the onset of COVID, the Center staff have easily switched to virtual training including two workshops on marijuana and therefore, are making progress toward these goals.
- **Colorado School Safety Academy** – In working with a group of school safety agencies from across the state including the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, the I Love U Guys Foundation, and the JeffCo/Frank DeAngelis Center, the School Safety Resource Center initiated the first annual School Safety Academy the week of June 7, 2021. Of the original 25 registered, 20 completed the five-day course training School Safety Specialists to serve in both front-range and rural districts. The Center continues to provide additional support to these specialists throughout the school year as they enhance their district's safety efforts.
- **Statewide School Crisis Response Working Group** - Discussions with other statewide school safety stakeholders has resulted in a Working Group examining crisis response training models and creating a Colorado Crisis Response Guide for Schools. This work will be completed in early 2022 followed by active marketing and training efforts across the state.
- **Providing Training, Consultation, and Resources** – The Center provides both statewide and school site training throughout the year. Since COVID, many of the trainings have been live, virtual workshops. Center staff trained 5,847 participants in 207 workshops.
 - **Statewide Trainings** – Virtual statewide trainings during 2021 included the following:
 - **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium** – held on February 4th. A total of 231 participants logged on at some part or all of the day. The plenary topics included school employee sexual misconduct, how pornography influences the attitudes and behaviors of young people and adults, preparing high school students to avoid sexual assault in college, and information on human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The symposium is on an every other year schedule, which appears to meet stakeholder needs.
 - **Educator Resiliency** was presented on March 18th by staff from the U. S. Department of Education's REMS Technical Assistance Center. Knowing the stress educators have experienced during COVID, a workshop on relieving that stress was appropriate. Twenty-eight participated and heard from national speakers including Dr. Marlene Wong from the Los Angeles Unified Public Schools.
 - **School Safety Academy** – The initial week-long Academy took place the week of June 7th. Twenty school staff attended and became School Safety Specialists. CSSRC staff created the curricula covering both physical and psychological safety. Other school safety stakeholders shared their resources with the Specialists on the final day of the Academy. Training continues for Specialists, as needed, by CSSRC staff.
 - **Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Summit** – This annual event was held on June 15th. Sixty participants heard four plenary presentations. Topics included the neuroscience of stress, stalking on college campuses, cannabis use among young adults, and concurrently enrolled students and their safety.

- **Colorado Safe Schools Summit** – October 21st and 22nd saw 274 school and community personnel participate remotely at some point during the annual Safe Schools Summit. David Schonfeld MD, provided the opening keynote on the first day. He addressed the audience on supporting students in grief and loss. Kent McLarren, of Rise Above Colorado, was the keynote speaker on Day Two and discussed using data to inform substance abuse prevention efforts. Twenty-four workshops rounded out the two-day agenda and participants scored the conference highly.
- The annual **Suicide Symposium**, in collaboration with the Office of Suicide Prevention, took place on November 4th. The morning consisted of two keynote presenters; Dr. John Ackerman from the Nationwide Children’s Hospital walked participants through best practices for suicide postvention in a school. Brandon Johnson, SAMHSA, discussed supporting the mental health of minority students. The afternoon session included best practices in establishing a suicide strategy in a school or district. A workshop for school mental health professionals on using the CSSRC Suicide Intervention Toolkit rounded out the afternoon. One hundred and fifty people attended all or part of the day.
- The previously popular **Student/Staff Summits** were replicated with a one-day virtual workshop for middle and high school students in early December. Unfortunately, the date of this event coincided with final exams in many school districts so the attendance was disappointing. Only 52 participated at some time during the Summit and heard a keynote presentation by Dorothy Espelage, PhD., on bullying and harassment. Students also participated in three plenaries on school safety topics chosen by the CSSRC’s youth council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES²), co-presented by staff and YES² team members. The presentations were recorded and are available on the CSSRC website.

The added advantage of these online workshops was the ability for Center staff to reach teachers who previously had little opportunity to attend in-person statewide training due to the inability of districts to provide substitute teachers.

- **School Site Training** - Along with the statewide training, the CSSRC continues to provide various staff development, topic-focused trainings, and consultations in individual districts, public, private and charter schools across the state. In 2021, staff provided training on 41 topics in 207 workshops, bringing the total number of people trained since the Center opened to 64,297.
- **Creation and Delivery of Online Learning** – During 2012, the Center launched its first two online training courses for school personnel. Participants have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits with the completion of each course. By 2019, the Center had a menu of 17 online courses. In 2020 and 2021, all seventeen courses were reviewed, current data and resources were added, and the narration was changed where needed.

The Resource Specialist took the time to learn the software so that he would be able to create new online courses for the Center with content from staff. This will be a huge savings to the Center, as previously outside software developers created all the courses at a considerable expense. To date, the seventeen online courses have been accessed by approximately 16,546 people.

- **Consultation & Collaborations** - The staff contacts were 6,639 in 2021. Of those contacts, 409 direct consultations were provided to individual schools/districts, agencies or parents through the second week of December. The Center also collaborated on 174 occasions with other state agencies on school safety issues.
- **Resources** - With the COVID virus and most trainings being virtual, the Center distributed copies of 32,664 resources.
- **Enhancing Electronic Communication Capability** – The **CSSRC’s updated website** continues to be a dynamic hub of current and topical information for schools, emergency responders, community partners, and the general public. Please see (cssrc.colorado.gov or <https://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>).

- Continual updating and modifying of the website occurs to include more resources and improve searchability. Additionally, 5,978 individuals receive the monthly E-Update newsletter. The newsletter includes school safety news and resources and highlights upcoming training and grant opportunities.
- In 2012, the Center initiated a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/CoSSRC>. This allows the Center to update followers between issues of the E-Update. At the peak in 2021, there were 1,121 followers of the CSSRC Twitter account.
- **Developing and Deepening Collaborations** – Recognizing the need to maximize services and resources to schools, the Center has been working with a multitude of agencies since its inception in 2008. In 2021, Center staff had ongoing relationships with thirty-six organizations and presented at 21 statewide conferences or regional meetings of other agencies.

During the 2021 calendar year, CSSRC staff continued to facilitate two networking groups. One met every two months on suicide prevention and the other bimonthly on threat assessment.

Additionally, two working groups continue to support Colorado schools. First, the youth council, Youth Engaged for School Safety or YES², again led the planning of the Student/Staff Summit in December.

The newest working group is exploring Statewide School Crisis Response. This group has formed two committees. The first is reviewing psychological crisis response models and making recommendations for school and agency staff training. The second is reviewing lessons learned from school emergency incidents in the past to create guidance for schools. Eventually, the hope is that districts would be further prepared for emergencies and a similarly trained cadre of school and agency personnel will be available to deploy to any district within the state.

Looking Forward

Undoubtedly, educators and others will remember 2021 as the year that, in spite of vaccines, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to dominate lives. The winter and spring of 2021 saw learning, for the most part, remaining remote. As the new school year opened in the Fall of 2021, students, staff and parents eagerly returned to in-person learning only to have that learning model interrupted by the Delta variant. School staff are working hard to keep students in classrooms, and it is hoped that the winter and spring of 2022 will not derail those efforts.

Work on the threat assessment grant, and in particular the online version, will continue this coming year. CSSRC staff expect to complete the threat assessment protocol training, roll out the online edition and complete the requests for additional interview training by the end of 2022.

This pandemic created opportunities for more virtual training. Being able to reach rural communities this way, the Center staff will continue to offer an online option for all statewide summits. The first hybrid symposium will take place in February 2022 and much thought has gone into how best to accomplish this successfully.

Center staff will hold the annual IHE Summer Safety Symposium in June followed by the one-week School Safety Specialist Academy. The 2022 Safe Schools Summit is already scheduled for October 20 and 21 in the Adams 12 Five Star School District’s Conference Center, along with a virtual offering. Once again, the CSSRC will collaborate with the Office of Suicide Prevention at CDPHE for a Suicide Symposium. Finally, a Student/Staff Summit will round out the next calendar year. If additional funding is awarded as outlined in the Governor’s budget, the Center will be able to provide additional special topic workshops in more sites across the state.

Meanwhile, the Colorado Crisis Response Guidelines will be completed and tested by rural districts across the state. It is always hoped that no one will actually need the Guidelines for a response to a crisis, but with the continued concern for the mental wellbeing of students, staff and parents, it is wise to be prepared.

For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at cssrc.colorado.gov or www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC
 Department of Public Safety
 303-239-4435 CDPS_School_Safety_Center@state.co.us

Legislative Report 2021

The following report outlines the activities, efficacy, and value of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC – also referred to as the “Center”), as created by [CRS §§24-33.5-1801](#), *et seq.* This report provides details as to the Center’s operation, including the Advisory Board, training and resources available to schools, the important issues being studied by work groups created through the Center, and the significant outreach and alliances that have been developed to enhance school safety in Colorado during 2021. Additional information may be obtained through the CSSRC website: cssrc.colorado.gov

Operation of the Center

The founding legislation ([CRS §§24-33.5-1801](#), *et seq.*) outlined the formation of an Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Center. The legislation also identified the membership and terms of office. The Advisory Board began with 13 members, as provided by statute, who were appointed during 2008. Six additional members have been added at the recommendation of the Advisory Board and approved by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety. At the time of this report, the current members of the Advisory Board are:

Advisory Board

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	APPOINTED BY
Kelly Abbott	Representative of CDPS	Office of Adult & Juvenile Justice Assistance, CDPS	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Kevin Armstrong	Sheriff	Gilpin County Sheriff Department	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Greg Busch	Emergency Management Director	Colorado Community College System	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Community College System</i>
Michael Dougherty	District Attorney	20th Judicial District	<i>Governor</i>
Stacey Jenkins	Director	Safe2Tell, Colorado Department of Law	<i>Attorney General</i>
Carolena Guiral Steen	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mountain School District	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
Rebecca Hall	Principal/Superintendent	Lake County Schools	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Lena Heilmann	Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</i>
Craig Hein	General Counsel	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Kelly Jacobsen	School Resource Officer	Westminster Police Department	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Christina Larson	Field Manager, NW Region	Colorado Department of Education	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
Jane Lineman	Student Safety Coordinator	Denver Public Schools	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
Lorrie Odom	VP for Programs	Colorado PTA	<i>Governor</i>
VACANT		Colorado Association of School Boards	<i>Colorado Association of School Boards</i>
Mark Pokorny	Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager	Institution of Higher Education	<i>Executive Director of Commission on Higher Education</i>
Sheldon Rosenkrance	Superintendent	Estes Park Schools	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
Jenny Schoen	Teacher	Littleton Public Schools	<i>Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety</i>
Meghan Shelton	Program Manager	Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health	<i>Executive Director of Human Services</i>
Chris Wilderman, Chairman	Director - Safe & Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>

The Advisory Board meets four times during each year and receives regular updates on the activities of the Center. Many Advisory Board members support the Center in other capacities throughout the year, including co-hosting trainings, participating in working groups, sharing resources, and attending regional trainings. Advisory Board Members have provided significant input and advice about the Center's activities, mission, and vision. The Advisory Board first approved operating bylaws on June 1, 2010.

The Advisory Board was due to sunset with the 2017 Legislative Session. The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) conducted a review and made its recommendation to the 2017 Colorado Legislature that the Advisory Board should be continued. Hearings at the Capitol terminated with the Advisory Board being sustained until 2022, at which time another sunset review will be initiated.

All Advisory Board meeting agendas, minutes, and bylaws are posted on the Center website:
<https://cssrc.colorado.gov>

Vision and Mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

The three-part vision of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center is to support ***safe and secure learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention services for youth in Colorado.*** The vision and mission of the Center align with the legislative directive and were confirmed by the CSSRC Advisory Board in March 2009.

The mission of the Center is to assist educators, students, parents, emergency responders, and community organizations working with all Colorado pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education schools. The Center does this by focusing on the areas of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery as outlined by the United States Department of Education. The Center provides resources, training, consultation, and technical assistance to foster safe, positive, and successful learning environments and early intervention to prevent crises.

During the 2020-21 school year, data from CDE reports a 3.3% decrease in school enrollment with 883,199 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools in our state, from 178 districts. The largest decreases were in the earlier grades with 8,009 fewer students in preschool and 5,798 fewer kindergartners. The number of students reported as homeschooled doubled with 15,773 students counted this fall compared to 7,880 in 2019. A total of 32,321 students registered in online educational programs this year for a 44% increase from 2019.

Fifteen districts are considered metro Denver with an additional 17 classified as urban-suburban. That leaves the remaining 149 of the 178 districts considered small-rural or rural. Eighty-eight districts have a student population of less than 500. The Center staff concentrate their focus on these rural districts since, in most cases, they need more school safety resources. This focus has been enhanced by having Regional Training Consultants more geographically available to many of our rural communities.

There are 1,914 public schools in Colorado of which 1,109 are elementary, 286 middle schools and 519 high schools. Two hundred sixty charter schools serve approximately 126,947 students (PK-12). In the Colorado higher education system, there are 31 public two- and four-year institutions and an additional 457 private institutions and technical schools. In 2020, 251,022 students were enrolled in two- and four-year schools. Initially, the Advisory Board prioritized the kindergarten-12th grade mission of the Center during the earliest phases of operation. Since 2014, the outreach of the Center has been expanded to include institutions of higher education.

Staff of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

As of June 2020, the Center has ten positions. Christine R. Harms, MS, the first School Outreach Consultant for the Center, became the Director in January of 2012. As Director, she is responsible for supervising and directing all activities, programs, budget, and personnel issues of the Center and reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety, Jana Locke.

Brad Stiles joined the team in November of 2013, with the passage of SB13-138, as the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant. This expanded the Center's outreach to more emergency responders in the state. He has participated in active shooter training and has consulted with numerous schools on their emergency operations plans, as well as conducting site assessments. Mr. Stiles leads the Center's threat assessment work and facilitates the efforts with the institutions of higher education. He is a former law enforcement officer and Army veteran with a graduate degree in emergency management.

In the 2015 legislative session, SB15-20 created a new position in the Center. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist, tasked with gathering resources and providing training to school personnel, parents, and students regarding personal safety and the prevention of child sexual abuse and assault. Margaret Ochoa, J.D. joined the Center in April of 2016 as the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. Ms. Ochoa is a former Assistant Jefferson County Attorney, having specialized in child protection work. Ms. Ochoa facilitates the Child Sexual Abuse Symposium and co-coordinates the youth council (YES²) with the School Outreach Consultant, among many other duties. Ms. Ochoa also led the effort to organize the School Safety Academy in 2021, and provides ongoing communication with the new School Safety Specialists.

Ron Lee, Psy.D., joined the Center as the School Outreach Consultant in September 2021. His position provides consultation with schools and others concerned with psychological school safety. He also provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need, establishing and maintaining networks. With a doctorate in psychology and many years of school psychology experience, Dr. Lee concentrates on the prevention and response phases of school safety. He co-facilitates the Center's youth advisory council (YES²) with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist.

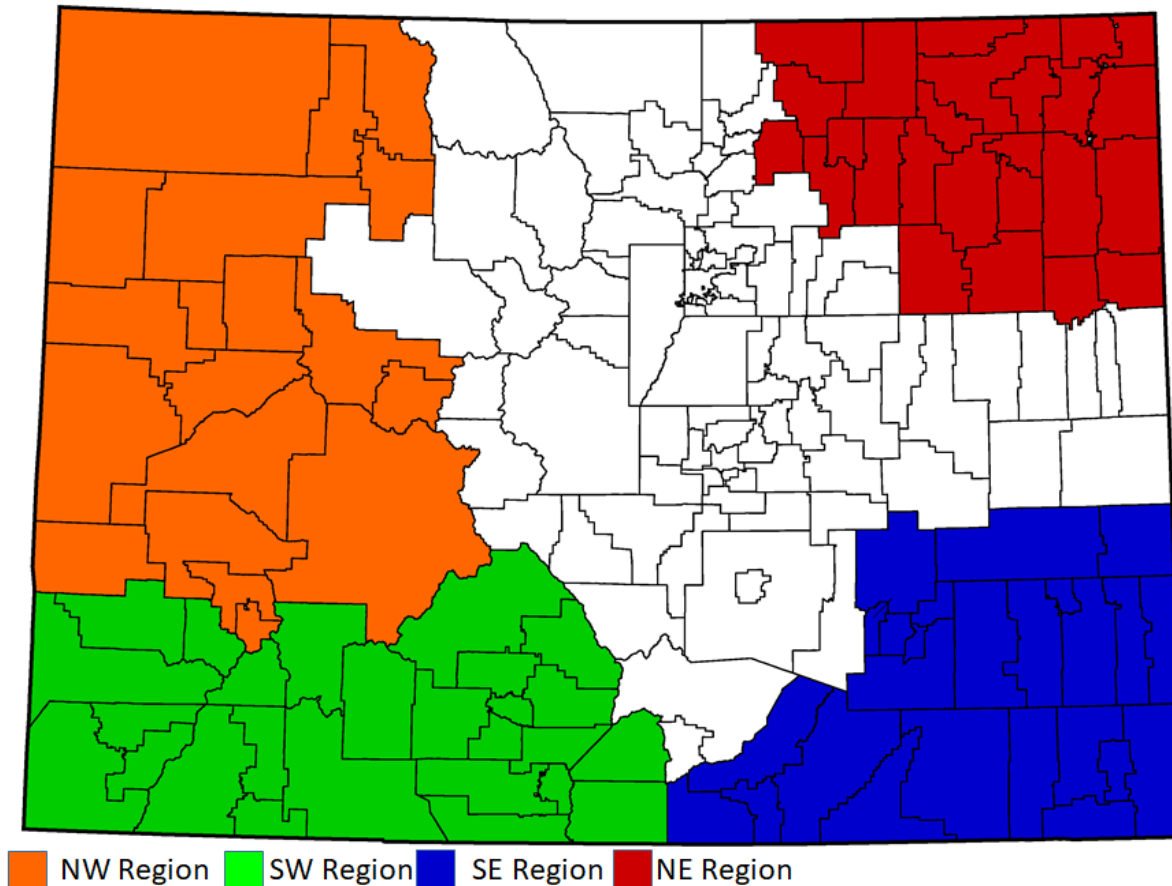
Melissa Rubeo joined the Center in February of 2017 as the Program Assistant. Ms. Rubeo provides a wide variety of general support for the Center and staff, including maintaining the Center's fiscal accountability through budgetary management, acquisition of office resources, organization and oversight of meetings and trainings, creation of materials, and communication with the public and listserv members.

Isaac Baah serves as the Center's Resource Specialist. Mr. Baah's duties include identifying, acquiring, and reviewing resources, consulting about those resources, managing the website, overseeing social media, and assisting with the planning and delivery of school safety statewide symposia and workshops. Mr. Baah joined the Center in this capacity on July 1, 2019, having come from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

With a 1331 supplemental budget request approved by the Joint Budget Committee in June 2019, the Center acquired four new positions of Regional Training Consultants (RTCs). By October of 2019, three experienced school counselors were on hand in the Northeast, Southeast and Northwest regions serving approximately 25 school districts each. The fourth RTC proved difficult to hire.

One consultant moved from her region in April of 2020 and another resigned in August 2021. In the meantime, the Center's budget was moved from being a line item in the state budget to being sustained by the remaining monies from previous school safety grants in the CSSRC Cash Fund. At this time, the Northwest Regional Training Consultant is the only occupied position. Kati Garner, M.Ed., from Mesa County Valley School District 51, where she was a school counselor and director of the district's crisis team, serves the Northwest region of the state. Ms. Garner serves school districts in Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Pitkin, Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, Mesa, and Montrose counties. The hope is for all four positions to be fully funded in FY2023.

CSSRC Regional Training Consultants Region Map



Center Funding

The Center had been a line item in the state budget since its inception in 2008. With the severe state budget shortfall due to COVID, the Joint Budget Committee decided to fund the Colorado School Safety Resource Center in FY2021 from the School Safety Center’s Cash Fund. The Cash Fund is mainly the result of untapped funding from two 2018 school safety grants and the remaining funds from minimal charges to CSSRC statewide workshops, which accumulated over the last five years. At the start of FY2021, the total remaining in that Cash Fund was approximately \$2,717,000. These funds are projected to support the Center for almost three fiscal years.

The Colorado Department of Public Safety, on behalf of the CSSRC, has submitted a Decision Item to the 2022 Colorado General Assembly to fund the Center from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund beginning in FY2023.

Activities of the Center

In 2021, the Center continued its mission of providing consultation, technical assistance, resources, and training to school safety partners. The Center’s partnerships and outreach have continued to grow. Resources have been shared both virtually and in-person this calendar year.

The details of the Center’s 2021 activities follow:

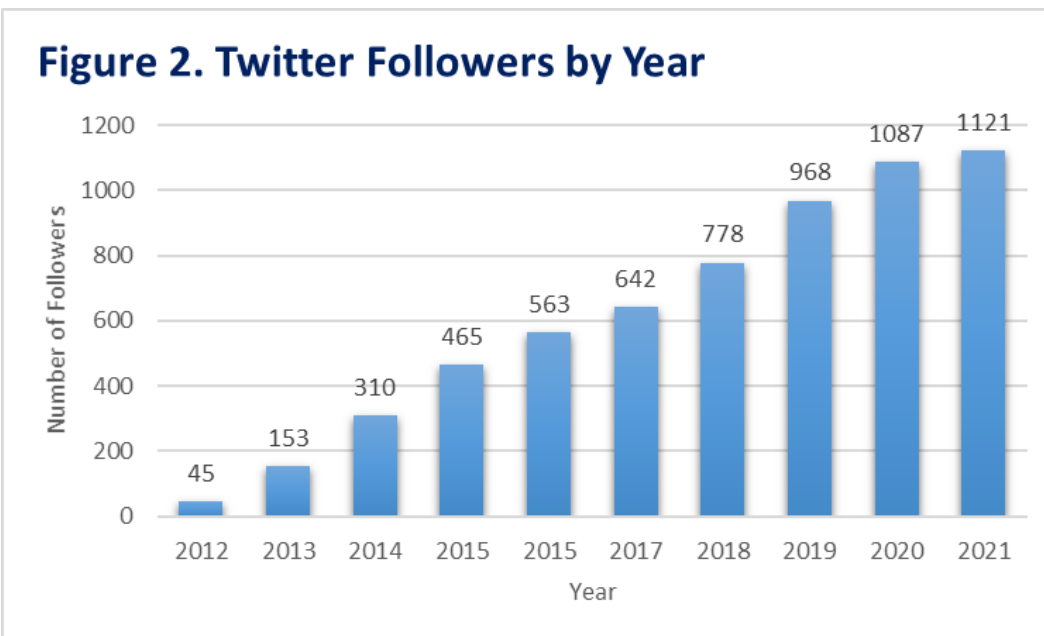
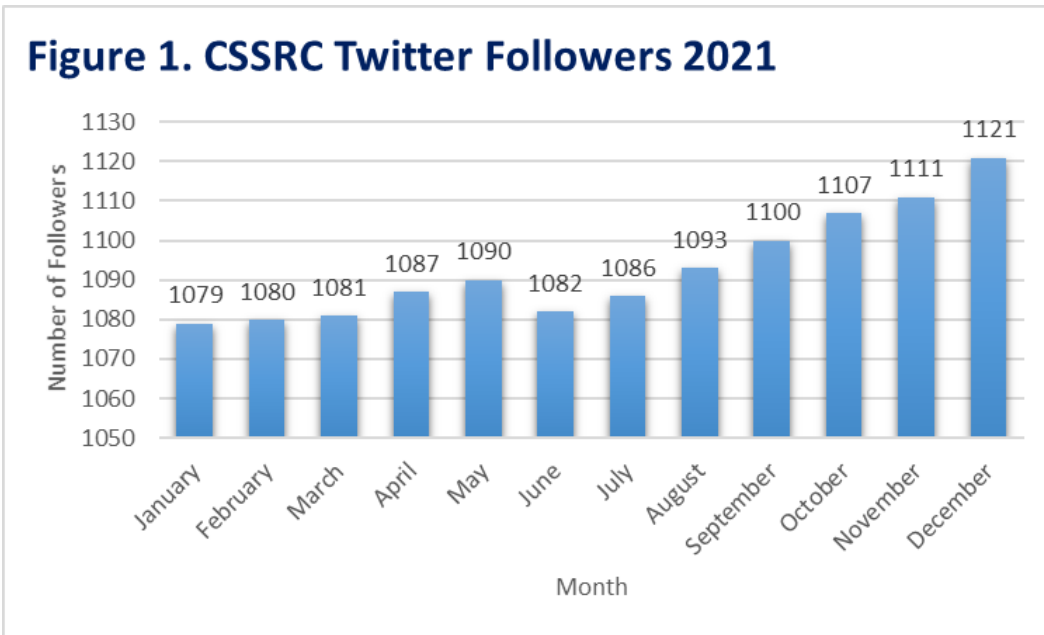
Outreach

CSSRC E-Update

The CSSRC created a listserv in August 2009 and has a current database containing over 5,978 email addresses from various providers and school safety partners. The listserv receives monthly electronic newsletter updates (E-Updates) from the Center, which include important announcements, upcoming training opportunities, and new resources related to prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery efforts in schools, as well as potential grant funding resources.

CSSRC Twitter Account

To supplement the Center’s monthly E-Update communication with additional timely information about training, events, resources, and funding opportunities, the CSSRC created a Twitter account in 2012. The School Resource Specialist sent the initial Twitter message on April 4, 2012. By the end of 2021, 9,013 Twitter messages had been posted. In 2021 at its peak, **1,121** Twitter users followed the CSSRC account, which can be found at <https://twitter.com/CoSSRC>



Direct Outreach to Colorado Schools

Below is a list of the schools, districts, institutions of higher education, and other programs which received direct services as a unit from the Center staff during 2021. It does not include individuals from multiple districts who participated in virtual workshops, as they were not required to sign up with their district name.

Figure 3. CSSRC Training Activities by Location and Agency

<u>Denver Metro</u>	Windsor RE-4	Montessori Academy of Colorado
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Woodland Park Re-2	Montessori del Mundo Charter School
Adams County 14	Wray RD-2	Montessori School of Denver
Boulder Valley Re 2	Yuma 1	Montessori School of Evergreen
Denver County 1		Mullen High School
Douglas County Re 1	<u>Remote</u>	New Legacy Charter School
Jefferson County R-1	Buffalo RE-4J	St. Anne's Episcopal School
Mapleton 1	Frenchman RE-3	St. Elizabeth's School
School District 27J	Haxtun RE-2J	St. Mary's Academy
	Lone Star 101	Stanley British Primary School
<u>Urban Suburban</u>	North Park R-1	Steamboat Mountain School
District 49	Norwood R-2J	STRIVE Preparatory Schools
Fountain 8	Otis R-3	Telluride Mountain School
Greeley 6	Park County RE-2	The Logan School
Manitou Springs 14	Plateau RE-5	The Colorado Springs School
Mesa County Valley 51	Revere School District	Vail Mountain School
Widefield 3	Weld County School District RE-3J	
		<u>College/University</u>
<u>Outlying City</u>	<u>BOCES</u>	Colorado Mountain Colleges
Alamosa RE-11J	Northeast BOCES	Colorado State University
Moffat County RE: No 1	San Juan BOCES	University of Colorado at Boulder
Durango 9-R	Santa Fe Trails BOCES	University of Denver
Fort Morgan Re-3	<u>Charter/Private</u>	
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1	Alexander Dawson School	<u>Early Childhood</u>
Steamboat Springs RE-2	Aspen Academy	Arapahoe County Family Childcare Association
Valley RE-1	Belle Creek Charter School	Ascension Lutheran Preschool
	Colorado Springs Charter Academy	
<u>Outlying Town</u>	Dayspring Academy	<u>Other</u>
Akron R-1	Denver Academy of Torah	Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS)
Brush RE-2(J)	Denver Jewish Day	Colorado School Counselors Association (CSCA)
Burlington RE-6J	Eagle Rock School	Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)
Clear Creek RE-1	Evergreen Country Day	Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)
Gunnison Watershed RE1J	GOAL Academy	Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
Holyoke Re-1J	Graland Country Day	Teaching the Autism Community Trades (TACT)
Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J	Havern School	
Julesburg Re-1	International School of Denver	<u>Out of State</u>
Lake County R-1	Kent Denver	Billings Public Schools (MT)
Monte Vista C-8	Landmark Academy	Missoula County Public Schools #1 (MT)
Salida R-32	Mackintosh Academy- Boulder	Missouri School Boards Association (MO)
Summit RE-1	Mackintosh Academy- Littleton	Teton County School District #1 (WY)
		University of Kentucky (KY)
		Total: 101 schools/organizations

Outreach to Superintendents and BOCES Directors

Recognizing that administrative changes take place annually, mailings were sent to all superintendents across the state at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. This outreach is part of the ongoing strategy to expand knowledge about the Center and the services it can offer to schools. [This mailing](#) included letters sent via email to 178 superintendents and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) directors with a request to forward copies to other district administrators. The CSSRC has also continued contact with the public school superintendents, archdiocesan and other faith-based school administrators, and the BOCES administrators across Colorado. CSSRC staff presented at the Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) and the Colorado Society of School Psychologists' annual conferences.

In 2021, one of Governor Polis' Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for the Colorado Department of Public Safety had been for the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) training staff to work with school districts to provide exercise design and implementation support to increase the number of districts with exercised emergency operations plans to 95% by June 30, 2021. To that end, the CSSRC redistributed the 2019 Needs Assessment to all schools in Colorado via email.

Center staff then created five tabletop exercises and offered to facilitate those in districts that had not exercised their emergency operations plans within the last year. By the end of June, the number of schools that had exercised their EOPs within the last calendar year was 115--only 65% of the 95% goal. The uncertainty of the school year most likely contributed to the inability of districts to fulfill this goal. The Center staff will continue to provide resources and services to districts to increase this percentage.

For fiscal year 2022, the Wildly Important Goals for the Department, and thereby the School Safety Resource Center, include providing a virtual option for some of the Center's training, along with preparing materials with accessibility in mind and proactive inquiry about accommodation needs. The CSSRC is also tasked with educating at least 100 school officials about the THC concentrates in marijuana sold in Colorado. Since the onset of COVID, the Center staff have easily switched to virtual training and are already making progress toward these 2022 WIGs.

CSSRC Contacts, Consultations and Collaborations

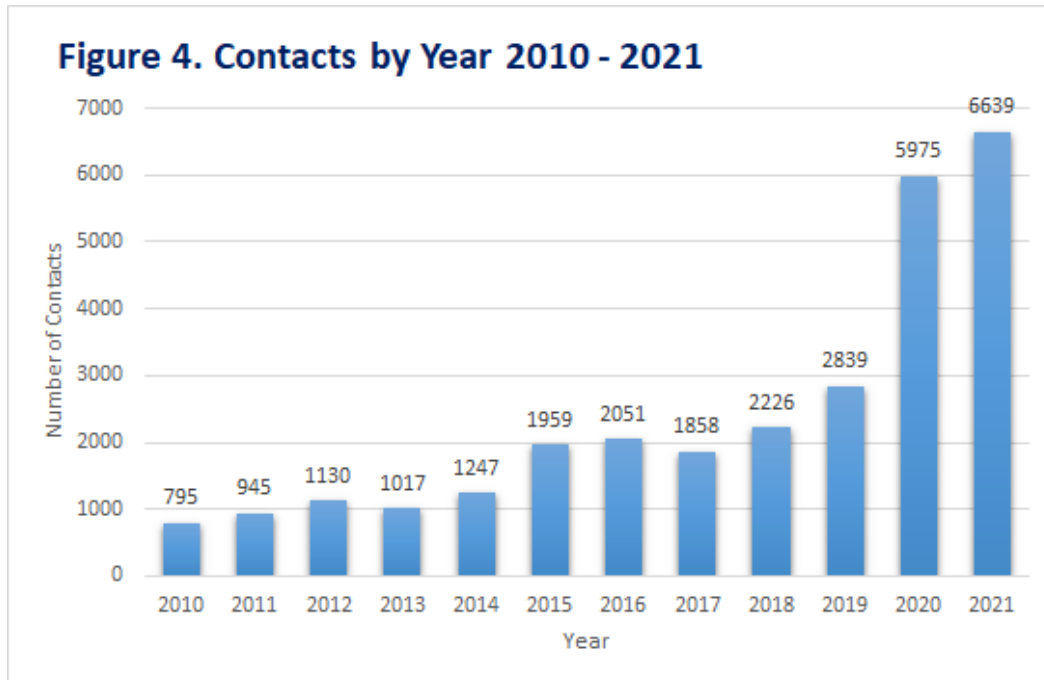
As outlined in Presidential Preparedness Directive 8 (PPD-8) of 2013, the Center aligns its work with the five missions of preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. The Center's work has also been guided by specific additional Colorado components, such as support of interagency information sharing agreements, implementation of Safe2Tell, training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS), and development of multi-hazard district and school-based emergency plans using the ICS as outlined in CRS §22-32-109.1.

An all-time high of 6,639 contacts, through the second week of December, including phone calls, meetings, emails, assistance with training registrations, and site visits were conducted during the 2021 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information. This represents the total workload of the Center and this data helps the staff track that workload. Figure 4 (below) illustrates the number of contacts.

Specifically, consultation requests within the contact log are primarily a direct result of multiple outreach and marketing efforts of staff, such as the Center website, trainings, newsletters, mailings, E-Updates, and through referrals from board members and others knowledgeable about the CSSRC's resources and expertise. Consultations in 2021 include only interactions with school personnel, parents, or agency professionals when staff have given resources, information on best practices, or suggestions for training that would be helpful to that site. Consultations totaled 409 by the second week of December 2021. Please also see the chart Figure 3 above for the schools that have had CSSRC staff directly service their sites.

Center staff also tracked collaborations with other state agencies that serve youth and schools within the contact log. These collaborations totaled 174 in 2021. CSSRC staff work closely with CDE, CDPHE's Office

of Suicide Prevention and Office of Violence and Injury Prevention, CDHS's Office of Behavioral Health and Office of Child Welfare, and the Colorado Attorney General's Office of Safe2Tell, among others.



Outreach Beyond Colorado

CSSRC staff are proud of the reputation earned for their expertise within Colorado and beyond. The Director continues to participate in monthly phone meetings with staff from the United States Department of Education, the National Institute of Justice, and the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center, as well as a cadre of school safety directors from across the country. The National School Safety Alliance (NSSA), of which the CSSRC Director is a founding member, hosts these monthly meetings. In 2021, the NSSA created bylaws, elected officers, and a board of directors. Ms. Harms serves as co-chair of the board and shares that responsibility with the representative of the Missouri School Safety Center. NSSA members meet twice a month, first in a networking meeting and then a discussion meeting.

Mr. Stiles, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, trained schools from Montana and Wyoming this year on the Center's Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP). He also worked extensively with the Missouri Safe Schools Center on their Threat Assessment work and conducted a CTAMP Train the Trainer (TtT) for Missouri's cadre of Threat Assessment professionals. Additional consultation on Threat Assessment and violence prevention has been undertaken by Mr. Stiles, with personnel from the New York School Safety Center and a group of DHS violence prevention professionals in the Midwest region of the nation.

Ms. Garner, the Northwest Regional Training Consultant, was requested to train schools from Montana this year on the Center's Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit. She also assisted Mr. Stiles in training schools from Montana and Wyoming on the Colorado Threat Assessment Management Protocol (CTAMP).

Training

Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP Grant

Since shortly after the Center's inception in December 2008, staff have taken a lead role in facilitating threat assessment training for Colorado schools. In an effort to enhance the work already done in Colorado and six other states, the Center applied for a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant in the summer of 2019.

In October of 2019, the BJA awarded the Center a \$999,987 grant, known as the STOP (Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence) Grant. The CSSRC staff spent the winter and spring of 2020 refining the Colorado Threat Assessment & Management Protocol (CTAMP). Over the summer of 2020, trainers conducted workshops for the first five pilot sites. With the assistance of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) of the University of Colorado Boulder as the qualitative evaluators of the project, the staff improved the procedures and protocol and then embarked on the training for an additional 30 sites.

As of December 2021, the five pilot sites plus an additional 21 schools or districts have been trained with a number of workshops already scheduled for the new calendar year. By August of 2022, the CTAMP training workshops will be completed. The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence has requested a no-cost extension until 2023 to complete their evaluations.

Additionally, the CSSRC staff have hired a vendor to develop a secure, online portal to house the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) as well as the Response, Management and Support (RMS) Plans. RMS plans are always developed after a threat assessment is conducted on any student. The hope is to have a prototype ready for testing in the spring of 2022.

The expectation is that the newly-refined CTAMP will be a more efficient and effective method of identifying and supporting students initially thought to be at-risk of violence on school grounds. The statewide portal, to house the assessments and the RMS plans, will create a secure repository to maintain documentation of threat assessments, and make it easier for districts to confidentially share information vital to providing individual students with additional assistance and creating safe environments for all. A future grant project would be undertaken to prove the CTAMP as an evidence-based protocol for Colorado and the nation.

Topic-Centered Statewide Trainings

In an effort to provide in-depth training opportunities on school safety issues across the state in accordance with its legislative directive, the Colorado School Safety Resource Center has, either alone or in partnership with other state agencies, conducted topic-centered statewide workshops. These training events are usually hosted in a variety of locations to allow for maximum attendance from various school districts, with deference to their limited budgets and funding for travel. However, in these last two years of COVID, all statewide symposia were virtual. If there has been a silver lining to remote work, it has been the Center's ability to extend its reach through technology.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium - February 4, 2021

Hosted every other year, the 2021 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium consisted of four plenary presentations and was organized by Margaret Ochoa, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist for CSSRC. The first plenary featured Dr. Charol Shakeshaft from Virginia Commonwealth University, who spoke on preventing school employee sexual misconduct. That workshop was followed by Dr. Amber Morczek of Nevada State College, who presented for K-12 professionals on the pornification of sexual violence. The afternoon included a plenary on preparing high school students to prevent sexual assault when attending college, presented by Christopher Gallo, Chief Deputy District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District (JD) in Colorado and Madison Lengel, the SART Coordinator for the 18th JD. The day ended with a case study on human trafficking by Katelyn Jenkin, a professional from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. With 231 in attendance, evaluations concluded that the day was a success.

- "Exceptional speakers"
- "Very impactful"
- "Just loved this whole day. You can tell all of the presenters were enthusiastic and passionate which made it easy to follow along. Love love loved it."
- "The information presented was very helpful and I loved all of the resources to share with families, professional development resources, and book recommendations. Thank you!"

- “Great presenters and very helpful information. The content was very heavy and I greatly appreciated the breaks after each presenter. This is all information that we need to help students and families that we work with. Thank you for putting this symposium together.”

Resilience Strategies for Educators: Self-Care & Peer Support - March 18, 2021

In the midst of such a difficult school year, the CSSRC invited the Readiness & Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS-TA) Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Education, to bring a workshop on building resiliency among school staff to Colorado personnel. The half-day workshop featured two national experts, Marlene Wong and Mary Schoenfeldt. Although not well attended, those that did come felt they had received some new skills as well as reminders of skills they had used previously to face the challenges of the school year:

- This is a very helpful training for school staff who aren't MH professionals (for whom it would be too basic). The most helpful info related to why the brain responds as it does to traumatic events, and how to counteract toxic stress.
- All the components were helpful in considering ways to support school staff.
- Appreciate the information.

School Safety Academy - Week of June 7, 2021

The Center launched the first year of a one-week, half-day academy for school staff wanting to be educated as School Safety Specialists. Twenty individuals from districts large and small across the state attended all five days. From a brief history of school safety in Colorado to emergency management planning, child abuse prevention to psychological safety issues, the mornings were packed with relevant information presented by Center staff. Attendees also met additional stakeholders that support school safety so that the specialists know to whom they can turn for additional resources. Organized by Ms. Ochoa, she continues to stay in contact with the specialists to be sure they are aware of continued training opportunities offered by the Center. Many have already reached out for additional assistance from the Center's staff. The CSSRC will conduct the second Academy in June of 2022.

- “I loved this presentation. I have done several this year and the presentation has helped me understand how to improve our ttx's (tabletop exercises) to make them more effective.”
- “Every session was very informative and every presenter did a wonderful job to present us with the information. Thank you so much!”
- “A lot of information...great job getting it all in and making it understandable”

Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium - June 15, 2021

This annual event highlighted four separate plenary sessions. Sarah Powell from Temple University opened the day with a workshop on the neuroscience of stress. This was followed by Jennifer Landhuis, Director of the Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center who enlightened the audience on stalking behaviors on campus. The afternoon plenaries included Dr. Jason Kilmer from the University of Washington, who discussed cannabis use among young adults and a final workshop by CSSRC staff on concurrently enrolled students. The Center staff who conducted the final workshop and who did much of the planning for the day were Brad Stiles and Margaret Ochoa. Sixty higher education and K-12 professionals were in attendance.

Comments from participants:

- “Job well done... One of the better webinars I've been to.”
- “Very well organized and very well paced.”
- “Thank you for such pertinent and informative presentations!”

2021 Colorado Safe Schools Summit - October 21 & 22, 2021

Held during Colorado Safe Schools Week, the Summit is an annual event. In 2021, the Center staff hosted the Summit virtually, with an opening plenary each day. Governor Polis addressed the audience on the afternoon of the first day, praising them for their hard work these last two challenging school years.

Dr. David Schonfeld, the Executive Director of the National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement, opened the Summit with a presentation on supporting grieving students. Two hundred and seventy-four

participants attended the opening plenary. Executive Director Kent MacLennan, of Rise Above Colorado, was the keynote speaker on the second day, with one-hundred and ninety in attendance. He focused on using data to support substance abuse prevention. Twenty-four workshops rounded out the two days with those participating choosing eight workshops over the course of the Summit.

The evaluations support the audience's appreciation for the two days:

- "Great information that is shared, thank you."
- "I loved this summit!!"
- "Thanks for continuing to hold this every year."
- "Great information and feel that it was a good use of time."
- "Excellent summit, as usual!"
- "Thanks for all you do for school safety."
- "Thank you for all the resources!"
- "Nice opportunity."
- "Thank you very much for your time and effort."

Suicide Prevention Symposium - November 4, 2021

In collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Office of Suicide Prevention, the Center provided a one-day symposium. Dr. John Ackerman, of the Nationwide Children's Hospital, did an excellent presentation on postvention best practices for schools that have suffered the loss of a student due to suicide. He was followed by Mr. Brandon Johnson, from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, who spoke on supporting the mental wellness of Black, Indigenous and other Students of Color. The afternoon was devoted to a review of a best practices suicide strategy and a how-to workshop for school mental health professionals on utilizing the CSSRC Suicide Assessment & Intervention Toolkit. The afternoon sessions were led by Kati Garner and Ron Lee from the School Safety Resource Center.

An annual event, 150 participants were present and scored the day favorably:

- "I enjoyed the Symposium and will utilize the many resources that were offered."
- "Very informative, great information and wonderful presenters."
- "Always a great one day conference on such an important and challenging topic."
- "Very informative without being too heavy!"
- "Extremely valuable, and pertinent information was clearly presented."
- "Helpful information, vital work you do, thank you for sharing with us all today!"

Student/Staff Summit - December 7, 2021

Once again, the CSSRC youth council, Youth engaged for School Safety (YES²), helped to organize the Student/Staff Summit this year. Open to both middle and high school students and their staff, the day centered on wellness through positive relationships. The opening plenary was presented by Dorothy Espelage, Ph.D., the William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Espelage shared research on the connection between sexual harassment in middle and high schools with the potential for dating violence. The three plenary workshops, presented by Center staff with the assistance of YES² students, focused on relationships between peers and within families, increasing engagement between school staff and students, and self-care for all.

Students had excellent, extensive questions for both the plenary speaker and the workshop presenters. Student panelists also shared strategies for engagement and connectedness that are working within their buildings. Students seemed hungry for skills on how best to deal with stress so hopefully they walked away with new ideas. The response from students for these summits is so very positive that the Center will continue to provide them for middle and high school youth. The resources from this Summit can be found at the [Resource Page: Student & Staff Safety Summit 2021](#).

- "I really really LOVED the student voices throughout with a diverse representation of regions."
- "I appreciated how much information the students shared. There is so much to learn from the voices of our students when we ask the right questions and take time to listen."
- "It was great and very informative"

District/School Site-Based Trainings

Site-Based Trainings

Trainings are conducted based on requests from school personnel on selected topics, hosted at school sites or conferences across the state when possible. In early 2021, most school training was done virtually. However, by the fall of 2021, some schools were welcoming CSSRC staff back to provide sessions in-person. The numbers and types of workshops or presentations offered by CSSRC staff are summarized below. Future workshops will be developed based upon survey results, priority of needs, requests, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the total number of trainings provided in 2021. The Center delivered 207 training opportunities. The workshops have been well-received and there continue to be requests for training by various groups. The trainings include the STOP Grant workshops, the October Summit, statewide trainings, conference presentations, and individual virtual trainings offered from January until December, as well as those presentations for individual districts and schools. The Summit and statewide trainings are publicized to districts across the state via the E-Update, Twitter, CDPS marketing, and direct outreach. These efforts, and working with many partners across Colorado, continue to raise the profile of the CSSRC and increase the services requested.

Figure 5. Number of Trainings (Hosted & Presented) 2008 - 2021

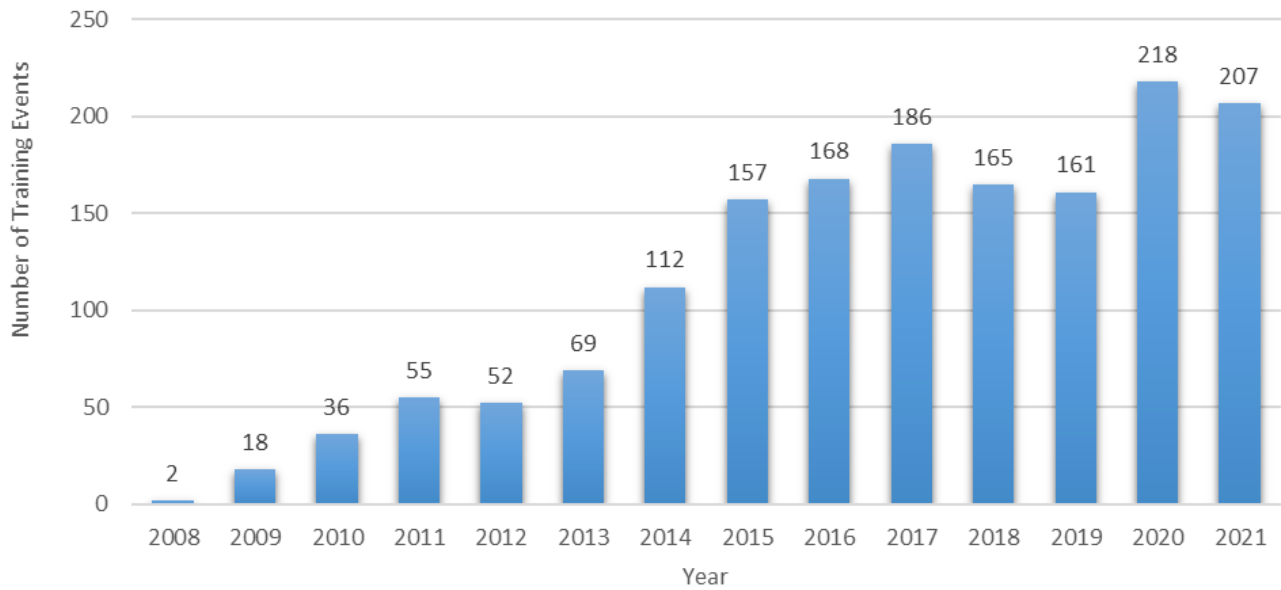


Figure 6 shows the number of training participants in 2021, which was 5,847. Since the Center’s inception in 2008, 64,297 participants have attended a training event or workshop presented by the CSSRC. Each year, the number of people trained varies, partly with the quantity of training provided and partly with the location of the training and district circumstances. Being able to provide virtual workshops has increased not only the number of school staff who can participate, but allows the Center to have a greater reach across the state.

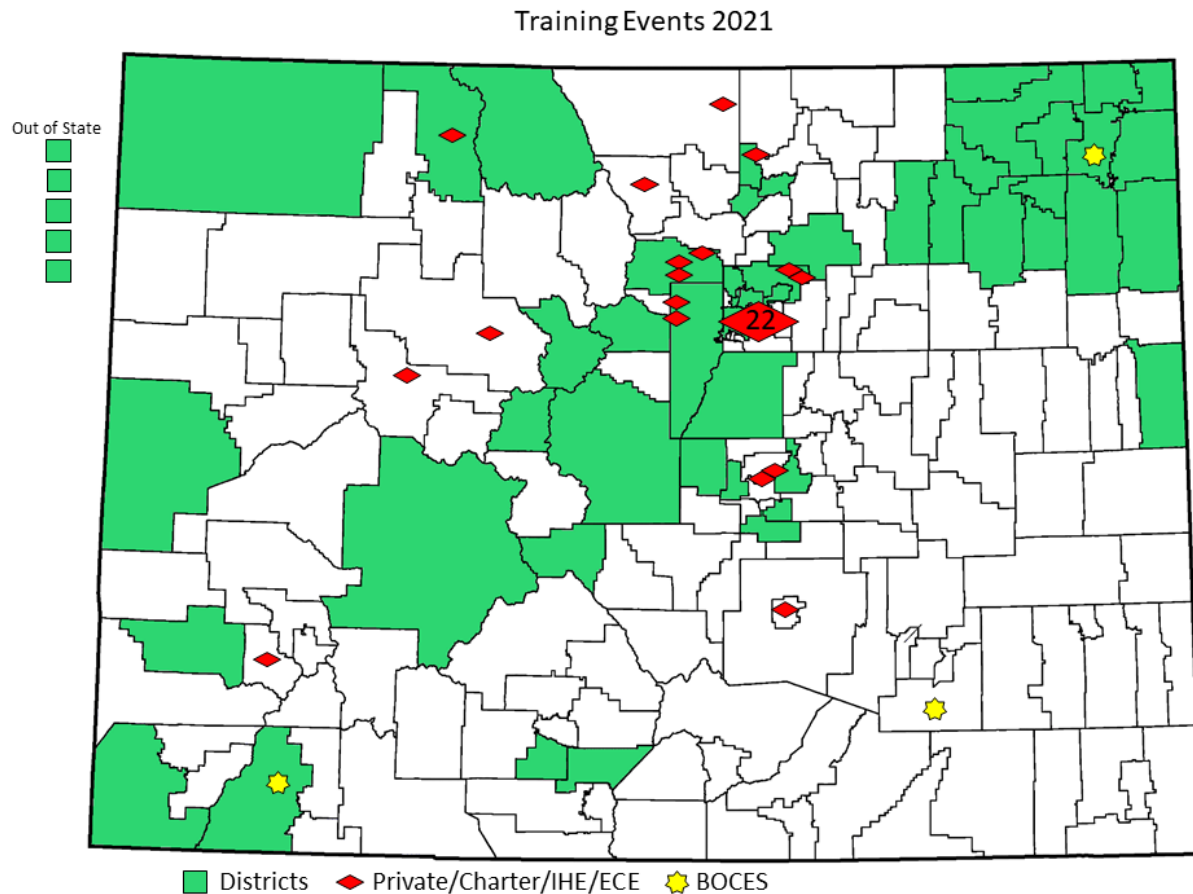


Figure 7 is a breakdown of the training events last year by training topic.



Figure 8 outlines the school districts in Colorado with the colored portions showing the locations of all CSSRC outreach and training activities in 2021.

Figure 8- Locations of all CSSRC Outreach and Training Activities in 2021



Statewide Conferences & Regional Presentations

In addition to regional and site-specific training, staff continue to be invited to present at statewide conferences. However, with COVID, many of the statewide conferences were continued virtually and some did not yet return in 2021. This year, staff presented at conferences or meetings for the following organizations:

- Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS)
- Centennial Mental Health (2 presentations)
- Charter School Institute (CSI)
- Colorado Advocacy in Action (CAIA)
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (2 presentations)
- Colorado Rural Schools Alliance Meeting
- Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists' Annual Conference (CSSP) (2 presentations)
- Colorado Summit on Sexual Misconduct
- Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Management Boards (DV/SOMB) Annual Conference
- Northeast BOCES (2 presentations)
- Northern Superintendents' Meeting
- Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference (2 presentations)
- San Juan BOCES
- Santa Fe Trails BOCES Principals' Meeting
- Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee

Online Course Development

The CSSRC staff developed and published their first two online training courses for school personnel in 2012. Since that time, 15 more courses have been added. Because it has been nine years since the first courses were posted, staff decided it was time to update the courses.

The training staff reviewed the courses, updated information and resources and then handed them over to the Resource Specialist. The Resource Specialist, Isaac Baah, has been working with other CDPS staff to teach himself the software in order to make the necessary changes to the courses. The learning curve has been enormous, but when completed, Mr. Baah will have the expertise to design and implement new courses for the Center and eliminate the costly step of contracting with an outside vendor to produce the courses. Staff plan to add two more courses in 2022.

All online courses (with the exception of *Sexting*, as described below) are exclusively hosted through the Colorado TRAIN system (www.CO.Train.org). The CO TRAIN system is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a comprehensive learning resource for professionals who protect the public's health. CO TRAIN is part of the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN) and is a free service of the Public Health Foundation.

Figures 9 and 10 below describe the number of online course participants and their geographical origins, as maintained by CO TRAIN. These online courses can be counted as one or more hours of professional development and provide a printable certificate upon successful completion. Four of the courses arose from the Center's School Security Personnel Workgroup, which was created to provide guidance for the training of non-sworn school security personnel. The Center has been informed that one district is requiring a number of these online courses for their new school security staff.

View Figures 9 and 10 with the understanding that the metrics do not capture the youth who are required to take the *Sexting* course as a part of their court-ordered diversion or probation program, as those juveniles may participate via the Child Welfare Training System (CWTS). The CWTS option was made available when the Center learned that it might be difficult for juvenile learners to access CO TRAIN. Those learners are able to print a certificate for their diversion/probation officer, but are not counted by CWTS. The Center has not provided analytics regarding the number of youth that have completed *Sexting* and/or provided evidence of that through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 9. Online Course Participant Summary 2012-2021

Online Course Title	2021 Participants	Total Participants to Date
1. Adolescent Development	101	1098
2. Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	215	2473
3. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Under Colorado Law	14	1163
4. Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event	43	419
5. Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	110	936
6. Informed Supervision for Schools	109	300
7. Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	598	2502
8. Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	425	2483
9. Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	61	285
10. Proactive School Discipline	61	657
11. School Security Personnel: Emergency Management	34	932
12. School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications	36	660
13. School Security Personnel: Observation Skills and Incident Reporting	104	1023
14. School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics	65	704
15. Sexting: What You Need to Know*	39	294
16. Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs	71	413
17. Youth and Marijuana in Colorado	20	204
Total	2106	16,546

*Sexting: What You Need to Know is also hosted on the Child Welfare Training System, managed by the Colorado Department of Human Services, for ease of access by juveniles. These figures do not account for participation on that platform.

Figure 10. Top 20 Counties in which CSSRC Online Courses Have Been Accessed

Adams	Douglas	Garfield	La Plata	Pueblo
Arapahoe	El Paso	Grand	Larimer	Sedgwick
Boulder	Elbert	Huerfano	Las Animas	Weld
Denver	Fremont	Jefferson	Moffat	Yuma

Anonymous evaluation results for 16 of 17 courses reveal that 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their knowledge has increased because of the training, they plan to use the information in their work, and the additional resources included were helpful.

Comments from evaluations have included:

- “It was a great lesson and something that I needed to review for the school year.” (**Adolescent Development**)
- “Very helpful material and the extra articles are great.” (**Basic Mental Health**)
- “Great Course.” (**Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers**)
- “Helpful training for defining roles and identifying where further training is needed.” (**Informed Supervision**)
- “This training is approximately 36 slides. It goes quickly. Excellent Nuts-and-Bolts training. I recommend this to any school staff or even community members who may interact with youth (parents, coaches, employment agencies, etc.)” (**Making Referral to Your Threat Assessment Team**)
- “The course did a nice job balancing important information with questions to check understanding.” (**Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff**)
- “Loved the opportunity to actually create an exercise and use the course to its full potential. It mimics live training if you use it to its capacity.” (**Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School**)
- “Keep up the good work !!!!!.” (**School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics**)
- “Awesome information” (**Sexting : What You Need to Know**)
- “The content helps to relieve some fears I have about possibly talking with an individual who may be thinking of suicide.” (**Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs**)
- “Good information and very helpful.” (**Youth and Marijuana in Colorado**)

Resources Website

The CSSRC website (cssrc.colorado.gov) has been designed as a state information and resource repository, offering a variety of support to a wide audience of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools, higher education institutions, and the parents, communities, and organizations that support safe and positive school environments in Colorado. The website’s professional offerings include current best practices, evidence-based resources, practical applications, trainings, grants, and educational opportunities.

The updating of current resources and trainings occurs several times per month through the Center’s research and information management. The entire website was migrated to the new Drupal 8 Platform in January 2021. The new platform facilitates a website that can be easily modified to update its look and feel, edit existing content, and populate new content.

With the assistance of the Public Information Officer for CDPS, Patricia Billinger, the Center received funding through the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) 2020-2021 Micro-Grant Program in the amount of \$6500 for a project to acquire AODocs to set up a back-end interface and searchable document "library" on the CSSRC website on the official colorado.gov portal. The project is still ongoing and is expected to be launched in early 2022.

Highlights of the website include:

- Migration to the new Drupal 8 platform
- Creation of Schedule and Log On Page for easier access to major regional events
- Periodic updates of the COVID-19 Resource Page with current and reliable information
- Updates to all URLs of other State Government Agencies after the migration to the new Drupal Platform
- Updates to all links to Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS)
- Training opportunities for school staff, including a calendar of national and periodic updates of the CSSRC Virtual Trainings
- Links to agencies related to school safety efforts. The CSSRC Website (cssrc.colorado.gov) has been recognized as the official State School Program and Regional Contact on the [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) website. (The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) to share actionable recommendations to keep school communities safe.)
- The CSSRC Website is “Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, level AA” Compliant. The website has improved on providing accessibility to users with disabilities and to allow them to request reasonable accommodations to engage fully in our trainings, meetings and events.
- Website users can now directly request CSSRC NO-COST training, consultations, resources, and technical assistance for all schools in Colorado by completing a form on the website.
- Links to the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) website. The CIAC has partnered with school personnel statewide to ensure that registrants receive the latest information on emergencies, closures and safety information.
- Organization of federal and state resources according to agency and topic
- Links to Colorado school safety legislation and current grants
- Access to most current research and statistics
- Migration of the CSSRC Listserv to the Constant Contact platform. This platform provides secure and accurate control and management of the Center’s E-Update subscribers.
- Weekly updates on new highlighted topics, upcoming trainings/events and features
- Conversion of most of the Center’s documents to Website pages for easier interface and searchability

Website Use Data

The Statewide Internet Portal Authority offers Google Analytics to track website traffic. Google Analytics provides historical data about website visitors and evaluation of the site’s usability. Monthly website use tracking and analysis profiles are collected. The software provides tracking of visits to the website, pages viewed, and information about downloaded materials (see Figures 11 and 12 below). Over the course of 2021, there were approximately 59,514 page views, with a considerable number of document downloads. Pages compiling valuable school safety resources and documents created by the Center continue to be among the most popular pages on the CSSRC website.

Figure 11. Top 5 Most Visited Pages of the CSSRC Website (Beyond the Homepage) in 2021

Page Title Created By
Mandatory Reporting School Safety Resource Center
Guns in Schools School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Online Training School Safety Resource Center
Resource Page - 2021 CO Safe School Schools Summit School Safety Resource Center

CSSRC staff continually create tip sheets, templates, and other informational documents to assist schools in their safety work. These can be found on the Center’s website under CSSRC Tools and Templates.

The Center now provides six resource guides for schools, which are updated every June:

- *Essentials of School Threat Assessment: Preventing Targeted School Violence*
- *Positive School Climate: Bullying and Harassment Prevention and Education*
- *Resources for Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention*
- *Restorative Practices Guide for Schools*
- *Resources for Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention*
- *Social Emotional Learning Resources*

Some of the resource pages created this year included the following topics:

- CSSRC Training/Presentation Requests
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Page
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Page
- Adult Sexual Misconduct: What All School Staff Members Needs to Know and Do
- Accessibility Request Form
- Top 10 Tips for Parents With Children Returning to In-Person Learning

In addition to state and national users, the CSSRC website has been visited by people from around the world.

Figure 12. Top Eight Countries Outside of the United States Visiting the CSSRC Website

Top Countries	
Philippines	India
Canada	Denmark
China	Germany
France	United Kingdom

Resource Acquisition and Distribution Highlights

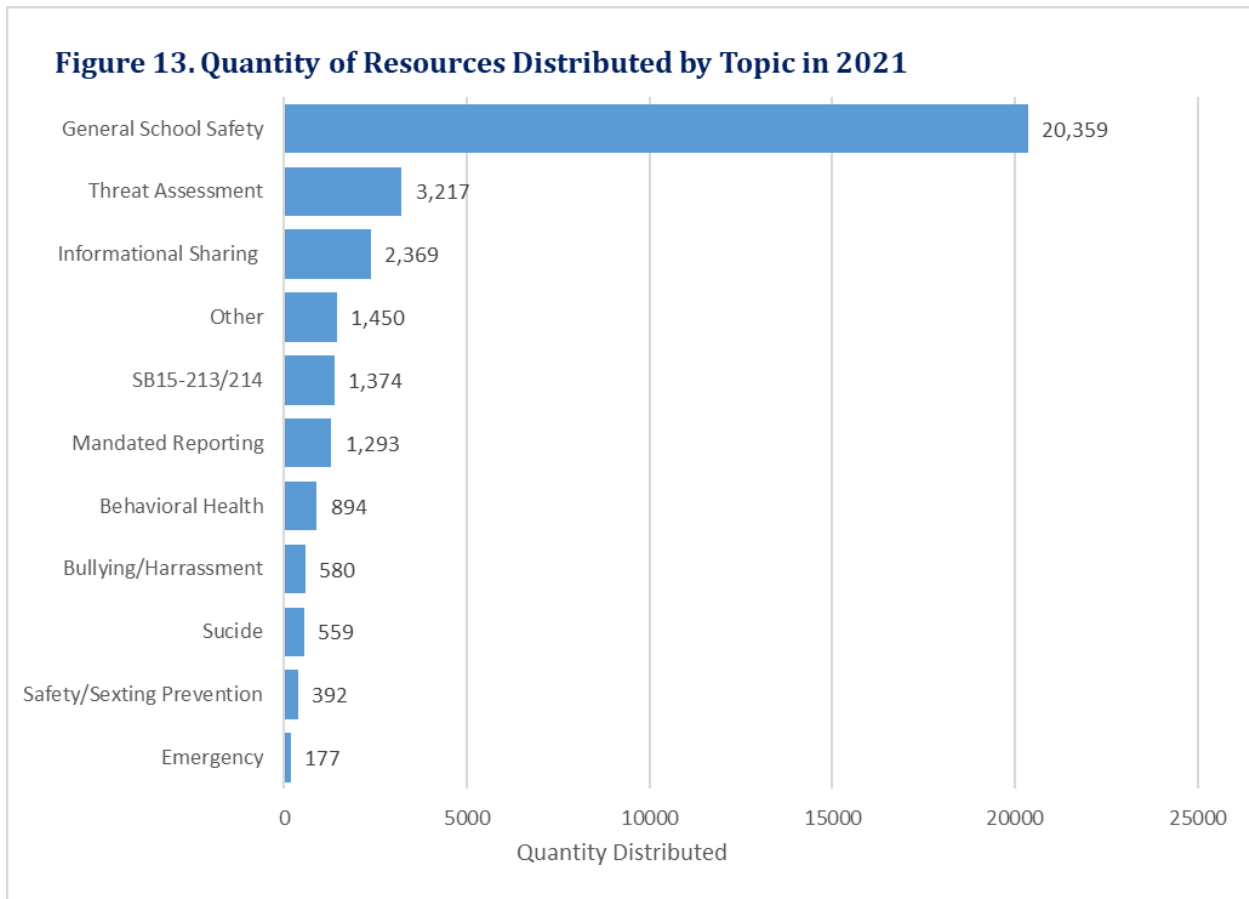
The CSSRC staff continue to spend considerable time in research, review, and evaluation of available materials and resources for distribution to support school safety efforts, as well as research topics. These methods of distribution are critically considered when researching materials to support safe and positive schools.

During 2021, the CSSRC researched, acquired, and distributed to partners and training participants 32,664 electronic copies of 139 school safety-related resources covering a variety of topics. This decrease is the result of virtual training and is in keeping with the Governor’s WIG toward a greener government. The expectation is for the number of hard copy resources to continue to decrease even when in-person workshops resume.

These materials were either created by the Center or obtained from different state and national agencies or organizations. Materials are distributed through the E-Update, display tables at conferences, or at trainings. They are also shared at meetings across the state and, occasionally, mailed directly to a school in response to a specific need. Figure 13 summarizes the distribution of electronic copies of resources by topic.

*Other resources include information on mandatory reporting, sexting, and additional subjects new to the Center in 2021.

Figure 13. Quantity of Resources Distributed by Topic in 2021



Working Groups

One responsibility the Center has adopted since its inception is to facilitate work groups on topics of identified need in order to develop and distribute resources to be used by Colorado schools. Previously, the Center has facilitated working groups on Emergency Planning for K-12 Schools, Interagency Information Sharing, Threat Assessment, School Security Personnel, Bullying/Harassment Prevention, Parental Notification by Schools When Staff Have Been Accused of Sexual Misconduct, Businesses Assisting Schools in Communities Prepare (BASIC Prep) and the Institutions of Higher Education Networking Group. In 2016, a group reviewed the three reports commissioned after the 2013 Arapahoe High School shooting tragedy and wrote a report on the recommendations that were presented to the SB15-214 Interim Committee, School Safety and Youth Mental Health in Crisis.

In 2021, three working groups were still active from previous years and one new group was added. These include:

Youth Advisory Council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES²)

In 2013, the Center created its first youth advisory council to support its mission of promoting safe and positive school climates across the state with a sounding board for the youth voice. The mission of YES² is to collect youth perspectives for recommendations to the Colorado School Safety Resource Center's Advisory Board, staff, and other partner agencies about school safety issues.

The Center decided to take a different approach to engaging youth in the mission of school safety for the last four school years. Whereas past YES² participants have worked throughout the year to create a final project focused on a school safety-related topic, the four most recent groups were engaged in a new way. The Center chose to host regional Student/Staff Safety Summits to provide opportunities for students and staff to come together and discuss their perspectives on a number of school safety topics, as well as hear from national and state speakers and Center staff. The 2021-22 youth council members were invited to choose the topics for the December Summit, co-present, and facilitate the group discussions.

This year's Student/Staff Safety Summit was held virtually on December 7th. Students from the youth council decided on the topics for the keynote address as well as the three CSSRC presentations. The students also presented some of the material during the workshops and collected notes on the outcomes from the presentations. A summary of the discussions and slides from the Student/Staff Safety Summit held this year can be found on the [CSSRC website](#).

The team is also planning presentations to middle school groups on what they wish they had known about access to school safety supports when they were in middle school. The students adjusted their original expectations due to pandemic restrictions, but are moving forward on project ideas.

Suicide Intervention and Prevention Working Group

Since 2017, the CSSRC has been facilitating informal meetings of school mental health leaders, particularly to discuss suicide. In 2019, the group urged the Center to create suicide risk assessment tools for use by Colorado districts that have not yet adopted such instruments. The working group reviewed the toolkit and training on the use of the new toolkit started in the spring 2020. Those trainings continued and the psychological safety staff were invited to present the toolkit at the 2021 Colorado Society of School Psychologists' annual conference in November.

While the Center continues these networking meetings under the able leadership of Dr. Ron Lee, in 2021 the Center started working with Partners for Children's Mental Health, Mental Health Colorado, the Colorado Department of Human Services and a private practitioner to support a Community of Practice funded by Centura Health. This group is more focused on providing training for all school mental health professionals while the CSSRC networking group caters to behavioral health leaders from the schools. Until the suicide rates decrease, these groups will continue to meet and share strategies and resources.

Threat Assessment Working Group

The Center decided to revive the threat assessment working group to review policies, procedures, and protocols in light of 2018 updates from the United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Homeland Security on this topic. A general outreach was made to school professionals for this effort and over 30 individuals answered the call. First, a survey was conducted to discover the state of threat assessments in Colorado schools. A review of the components of the survey led to a consensus on best practices.

In 2019, the CSSRC, in collaboration with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, also an office of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, submitted an application for the Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP) Grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The threat assessment working group members play a pivotal role as ongoing reviewers of the materials and training components. The Threat Assessment Working Group continues to meet every other month to support each other by sharing challenges and successes in their threat assessment work.

Statewide Crisis Response Working Group

Prior to COVID, a number of stakeholders met to discuss how to leverage lessons learned from previous school attacks to help all schools in Colorado prepare, respond to and recover from a critical incident. When schools returned to a modicum of normalcy in 2021, this working group started meeting in earnest and formed two committees. The first committee reviewed crisis training models to make recommendations for school staff. The second has created Guidelines for schools in their efforts to be ready for a critical event. A draft of the Colorado School Crisis Guidelines is being reviewed by the working group for dissemination to all schools in 2022. In December, Greg Busch, the Emergency Manager for the Colorado Community Colleges and member of the CSSRC Advisory Board, requested that this working group expand their efforts to include higher education institutions. The group quickly agreed.

The eventual goal is to have a cadre of school professionals trained to help any district or school that has a crisis. This group would receive consistent and universally accepted training so that anyone that called upon them would feel comfortable asking for their assistance, confident that they would be using best practices garnered from previous experiences.

The working group is composed of staff from a number of rural and Front Range districts, CDPHE's Colorado Crisis Education & Response Network (CoCERN), CDHS, the Colorado Society of School Psychologists, the DeAngelis Foundation, and the Colorado Organization for Victims' Assistance. Members of the higher education community will be joining in January.

Collaboration

The Center continues to work with other agencies with similar missions to maximize our ability to provide services to schools and contribute to the work that all youth-serving agencies are accomplishing. The Center is proud of the reputation earned for cooperating with other professionals and the quality and quantity of work that has been produced through these partnerships. Currently, the CSSRC attends regular meetings as a participant, active member, school safety voice, or fellow presenter with the following statewide and national groups:

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

The ADL has been a co-presenter with the Center, the Colorado Education Initiative, Colorado Department of Education, and One Colorado since the start of the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes in 2011. In 2017, their counsel was helpful in deciding to conduct student/staff summits with the remaining Gill Foundation funding that the Center has continued to host post-funding. Since 2019, the ADL has provided excellent materials, which the Center shares in the E-Update, to educate schools as to how to speak with students about social justice issues and hate activities which have been occurring nationally.

Colorado Association for School-Based Health Centers (CASBHC)

Established in 1996, CASBHC is a non-profit membership organization that promotes the development and growth of school-based health centers throughout the state. CASBHC provides information to individuals and communities interested in learning more about school-based health centers. Currently, there are 53 School-Based Health Centers in the state. Ms. Garner actively works with CASBHC and was asked to present on Secondary Traumatic Stress at their annual conference this year.

Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

The CSSRC has worked with CASB on a number of initiatives and working groups. However, staff did not have an opportunity to present or participate in the CASB annual conference in 2021. Kathy Plomer has completed her term on the CASB Board and therefore will be leaving the CSSRC's Advisory Board. CASB plans to appoint a replacement after elections in January.

Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)

CASE consults with the Colorado Department of Education on recommendations for the superintendent representatives on the CSSRC Advisory Board. Representing the rural districts are Superintendent Sheldon Rosenkrance of Estes Park and Superintendent/Principal Rebecca Hall of Hinsdale School District. From the Front Range, Dr. Carolena Steen, the Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, serves as a representative to the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)

CASRO membership consists of school resource officers, other law enforcement personnel, and affiliated partners. The Center is a member of this Association. CSSRC's Advisory Board SRO is Kelly Jacobsen from the Westminster Police Department, who also serves as the Secretary on CASRO's board. Officer Jacobsen and her supervisor, Commander Reed, presented a workshop on collecting SRO data at the 2021 Safe Schools Summit. In 2021, CASRO requested a representative from CSSRC be appointed to their board and Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, filled that position. Mr. Stiles played a very active role in the organization and execution of the CASRO Conference last summer. Additionally, Kati Garner, Northwest Regional Training Consultant, presented De-Escalation During a Mental Health Crisis at the 2021 conference on June 29th.

Colorado Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers (CASSLEO)

CASSLEO, an association of school safety and security directors from many of the larger Front Range school districts, meets periodically. Center staff attend and report on statewide initiatives.

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)

CCASA, an association promoting safety, justice, and healing for survivors while working toward the elimination of sexual violence, consults frequently with Center staff regarding safety matters of statewide concern. This year, CCASA was instrumental in the passage of SB21-88, which creates a new cause of action for victim/survivors of child sexual abuse against actors and organizations where the organization knew or should have known of a risk of sexual misconduct against minors. CCASA also worked to expand the statute of limitations for victim/survivors.

The Emergency Response Outreach Consultant and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist presented at the Colorado Summit on Sexual Misconduct, a biennial event largely planned by CCASA with the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Ms. Ochoa served on CCASA's Policy Committee in 2021, gaining early access to information on pending legislation. The Center will continue to work with CCASA to track metrics on juveniles impacted by the 2017 sexting bill, and prepare for the post-enactment review.

Colorado Crisis Education and Response Network (CoCERN)

CoCERN is a statewide, asset-based community partnership formed to deliver effective, efficient, and professional disaster behavioral health services. The Center has been involved with this group since its inception and, currently, the School Outreach Consultant represents the Center at the quarterly meetings. Representatives from CoCERN are actively involved in the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Since the opening of the Center, staff have had an excellent working relationship with staff at the Colorado Department of Education. This has been especially true under the leadership of Commissioner Katy Anthes. This collaboration includes many regional trainings that are conducted in concert with staff from CDE. In 2015, Center staff worked closely with CDE as the subject matter experts on the School Emergency Management grant from the United States Department of Education awarded to CDE.

The Colorado Department of Education also has a staff member assigned to the CSSRC Advisory Board and the Commissioner of Education appoints three other board members from the school community. Currently, Christina Larson is the CDE staff member serving on the Advisory Board. Others appointed by the Commissioner of Education include Carolena Steen, Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, Jane Lineman, Ph.D., Student Safety Coordinator for Denver Public Schools, and Sheldon Rosenkrance, Superintendent of the Estes Park School District.

CDE has continued to support the Center's efforts with respect to campus safety and Title IX obligations. The state Title IX Coordinator, Rebekah Ottenbreit, is a frequent and valued guest at the Center's training conferences. She has trained at both the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium and the Safe Schools Summit, and coordinates referrals to and from staff as necessary. Ms. Ottenbreit and the CDE website have proven to be valuable resources to Center stakeholders.

Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)

The Colorado Department of Higher Education has representation on the CSSRC Advisory Board and supports the annual Summer Safety Summit for institutions of higher education (IHE). Mr. Greg Busch, Emergency Manager for the Community College System within CDHE, is their representative on the CSSRC Advisory Board and has presented at the Summer IHE Summit. In 2021, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant and the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist presented at the 1st Biennial Colorado Summit on Sexual Misconduct, created as a part of SB19-007. This Summit, hosted by the CDHE, addressed topics related to Title IX and sexual misconduct on higher education campuses. The Center's workshop focused on the unique dangers to concurrently-enrolled and other minors on campus.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

The CSSRC continues to have a strong relationship with the OBH, which is the state authority for mental health and substance abuse services. The Office of Behavioral Health has been the go-to organization to assist the Center in finding the right regional professionals to collaborate with the Regional Training Consultants and to present at the Staff/Student Safety Summits. Meghan Shelton from OBH sits on the CSSRC Advisory Board and is a valuable member of the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group.

Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)

The Center looks to the Divisions of Child Welfare and Child Maltreatment for expertise regarding child abuse and neglect. Shared messaging across departments is key to consistency for stakeholders in education and beyond. In 2021, the Child Protection Ombudsman's Office published an Issue Brief with respect to mandatory reporter laws in Colorado. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist trains comprehensively on that issue, as does the Division of Child Welfare. Accordingly, the agencies have been called on to assist in providing feedback on successes and challenges under the existing law. Ms. Ochoa also works closely with the Colorado Sexual Health Initiative (CoSHI) to make comprehensive sexual health education programming available to schools who are opting to offer it. The partnership ensures that Center resources reflect programs that have been approved for funding under state and federal grants.

Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist works with the OEC and its partners to stay current on trending trainings and recommendations. She serves on the Planning Committee for the 2022 Strengthening Colorado Families & Communities Conference, bringing together nearly 1,000 social workers from across the state. The conference is a joint collaboration across CDHS' family support continuum and nonprofit organizations. She also co-chairs the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition (CSAP) which contains OEC members. That association provides opportunities to hear updates on developments in the OEC and OCYF Offices, as well as awareness of the Center's training.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

Office of Violence and Injury Prevention

The Center has worked collaboratively with CDPHE to systematically prevent suicide and sexual violence. Since 2010, the Center, CDE, and CDPHE's Office of Suicide Prevention have joined forces to present 13 Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposia for school professionals. The Center has a seat on the Statewide Suicide Commission facilitated by the Office of Suicide Prevention. Currently, Dr. Ron Lee, School Outreach Consultant for the Center, represents the Center on the Suicide Commission.

Staff from the Center rely on data collected by CDPHE, as well as best practice recommendations to CSSRC's working groups. Partners in both the Office of Suicide Prevention and Sexual Violence Prevention Program have trained at regional conferences for the Center. The Center's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist sits on the Sexual Violence Prevention Program's Advisory Workgroup.

Lena Heilmann, Ph.D., Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager of the Office of Suicide Prevention within the Office of Violence and Injury Prevention, Mental Health Promotion Branch of CDPHE, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board. Dr. Heilmann recommended both presenters for this year's Suicide Symposium and introduced them at the conference.

Children, Youth, and Families Branch

The Director of CSSRC and a representative from the Division of Criminal Justice both serve on the steering committee for the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey and the Smart Source Survey. CDPHE staff facilitate this work. These surveys are conducted by the University of Colorado, Denver in alternating years. The surveys collect youth health and risk-related data around the state from a random sample of middle school and high school students. Both surveys are also supported by CDPHE, the Colorado Department of Human Services and CDE.

Colorado Department of Public Safety Colorado State Patrol (CSP)

The CSSRC maintains a professional relationship with this agency, particularly as issues related to schools arise that offer opportunities for education regarding vehicle safety and response. Center staff consulted on CSP's school safety curriculum project, and provide refresher training to the deliverers of the curriculum on identification of child abuse as requested.

CSP has continued to generously provide voiceover talent for the CSSRC online courses and have worked with Center staff to update the online courses.

More recently, as a mental health professional, the CSSRC Director worked with the CSP Wellness Coordinator on a committee to address CDPS staff wellness. They were joined by staff from the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, the EAP Coordinator for the state and CDPS' Executive Director's Office. Two presentations were held in early summer, one for supervisors and one for all staff.

Division of Criminal Justice

Offices of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management

The Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) develops standards and guidelines for the evaluation, treatment, and behavioral monitoring of sex offenders. The Center has continued to support the work of the SOMB. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist attends conferences and SOMB meetings to keep abreast of developments within the provider community, and has made training available to school districts in collaboration with DCJ to safely reintegrate juveniles who have committed offending behaviors into their schools and communities.

The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) was similarly created to standardize the evaluation, treatment and continued monitoring of domestic violence offenders to reduce recidivism and protect victims and potential victims. However, unlike the SOMB, there is no authority to create standards for juvenile treatment providers, resulting in a dearth of providers who specialize in this work. In 2020 and 2021, Ms. Ochoa sat on the Juvenile Treatment Providers Best Practices Working Group and its subcommittee on Legal Considerations, a collaboration of the DVOMB, Stand Up Colorado, SOMB, private juvenile treatment providers, juvenile probation officers, and school officials. The Working Group released guiding principles in 2021 for providers to serve this population of juveniles, with the hope to remedy the gap. Presentation of the Best Practice Guidelines comprised a significant number of trainings for the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist in mid-late 2021.

Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

The Division of Fire Prevention and Control has always supported the work of the CSSRC. In recent years, there have been further collaboration efforts as schools struggle with emergency preparedness for active shooter situations that do not interfere with fire safety.

When most schools were either being held remotely or a combination of remote and in-person, questions arose about conducting drills and the construction of temporary fixtures to reduce air-borne particles and promote social distancing in schools. DFPC created and disseminated documents to cover both instances with assistance from the CSSRC.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

The CIAC is an office of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The CIAC serves as the focal point within the state for receiving, analyzing, and sharing threat-related information among private sector, local, tribal, school, and federal partners. When appropriate, the CIAC and the Center work together to distribute informational messages to the Center's stakeholders regarding school safety.

During the 2018 legislative session, eight additional employees were added to the CIAC to support the Safe2Tell program. This program is an anonymous tip line open to all citizens, but focused on students to provide a tool for them to anonymously report concerns to school officials and law enforcement.

Establishing the Watch Center at the CIAC, where Safe2Tell professionals accept and analyze calls, has deepened the relationship between the CIAC and the CSSRC and helps the CDPS further support school safety.

Office of School Emergency Response

When the 2018 Colorado Legislature proposed two school safety bills for over sixty million dollars, the Department of Public Safety realized that the CSSRC did not have the capacity to manage such funding. However, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management oversees millions of dollars for the Federal Office of Emergency Management, and they agreed to oversee the school safety grants. The CSSRC was the main conduit of grant notifications to the school districts. The School Security Disbursement Grant of 2018 was a one-time distribution, but the School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant is a six-year grant for which districts can apply yearly. Two funding years remain on the SAFER grant. The Director of the Center continues to serve on the grant selection committee for this grant.

As previously mentioned, the Center applied for and received the STOP Violence grant from BJA. DHSEM's Office of School Emergency Response submitted the final paperwork and took responsibility for the budget of this grant while the CSSRC's Director serves as the grant manager.

Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)

The CEI is an independent 501(c)(3) that serves as a partner to the Colorado Department of Education in the effective implementation of programs and public policy related to education. The Center and staff from CEI have worked together on many projects in the past.

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP)

The mission of the partnership is to strengthen the region's collective capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters through effective public-private alliances. The Center has joined this partnership and staff attend meetings.

Colorado League of Charter Schools

The League of Charter Schools is a full-service nonprofit membership group for about 95% of the charter schools in Colorado. The League offers legislative advocacy, performance management, professional development, governance training, group purchasing programs, teacher effectiveness services, new school development support, employment and facilities consultation, marketing and communications assistance, and more. The League presents an annual conference at which Center staff deliver training.

Colorado Office for Victim Assistance (COVA)

COVA is a 501(c)(3) committed to fairness and healing of crime victims and their families and communities through leadership, education, and advocacy. COVA is a recognized leader in statewide training for professionals and volunteers who work with victims of crime and trauma. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist meets quarterly with a group of statewide trainers from COVA and its partners to promote one another's training opportunities and avoid redundancies.

Both the Executive Director and the Training Coordinator for COVA are working on the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group. It is hoped that this collaboration will further deepen the relationships between school staff and victim advocates. Often victim advocates are the main outside crisis supporters for Colorado's rural school districts.

Colorado Rural Schools Alliance

The Colorado Rural Schools Alliance was established in 2008 to be the voice for rural schools in Colorado. The Alliance holds a weekly meeting of rural superintendents to which the CSSRC director is invited. The director has also presented to this group and looks forward to gaining their support for the Crisis Guidelines for Colorado Schools' project.

Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP)

CSDSIP insures over 90% of the state's school districts, and therefore has a vested interest in the safety and security of Colorado schools. Once again, CSDSIP supported the 2021 Safe Schools Summit during Safe Schools Month. Craig Hein, J.D., General Counsel for CSDSIP, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)

The Colorado School Counselor Association serves its members and the public through programs that advance guidance and counseling in all school work settings: elementary, middle/junior high, high school, and postsecondary schools. Center staff presented on Informed Supervision of Juveniles Who Commit Sexually Abusive and Offending Behavior this year at their in-person Conference in Keystone.

Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)

The mission of CSSP is to strengthen the effectiveness of school psychologists in addressing academic, social, and emotional needs of children and youth in Colorado. In the past, CSSRC staff routinely presented and provided resources at the annual conference. Both the NE Regional Training Consultant and the School Outreach Consultant were invited to present the CSSRC Suicide Assessment Toolkit at the November 2021 annual conference. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist also presented with a panel from the multi-disciplinary group who created the Best Practice Guidelines for Youth Who Engage in Relationship Abuse.

Dr. Franci Crepeau-Hobson, representing the CSSP crisis team, is also an active member of the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group. Dr. Crepeau-Hobson also graciously allowed the Working Group to utilize information she had published about her crisis response work in the Crisis Guidelines.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI is an intelligence-driven and threat-focused national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities. The FBI has dedicated programs to investigate domestic and international terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, and many others. Staff from the FBI have presented numerous times at CSSRC statewide trainings on threat assessment and human trafficking.

Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC)

The FRAC is an interdisciplinary group of law enforcement, non-profit and state agency professionals that meet to share resources, training events, and updates on human trafficking in Colorado. Center staff began attending meetings in 2014. This relationship enables Center staff to stay current on trends in prosecution, patterns in human trafficking in schools and the community at large, and to foster contact with partners at DCJ, the FBI, and elsewhere.

Illuminate Colorado

Illuminate Colorado is a cohort of agencies whose mission is effective prevention of child maltreatment. They are the Colorado branch of Prevent Child Abuse America. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist has served as a co-chair of the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition (CSAP) in 2021. That group was convened by Illuminate and is composed of experts from the nonprofit sector, state government, and individual members. CSAP worked with the Office of Early Childhood and external data collectors to create an Issue Brief on awareness and prevention of sexual abuse. The Brief, which was published in 2021, refined research recommendations on attitudes about child sexual abuse which was collected over the past few years. Ms. Ochoa meets regularly with facilitators trained by Illuminate to enhance opportunities for training. Illuminate is once again planning the Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference for 2022. She also sits on that planning committee.

National School Safety Alliance (NSSA)

The Alliance is a network of state-level school safety practitioners from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The purpose of the NSSA is to examine and share information around trends in school safety, training opportunities, resources, and best practices from the field. The NSSA members also have the responsibility of advocating for best practices in school safety at both the state and national levels.

The CSSRC Director has been a member of the NSSA since its informal inception in 2014. In 2021, the group became formalized with the adoption of a board of directors and by-laws. Ms. Harms, Director of the CSSRC, became the co-chair of the board along with Ms. Amy Roderick from the Missouri School Safety Center. Ms. Roderick and Ms. Harms facilitate the twice monthly meetings of the Alliance.

One Colorado

One Colorado is a non-profit organization with a mission to secure and protect equality and opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans and their families. They have been co-presenters with the Center, ADL, CDE, CEI, and Facing History throughout the state in the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes since 2011. They also presented at the 2021 Safe Schools Summit and the evaluations were outstanding.

Partners for Children's Mental Health (PCMH)

PCMH is a recent Children's Mental Health Center of Excellence, supported by the Children's Hospital of Colorado. PCMH is designed to serve as a statewide resource to increase the capacity, access, and quality of mental health services for children, youth, and families. The CSSRC's Director is a member of the steering committee for this entity whose work has been focusing on youth suicide in Colorado. Staff from PCMH have worked with Center staff and district mental health professionals on the newly created CSSRC Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit.

PCMH and CSSRC along with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Mental Health Colorado and Centura Health are collaborating on a Community of Practice for school mental health providers that meets monthly.

Sexual Assault Interagency Council (SAIC)

The SAIC hosts a working group to address perceived gaps in education and awareness related to Title IX, specifically in the Denver area. Colleagues from Denver Public Schools, the University of Colorado Denver Center on Domestic Violence, law enforcement, the Denver DA's Office, nonprofit partners, and county and state agencies meet to discuss real and hypothetical cases to test systems, and discuss opportunities for better understanding. The group provides space for training and sharing of resources. It allowed the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist an opportunity to observe decision making at the district level.

Stand Up Colorado

Stand Up Colorado is a statewide, collaborative, multi-year relationship violence prevention campaign designed to alter behavior and affect long-term social change. Stand Up Colorado is a partnership of the Denver City and District Attorneys' offices, statewide violence prevention coalitions, advocacy groups, public and private health organizations, educational institutions, treatment providers, and government agencies. Center staff participated in its Juvenile Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Provider Working Group to address the dearth of providers with this specialized expertise, and to develop guidelines and standards to ensure effective treatment. Ms. Ochoa served on a subcommittee regarding mandatory reporting and legal issues.

Summary and Conclusion

This two-year period of the COVID-19 pandemic will go down as one of the most unusual in the country's history. Staff had adjusted to virtual training but were happy to resume in-person workshops, when possible.

As one of CDPS' Wildly Important Goals for FY 2021-22 from the Governor's office, the CSSRC has been making certain that special accommodations for training are always available to participants.

Center staff will persevere in meeting the timeline for the BJA STOP Violence Threat Assessment grant work. The response from districts on the refinement of both the documents and the training has been very encouraging. Once the online portal is completed and school staff have been trained to implement and store their threat assessments and RMS plans on this platform, the effect will be a time-saving, secure solution for Colorado schools, particularly those in the rural communities.

Staff were pleased to train the first cohort of the Colorado Safe Schools Academy and look forward to offering the academy again in June 2022. Besides providing a baseline of school safety knowledge, those in attendance had the advantage of meeting staff from partner agencies and thereby being alerted to all the resources available to Colorado schools.

Providing the Colorado School Crisis Guidelines and the complementary training will go a long way to supporting schools in being prepared for any possible crisis.

CSSRC staff will continue to meet the requests for training, consultation, resources, and technical assistance for all schools in Colorado with a particular focus on the rural communities. Staying abreast of the best practice updates from the federal government on school safety policies and procedures is a priority. Staff from the Center continue to be invited to participate in national discussions as well as to train professionals in other states.

School safety is important for so many reasons. Providing a safe environment that is welcoming to all students creates an atmosphere where academic success is possible. Research also informs schools that a positive school climate is one of the best ways to provide a safe school environment. Our youth are the most precious resource we have, and we must protect them. The Center appreciates everyone who works with us in this effort. We will all continue to strive for excellence in Colorado school safety in 2022.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at

cssrc.colorado.gov

Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC)

Department of Public Safety

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