

# Legislative Report 2024

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

Office of School Safety  
Colorado Department of Public Safety

C.R.S. 24-33.5-2701 *et seq.*



**COLORADO**  
Office of School Safety  
Department of Public Safety



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



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# The Office of School Safety

## Mission

The Office of School Safety (hereinafter “OSS/Office”) in the Colorado Department of Public Safety (“CDPS/Department”) was created by Senate Bill 23-241 as an enhancement of the previously existing Colorado School Safety Resource Center (“CSSRC/Center”). The Office of School Safety provides Colorado schools and communities with the tools and resources to create safe and positive school environments for all Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

## Key Highlights of the Office of School Safety in 2024

The Office of School Safety (of which the School Safety Resource Center is now one unit) was created in 2023. See [SB23 - 241](#). As of the end of 2024, the OSS is a team of 19 members. Four members serve the entire OSS team, the School Safety Resource Center operates with nine staff, the Grants Unit two, and the Crisis Response Unit four. It is impossible to isolate the work of the CSSRC without considering the work of the overall OSS, so this Legislative Report encapsulates a broader view than the statutory limitation to the CSSRC. Much of this Report, however, reflects the work of the School Safety Resource Center.

## The Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC/Center)

- The CSSRC provides training, technical assistance, consultation, and resources to all pre-K through higher education schools.
- The CSSRC is required to prepare and submit a report to the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety for submission to the Education and Judiciary Committees of the Colorado General Assembly evaluating the efficacy and value of the services provided to schools every January.
- Along with its current staff, the CSSRC has a 19-member advisory board from various state agencies and other partners addressing school safety issues.
- The CSSRC Advisory Board, outlined in the enabling legislation (C.R.S. 24-33.5-1801 *et seq.*), meets formally four times each year with Center staff to provide input on the work of the Center and hear from board members representing their constituents.
- The Office of School Safety staff trained thousands of school and district staff in physical and psychological safety issues in 2024.
- Having been awarded a second STOP Violence grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2022 for \$1,992,085, training in the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) expanded. Workshops on the utilization of the online CTAMP continued. This second STOP grant allows 75 additional subscriptions to the online forms.
- In September of 2024, the Department of Justice awarded the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU Boulder an additional grant which enabled the Office of School Safety to expand the CTAMP work. The grant funds a comparative analysis of outcomes at schools in a large suburban district that will be trained at different times in the CTAMP.

## The Grants Unit

- The Grants Unit oversees the School Safety and Preparedness grants portfolio of \$22.5 million and provides workshops on researching and applying for funding.
- This year, the Grants Unit has successfully managed four grant awards, partnering with 197 awardees across ten award segments.

## The Crisis Response Unit

- The Crisis Unit trains school professionals in crisis protocols.
- The Unit provides additional support in the aftermath of a critical incident upon request.
- The Crisis Response Team received training in the National School Psychologists' [PREPaRE curriculum](#) in April and May of 2024, guaranteeing readiness to respond to a district crisis.
- PREPaRE train-the-trainer certifications were obtained in April, May, and early August so all Crisis Response Unit staff can train other school professionals throughout the state.

## The School Safety Working Group (SSWG)

- In 2019, the State Auditor's Office reviewed five state agencies that provided services to schools on safety issues. With the passage of SB20-023 and HB22-1274, an interagency working group on school safety began meeting regularly in 2023 to consider those audit suggestions. A report of the work and recommendations of the SSWG went to the Colorado Legislature in January of 2024. [A copy of the interagency SSWG report is linked here.](#)
- After completing the statutory mandate, the OSS and the Colorado Department of Education decided to continue the meetings of the SSWG and invited staff from the Behavioral Health Administration and the Colorado Departments of Early Childhood and Higher Education to join the collaboration.

## The Educator Safety Task Force

- With the passage of [SB24-1320](#), the Office of School Safety was tasked with facilitating the Educator Safety Task Force. The appointees to the Task Force were all specified in legislation and appointed in the summer of 2024.
- The first working meeting of this group occurred in September of 2024, and this group is meeting monthly. The Task Force has a prescribed focus for its study and will report back to the Colorado Legislature by June 30, 2025.

## The Partnership with the I Love You Guys Foundation

- The I Love U Guys Foundation has long been considered the go-to partner for schools in developing tactical responses to crisis situations in schools. OSS staff continually share the Foundation's resources with Colorado schools.
- We are very happy to report that in 2024, the Office of School Safety made our collaboration with the Foundation official.

## Highlights of the Colorado Office of School Safety for 2024

- **Providing Training, Consultation, and Resources** - The Office of School Safety provides both statewide and school site training throughout the year. In 2024, the staff provided:
- **Regional Trainings** - Regional symposia during 2024 included the following:
  - **January Speakers' Series** - This series is designed to appeal to students' caregivers. Four nationally recognized experts presented one-hour talks virtually on January 9, 16, 23, and 30th over the lunch hour.
  - The OSS hosted the **National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment** for two days of workshops on April 8 and 9.

- **Threat Assessment Symposium** - This workshop was held on May 7 and 8 at the Conference Center of the Loveland Embassy Suites. Plenary sessions were live-streamed.
- **Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Summit** - This symposium occurred virtually on May 31. It was live-streamed.
- **School Safety Academy** - The fourth annual week-long Academy occurred virtually on June 3rd.
- **National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)** -
  - One event was held to offer the SRO SUPERVISOR Course:
    - June 10 - 12 at the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) Conference in Keystone; and
  - Two events were held to offer the ADVANCED SRO Course:
    - July 24 - 26 in Denver, and
    - August 5 - 7 in Grand Junction
- **I Love U Guys Reunification Exercise** - This two-day Standard Response Protocol/Standard Reunification training took place in Monte Vista on September 24 - 25th.
- **Colorado Safe Schools Summit** - This annual conference was held virtually over two days in partnership with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Safe2Tell Colorado:
  - Four plenaries were live-streamed on October 17th, and
  - 28 virtual workshops were hosted on October 18th.
- The annual **Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Symposium**, in collaboration with the Office of Suicide Prevention, took place on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lowry Conference Center.
- The first annual Crisis Response Symposium was held virtually on December 3, 2024.
- **School Site Training** - Along with the statewide regional training, staff from the Office of School Safety's three units continue to provide various staff development, topic-focused workshops, and consultations in individual districts, public, private, and charter schools across the state. In 2024, staff provided training to 9,544 participants on 45 topics in 328 workshops, bringing the total number of people trained since the Center opened to 90,134.
- **Creation and Delivery of Online Learning** -
  - In 2012, the Center launched its first two online training courses for school personnel. Participants have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits upon completion of each course. By 2024, the Center had created 18 online courses. Technological updates have rendered many of those courses unusable, but the Office continues to explore funding sources and opportunities for additional online learning.
  - To date, at least 15,444 people have *completed* our online courses.
- **Consultation and Collaborations** - The staff contacts were 11,747 in 2024. Of those contacts, 615 direct consultations were provided to individual schools/districts, agencies or parents through the first week of December. The Office of School Safety staff also collaborated on 755 occasions with other state agencies on school safety issues.

- **Resources** - The OSS continues to provide resources electronically rather than in paper. This year, the number of resources shared was 47,450. This total encompasses all digital handouts, slide decks, and other materials from site-based training and regional conferences.
- **Enhancing Electronic Communication Capability** - The OSS website continues to be a dynamic hub of current and topical information for schools, emergency responders, community partners, and the general public. Please see [oss.colorado.gov](https://oss.colorado.gov).

The website is continually updated and modified to include more resources and improve searchability. Additionally, 4,785 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/X account](#). This allows the Center to update followers between issues of the E-Update. As of December 2024, there are currently 1191 followers of the account.

- **Developing and Deepening Collaborations** - Recognizing the need to maximize services and resources to schools, the OSS has been working with a multitude of agencies since its inception in 2008. In 2024, staff had ongoing relationships with nearly 50 in-state organizations and presented at a national conference and multiple times at 13 statewide conferences. Staff also appeared and/or presented at multiple regional meetings of other agencies.

During the 2024 calendar year, OSS staff facilitated four networking groups: threat assessment, suicide prevention, a third on problematic sexual behavior, and, the most recent, a group on crisis response. These groups each meet approximately every other month.

In order to capture youth concerns with a decentralized focus, plans are underway for three Student-Staff Summits in January and February of 2025 to capture youth concerns in school safety.

## Looking Forward

The Center has undergone monumental change with the advent of the Office of School Safety. 2024 saw a year of robust hiring, onboarding, training, and consultation from each of the three units.

## CSSRC

The CSSRC was fortunate to add new staff to meet demands: Jae Dee Wood, MPH, was hired in January to replace Margaret Ochoa as the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist after Ms. Ochoa assumed managerial responsibilities within the CSSRC in 2023. Chelsey Lehmkuhl also joined us in January to represent Northeastern Colorado as a Regional Training Consultant (RTC). Two more RTCs were hired in April and June - Kelly Donnelly in the Northwest and Amy Miglinas in the Southwest, respectively. Finally, Cary Lynch began working as our newest School Outreach Consultant in July. Our new staff bring school counseling and psychology expertise to the team, as well as school and district leadership, and advocacy experience in direct service to survivors of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Melissa Rubeo served as both the Program Assistant for the OSS and Resource Specialist for the CSSRC in 2024. The hiring of Taylor Wolf as the Resource Specialist & Web Developer and

Jonathan Hernandez-Cooper as a Data Analyst, together with the promise of accounting support from the Executive Director’s Office, has allowed Ms. Rubeo to resume her duties as the Program Assistant for the OSS at large. Each of the three dedicated units is led by Director Christine Harms.

### Crisis Response Unit

Kati Garner, M.Ed., a former teacher, high school counselor, and district administrator out of Fruita, Colorado, oversees three Crisis Specialists in the Crisis Response Unit. The Unit reached capacity at four employees this year. Joining Jennifer Mills, M.A., L.P.C., Brandi Vos, Ed.S., NCSP, was hired in March of 2024, and Leah Lefever, LCSW in July of 2024. New staff have brought a wealth of experience in counseling, crisis management, and psychology expertise to the team.

Staff from both the CSSRC and the Crisis Response Unit (CRU) are working hard to join efforts to support schools throughout the state in crisis response. Both units are training schools in crisis response, with the CRU taking the lead and responding to calls statewide when incidents occur. Units are busy cross-training staff on existing trainings in threat assessment, suicide prevention and response, and much more to ensure the CSSRC can support trainings when CRU staff are called away, and the CRU staff can enrich the understanding and experience of the CSSRC trainers.

### Grants Unit

The Grants Unit, led by Charli Pringle-North, MPH, supports grantees through the administration and management of funding throughout post award, and releases notices of funding opportunities for internal funding. This year, the unit has posted, scored, and awarded over 23 million dollars in funding across three grant programs including the School Security Disbursement (SSD) Grant Program, the School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program, and the Enhance School Safety Incident Response (ESSIR) Grant Program. They also successfully closed out the Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program. This year the grants unit successfully collaborated with 197 awardees, managing a portfolio of \$24.5 Million Dollars across 10 Segments within four grants programs. They look forward to continuing to provide support to all recipients and increasing and diversifying their portfolio specifically as it relates to acquiring federal grants.

The work on the National Institute of Justice’s (NIJ) 2019-2022 grant, which received a no-cost extension until 2023, was a rewarding experience as more school staff were trained in threat assessment. Data showed that the workshops successfully increased knowledge and confidence in conducting a threat assessment and attitudes regarding the process. Training on the new online case management system continues and has been expanded. Funding from SB23-241 enabled the expansion of the case management system, including the Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit documents. This online tool was launched in late 2024.

Work is well underway on the NIJ grant for 2022-2025, which has allowed for the expansion of the CTAMP system to more districts. The Center has partnered to train SROs and school staff, piloted *Handle With Care* in two districts, and hosted one *Project Unite* training. All of these initiatives enhance the school safety work being conducted in the state.

Hybrid training continued to be a popular format of training in 2024. All regional trainings this year, except the NABITA workshop and Academy, were streamed and/or recorded. Providing alternate formats reaches the largest audiences with our important safety content.



As of this writing, 2025 already has the Office of School Safety and the CSSRC busy planning the following events:

- January: Speakers Series on topics for caregivers to support student safety
- January and February: Student Staff Summits in La Junta, Durango, and Sterling
- February: Digital Threat Assessment workshops
- April: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium
- May: I Love U Guys Reunification Exercise
- June: School Safety Academy and Project Unite Workshop
- July: Host School Resource Officer training by NASRO
- October: Annual Safe Schools Summit
- November: Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention & Postvention Symposium



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [oss.colorado.gov](https://oss.colorado.gov)

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Department of Public Safety

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## Legislative Report 2024

The following report outlines the activities, efficacy, and value of the Office of School Safety (OSS). This report was initially mandated when the School Safety Resource Center (“CSSRC” or “Center”) was the stand-alone entity. [CRS §§24-33.5-1801](#), *et seq.* The CSSRC was expanded into the OSS in 2023. ([SB23 - 241](#)). As one of three units within the OSS, it is impossible to report on its value separately and apart from the overall Office. Accordingly, this report documents the work of the CSSRC, the Crisis Response Unit (CRU), and the Grants Unit, all within the OSS. The report provides details of the OSS’ operation, including the Advisory Board, training and resources available to schools, the important issues being studied by work groups created through and in partnership with the OSS, and the significant outreach and alliances that have been developed to enhance school safety in Colorado this year. Additional information may be obtained through the OSS [website](#).

### Operation of the OSS

The founding legislation outlined the formation of an Advisory Board to make recommendations to the CSSRC. The legislation also identified the membership and terms of office. The Advisory Board began with 13 members, 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 listed in the following table. The manager of the CSSRC is actively working to fill the vacant positions:

### Advisory Board

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	APPOINTED BY
Kelly Abbott	Representative of CDPS	OAJJA, 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>
VACANT	Superintendent	Rural School District	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
VACANT	VACANT	Community College Representative	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Community College System</i>
Sarah Fishering	President of the Montrose County School Board	Colorado Association of School Boards	<i>Executive Director Colorado Association of School Boards</i>
Desiree Goheen	Intermediate/Reading Interventionist	La Junta Intermediate School	<i>Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety</i>
Carolena Steen, Ph.D.	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mtn. School District	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
Rebecca Hall	Principal/Superintendent	Lake City Schools	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
Lena Heilmann	Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager	<i>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</i>	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</i>

<b>Craig Hein</b>	General Counsel	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Kelly Jacobsen, Chairman</b>	School Resource Officer	Westminster Police Department	<i>Executive Director of Colorado Department of Public Safety</i>
<b>Stacey Jenkins</b>	Director	Safe2Tell, Colorado Department of Law	<i>Attorney General</i>
<b>Christina Larson</b>	Field Manager, NW Region	Colorado Department of Education	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
<b>Jackie Lesh</b>	Child Find Team Lead	Colorado PTA	<i>Governor</i>
<b>Jane Lineman, Secretary</b>	Student Safety Coordinator	Denver Public Schools	<i>Commissioner of Education</i>
<b>Heidi McCollum</b>	District Attorney	5th Judicial District	<i>Governor</i>
<b>Susan (Suzy) Morris</b>	Program Manager	Behavioral Health Administration	<i>Executive Director of Human Services</i>
<b>Mark Pokorny</b>	Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager	Institution of Higher Education	<i>Executive Director of Commission on Higher Education</i>
<b>Chris Wilderman</b>	Director - Safe & Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 School District	<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 Office of School Safety in other capacities throughout the year, including co-hosting training sessions, participating in working groups, reviewing staff candidates, sharing resources, and attending regional trainings. Advisory Board Members have provided significant input and advice about the Office’s activities, mission, and vision. The Advisory Board first approved operating bylaws on June 1, 2010, and updated them in 2023. All Advisory Board meeting agendas, minutes, and bylaws are posted on the OSS [website](#).

### **Vision and Mission of the Office of School Safety**

The vision of the Colorado Office of School Safety is to provide Colorado schools and communities with the tools and resources to create safe and positive school environments for all Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The mission of the Office is, through its three units, to support Colorado schools with the School Safety Resource Center providing resources, consultation, training, and technical assistance, the Crisis Response Unit training school personnel in responding to critical incidents and assisting when called upon and the Grants Unit researching and managing grant opportunities for schools. The Office does this by focusing on the areas of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery as outlined by the United States Department of Education. The OSS provides resources, training, consultation, and technical assistance to foster safe, positive, and successful learning environments and early intervention to prevent crises.

During the 2023-24 school year, CDE reported a 0.2% decrease in school enrollment from the 2022-23 data, with 881,464 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade schools in our state from 178 districts. The October 2024 count will be posted in January 2025.

Fifteen districts are considered metro Denver, with an additional 17 classified as urban-suburban. That leaves the remaining 146 of the 178 districts considered outlying cities, towns, or remote, with 110 meeting the definition of small rural. Ninety districts have a student population of less than 500. The Office of School Safety staff concentrates its 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 1,927 public schools in Colorado, of which 1,116 are elementary, 289 middle schools, and 522 high schools. Two hundred sixty-four charter schools serve approximately 135,233 students (PK-12). The OSS also serves multiple private institutions. The Colorado higher education system has 34 public two- and four-year institutions and an additional 442 private institutions and technical schools. According to data from the Colorado Department of Higher Education, 222,869 students were enrolled in Colorado institutions of higher education in 2021. 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 Office of School Safety

As noted, Christine R. Harms, M.S., was appointed the Director of the Office of School Safety in July of 2023. Ms. Harms brings 40 years of experience working with youth, professionals, and parents in schools, private practice, and victim-serving agencies. Director Harms has trained professionals on such issues as violence prevention, school-based crisis response, adolescent trauma, sexual harassment and misconduct, suicide intervention, and mandated reporting of child abuse for decades in Colorado and Pennsylvania. She oversees the CSSRC, the Grants Unit, and the Crisis Response Unit in the Office of School Safety. Margaret M. Ochoa, J.D., Kati Garner, M.Ed., and Charli Pringle-North, MPH, report directly to Ms. Harms as managers of the CSSRC, Crisis Unit, and Grants Unit, respectively. They are each responsible for supervising and directing all units' activities, programs, budgets, and personnel issues. As of December 2024, the OSS has nineteen full-time employees.

Melissa Rubeo joined the CSSRC in February 2017 as the Program Assistant. In August of 2023, she was named the Center's Resource Specialist. Since then, she has worked both roles due to the OSS's Program Assistant vacancy since February of 2023. Due to her historical knowledge of the Center and previous experience as the Program Assistant, leadership recently saw an opportunity to acquire her back in that role and delegate the Resource Specialist and accounting tasks over to new staff positions.

Jonathan Hernandez-Cooper was hired in September as the OSS Data Analyst. He formerly worked as an analyst for a retail chain and a large Colorado school district. Jonathan's skills will enable the OSS to track and interpret data related to training outcomes and evaluations for the first time.

The most recent hire at the Office of School Safety, Taylor Wolf, was hired as the Interagency Resource Specialist and Web Developer in October. This position was expanded to include the

work of the School Safety Working Group, which was organized under SB20-023 and HB22-1274. The group concluded that a dedicated position to track statewide resources for school safety beyond the OSS was necessary. Multiple departments and agencies contribute to the work being done at the OSS, and Ms. Wolf's experience in web development and management made her the ideal candidate for this position.

### CSSRC

Margaret Ochoa, J.D., a former Assistant County Attorney handling child welfare matters in Jefferson County, Colorado, worked as the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist for the CSSRC from 2016 until August of 2023, when she assumed her duties as Manager of the Unit. She now oversees the work of three full-time trainers in the Denver Metro, and five Regional Training Consultants across the state.

Brad Stiles, MA, 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. He has been recognized at statewide and national conferences for his expertise. 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.

Cary Lynch, MA, EdS, NCSP, began work as the School Outreach Consultant in July. She came to the Center with nearly 20 years of educational experience working as a school psychologist, behavior specialist, and administrator for multiple large urban districts and a charter school. Ms. Lynch provides consultation with schools and other entities that support students who are concerned with psychological school safety. She provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need and establishes and maintains networks. Cary holds a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering, an educational specialist degree in School Psychology, a master's degree in Leadership for Educational Organizations, and is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist.

In the 2015 legislative session, SB15-20 created the position of the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. That role is tasked with gathering resources and providing training and consultation to school personnel, parents, and students regarding personal safety and the prevention of child sexual abuse and assault. Jae Dee Wood, MPH, was hired in January of 2024 to fill this role. After finishing her year of service with AmeriCorps VISTA in 2018 at a community-based domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center, Ms. Wood dedicated her career to serving survivors. She has spent the last 5 years in direct service alongside survivors of sexual assault on their healing journeys. Jae Dee focuses on scientifically accurate and trauma-informed practices in her training work. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology.

In June 2019, due to a supplemental budget request approved by the Joint Budget Committee in June 2019, the Center acquired four new Regional Training Consultants (RTCs) positions. Kati Garner, M.Ed., served the Western region of the state from October 2019 until her promotion to Manager of the Crisis Response Unit in September of 2023. Kelly Donnelly, M.Ed., a former middle and high school counselor from Basalt, Colorado, was hired to represent Northwestern Colorado in April of 2024. Ms. Donnelly has been an educator for over 20 years, working in the Aspen and Roaring Fork School Districts as a school counselor.

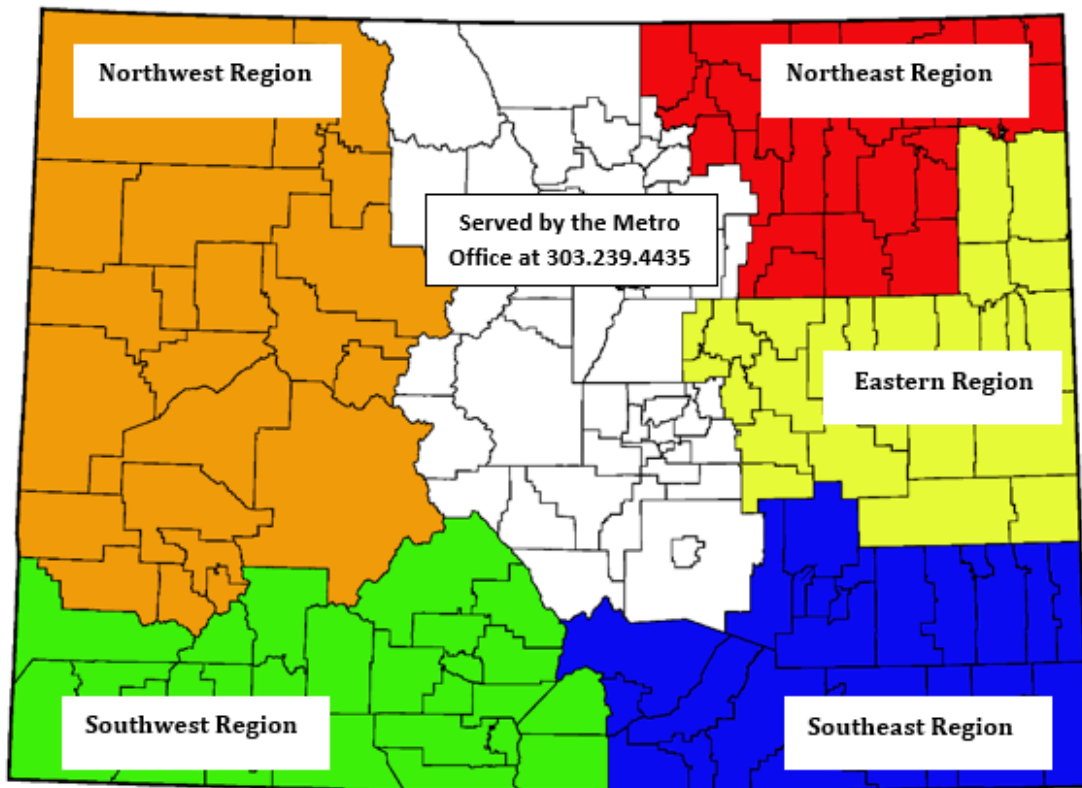
Kelly Addington, M.A., a former teacher, school counselor, and staff of the Santa Fe Trails BOCES, joined the Center in September of 2022 and operates out of La Junta. Ms. Addington loves the area in which she was born and raised. She received her bachelor's degree in biology, teaching endorsement, and master's degree from Adams State University. She is a former coach in multiple sports who is trained to facilitate a wide range of school safety curricula. Kelly leads the Center's work in *Handle With Care*. She was also the point of contact for PREPaRE, a curriculum for crisis response in schools, until the Crisis Response Team came on board.

Mike Vagher, M.A. Ed., joined the team in July of 2023 as the Eastern Regional Training Consultant. He comes to the Center with vast experience in education, having been a classroom teacher, athletic coach, instructional coach, athletic director, administrator, principal, Title IX coordinator, director of safety/security, chief operations officer, and superintendent. His experience makes him an ideal consultant for Colorado schools.

The Center hired Chelsey Lehmkuhl, B.S., as the Northeastern Regional Training Consultant in January of 2024. Chelsey served as the School-Based Mental Health Coordinator for the Northeast BOCES and a Social-Emotional Learning Specialist for a district in her region before joining the CSSRC team. She was born and raised in NE Colorado and is raising her family there.

Amy Miglinas, M.A., Ed.S., rounds out the RTC team in Southwestern Colorado. She was hired in June of 2024. Mrs. Miglinas has called SW Colorado home for over 25 years. She resides in Bayfield, where she formerly served as a principal and school counselor. She also worked with the Colorado Department of Education. Amy's areas of passion encompass positive school culture, proactive systems, crisis management, and recovery.

## Regional Training Consultants' Territories



### Crisis Response Unit

Kati Garner, M.Ed., a former teacher, high school counselor, and district administrator out of Fruita, Colorado, led her district's Mental Health and Crisis Response Team. She has represented the Center locally, statewide, and nationally on various school safety topics. Kati oversees three Crisis Specialists in the Crisis Response Unit.

Jennifer Mills, M.A., LPC, joined the Crisis Unit staff in November of 2023. Ms. Mills spent almost 15 years in private practice, primarily treating victims of traumatic crimes. She has a strong passion for implementing trauma-sensitive care and providing access to mental health support in our Colorado schools. In addition to private practice, Ms. Mills spent 6 years as a mental health provider in a local K-12 charter school. Jenny has helped build the Crisis Response Unit through hiring, onboarding staff, and representing the OSS at multiple conferences this year.

Brandi Vos, Ed.S., NCSP, joined the Crisis Unit staff in March of 2024 and has 20 years of experience in the schools, 18 as a School Psychologist. She has led and participated in crisis teams in the Denver Metro area for the entirety of her career. Brandi joined the team in April and has been instrumental in providing early groundwork for the Crisis Unit, including PREPaRE training.

Leah Lefever, LCSW, is the unit's most recent hire. Leah, who has worked in various roles throughout her career, including child protection, forensic social work, crisis response, and



education, joined the OSS in July 2024. Formerly, Leah managed a team of mental health professionals and educated school staff on developmental trauma, demonstrating how this knowledge can enhance their effectiveness in working with students both inside and outside the classroom.

### Grants Unit

Charli Pringle-North, MPH, joined the Office of School Safety as the Grants Unit Manager in July of 2023. Ms. North brings over 10 years of experience in grant administration, with extensive knowledge of federal, state, and private grants and grant processes. She joined the OSS from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in CDPS.

Chamone Jones started with the Office of School Safety in December of 2023. She is a Denver native and proud alumna of the HBCU Lincoln University of Missouri. Ms. Jones has experience in juvenile justice, city government, and grant funding associated with the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Colorado Department of Education, and local funding entities. Chamone has represented the Grants Unit in webinars and conferences and supported grantees in every way this past year.

### OSS Funding

The CSSRC has 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 and FY2022 from the School Safety Center's Cash Fund. As the Cash Fund did not have a regular source of revenue, the 2022 Colorado General Assembly approved a Decision Item request to return the Office of School Safety's budget to the General Fund in 2023. Funding was added at that time to support additional staff for the OSS. The Center has been the recipient of federal grant funding as well, described below.

### Activities of the Office of School Safety

In 2024, the Office continued its mission of providing consultation, technical assistance, resources, and training to school safety partners. Partnerships and outreach have continued to grow. Special projects and unit highlights are noted below. Legislative mandates prioritized work of the Office of School Safety in 2024. Other partnerships were also essential to the OSS' ability to meet the needs of Colorado schools and districts.

### The Grants Unit

- [The Grants Unit](#) oversees the School Safety and Preparedness grants portfolio of \$22.5 million and provides workshops on researching and applying for funding.
- This year, the Grants Unit has successfully managed four grant awards, including Enhance School Safety Incident Response (ESSIR), School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER), Youth Violence Prevention Grant (YVP), and School Security Disbursement (SSD). It currently partners with 197 awardees across ten award segments.
- The Fiscal Year 2024 School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant was awarded on July 1, 2024. The Colorado Office of School Safety received 20 eligible grant applications for a total requested amount of \$10,000,000.00. For this round of the School Access for Emergency Response grant, ten applicants were selected to receive funding as directed by SB23-241. Districts received their SAFER funding from OSS in August and September. The request for proposals (RFP) for the next round of the SAFER grants, as outlined in SB23-241, will be released in the Spring of 2025. The Grants Unit Successfully



held check-in meetings with all 23 SAFER awardees (FY 24 & 25). These meetings are an essential opportunity to discuss project progress, challenges, budget status, and identified areas of additional support.

- The Youth Violence Prevention Grant RFP was released on September 1, 2023. The deadline for grant applications was November 13, 2023. Forty-two (42) grant applications were received and reviewed, requesting just under \$4.5 million. [Thirteen \(13\) applications were funded.](#) The recipients were notified by November 27, with the work to begin immediately. Through monthly check-in meetings with all grant recipients, technical assistance, and a series of grant reporting and management webinars, OSS successfully administered this grant with all funds being spent by June 30, 2024, and the award being closed out.
- The FY24 School Security Disbursement grant RFP was released on November 29, 2023, and applications were due January 29, 2024, by 5 PM. The OSS received 125 grant applications for a total requested amount of \$43,046,335. After a thorough review, the OSS selected 70 applicants for funding.
- For fiscal year 2025, the OSS received an additional \$2 million of funding from the Colorado General Assembly to support the School Security Disbursement Grant Program. Since the OSS conducted a very thorough selection process, it was determined to award from the applications submitted during the initial RFP. Continuing to award from that application pool ensured that the funding reached as far as possible, addressing the school safety needs across the state. For the FY 2025 round, 13 applicants were selected to receive funding as directed by HB24-1430.
- The OSS oversees the continued work of the DeAngelis Center Foundation under the Enhance School Safety Incident Response Grant program.
- The OSS, alongside the EDO finance office, interviewed and made an offer for the Accounting I position that will support the grants unit.

### The Educator Safety Task Force

- With the passage of [SB24-1320](#), the Office of School Safety was tasked with facilitating the Educator Safety Task Force. The appointees to the Task Force were all specified in legislation and appointed in the summer of 2024. The first working meeting of this group occurred in September of 2024, and this group meeting is held monthly. The Task Force has a prescribed focus for its study and will report back to the Colorado Legislature by June 30, 2025.
- The Task Force is required to study and report on the following issues:
  - Any issue relating to the safety and well-being of public school staff, including laws or regulations that affect the safety and well-being of public school staff.
  - The effects of the declining number of education professionals on student behaviors, as well as the effects of widespread staff shortages, class size, and caseloads on disruptive learning environments.
  - Incidents of aggressive student behaviors toward educators to inform solutions. This must include an examination of the student's history and the school's attempts at addressing the behavior and mental health needs, including, but not limited to, behavioral assessments or behavioral plans, access to mental health supports within the school, and referrals to supports out of the school.
  - The study of aggressive student behavior must also include examining the number of suspensions that have occurred and the number of abbreviated school days because of behavior concerns.

- The solutions must not include policies that focus on additional student discipline or criminal referral of students or activate any current policies that cause students of color and students with disabilities to be at a disproportionate risk for criminal referrals.
- The group will take recommendations from the School Finance Task Force, the School Safety Working Group, the Disproportionate Discipline Task Force, and the Facility Schools Working Group.
- The impact of insufficient funding, lack of coordination of services between school and community, and the lack of wraparound services on learning environments.
- The role that resource inequality may have on staff safety issues.
- The Task Force shall make recommendations for administrative and statutory changes that are necessary to facilitate school staff safety solutions.
- The Task Force is proceeding via subcommittees to accomplish their tasks.
- [More information about the Educator Safety Task Force can be found here.](#)

### The School Safety Working Group (SSWG)

- In 2019, the State Auditor’s Office reviewed five state agencies that provided services to schools on safety issues. With the passage of SB20-023 and HB22-1274, an interagency working group on school safety began meeting regularly in 2023 to consider those audit suggestions.
- The interagency School Safety Working Group (SSWG) was tasked with a number of responsibilities as listed below:
  - Study and implement recommendations of the state auditor’s 2019 report regarding school safety;
  - Consider program structure and recommend reorganization if necessary;
  - Identify shared metrics to examine program effectiveness;
  - Facilitate interagency coordination and communication; and
  - Increase transparency and accessibility of state grants and resources, particularly for school districts without a grant writer, which includes improving outreach.
- A report of the work and recommendations of the SSWG went to the Colorado Legislature in January of 2024. [A copy of the interagency SSWG report is linked here.](#)
- The Office of School Safety and the Colorado Department of Education decided to continue this work even after meeting the statutory requirements. This new working group includes staff from the Colorado Departments of Education, Public Health & Environment, Human Services, Early Childhood, the Behavioral Health Administration, the Department of Higher Education, and the Office of the Attorney General.
- The continued collaboration has resulted in the Physical Safety & Security Committee releasing [guidelines for school sites and buildings](#) in August of 2024.
- Meeting monthly, the interagency SSWG is now updating resources, which will be put on a designated website supported by the Office of School Safety. The SSWG will then find ways to make these resources more accessible to schools. Taylor Winter Wolf, an experienced web developer, was hired by the OSS as the Resource Specialist and Web Developer for the OSS. She will be creating this new website for the interagency resources.

## The Partnership with the I Love You Guys Foundation

- The I Love U Guys Foundation has long been considered the go-to partner for schools in developing tactical responses to crisis situations in schools. OSS staff continually share the Foundation's resources with Colorado schools.
- We are very happy to report that in 2024, the Office of School Safety made our collaboration with the Foundation official.
- As a collaborating partner, the OSS can offer additional I Love U Guys Foundation workshops to Colorado schools at no cost to the schools.
- In September, OSS hosted a two-day Reunification Exercise conducted by the Foundation in Monte Vista. Forty-eight (48) school personnel, emergency responders, and county managers attended.
- The feedback was excellent, and an additional training course is scheduled for May 2025.

## Outreach

### CSSRC E-Update

The CSSRC created a listserv in August 2009 with a current database containing over 4,785 email addresses from various providers and school safety partners. The OSS generates monthly electronic newsletter updates (E-Updates), including important announcements, upcoming training opportunities through the OSS and its partners, new resources related to prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery efforts in schools, and potential grant funding sources.

### CSSRC X Account (formerly known as Twitter)

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 Resource Specialist sent the initial Twitter message on April 4, 2012. The account, which can be found at [twitter.com/CoSSRC](https://twitter.com/CoSSRC), currently has 1,188 followers.

### Outreach to Superintendents and BOCES Directors

Recognizing that administrative changes occur annually, mailings were sent to all superintendents across the state at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. This outreach is part of the ongoing strategy to expand knowledge about the Office 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. In addition to the superintendents and BOCES directors, the OSS makes regular contact with the public school superintendents, archdiocesan and other faith-based school administrators, and the BOCES administrators across Colorado.

The addition of the role of the Regional Training Consultant enabled more genuine and sustainable relationships with our rural communities. Access to school safety experts in their regions of the state means that contact is more regular, and they are provided timely and relevant information about events in their territories.

### Wildly Important Goal

In 2024, Governor Polis included the CSSRC in his Wildly Important Goal to prevent and curb illegal opioid use across Colorado. The Center was charged to increase the provision of awareness and prevention education to 50% more school districts than it did in 2023. The Center's strategic plan is to host three Student-Staff Summits in early 2025 to reach students in southwestern, southeastern, and northeastern Colorado to meet this goal.

## Outreach Beyond Colorado

OSS staff are proud of the reputation earned for their expertise within Colorado and beyond. This year the Secretary of Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General created the Federal Clearinghouse External Advisory Board. This Advisory Board will provide user feedback on the implementation of resources, evidence-based practices, and recommendations identified by the Clearinghouse. The initial Advisory Board is composed of 25 school safety subject matter experts from across the country. The Director of the Colorado Office of School Safety was honored to be asked to serve on this board. Their inaugural meeting took place in November in Arlington, Virginia.

Director Harms continues to participate in bi-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 (REMSTA 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. NSSA members meet twice a month, first in a networking meeting and then a discussion meeting.

The REMSTA Center hosts School Preparedness Leadership Groups to supplement the monthly virtual meetings that they host with federal, state, territorial, and local leaders in school safety and emergency preparedness. Chelsey Lehmkuhl attended in 2024. Jae Dee Wood also serves the REMSTA Center as a subject matter expert in adult sexual misconduct.

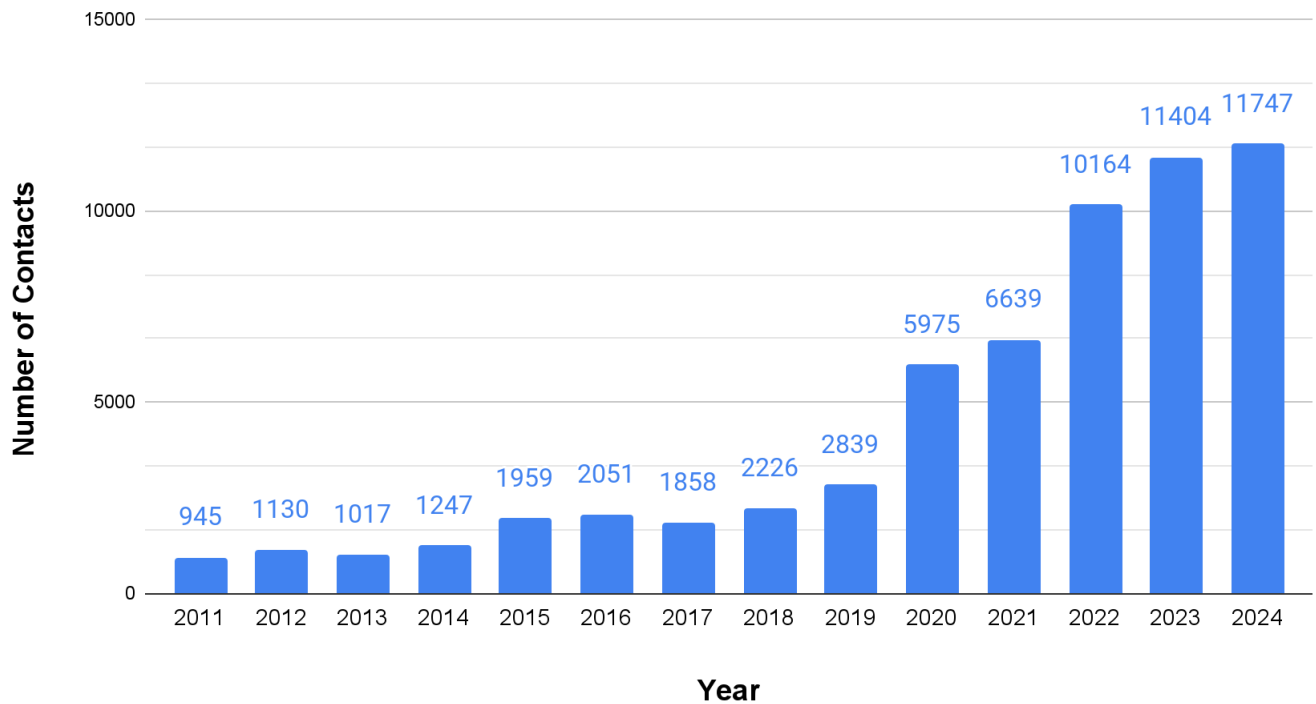
## OSS Contacts, Consultations, and Collaborations

As outlined in Presidential Preparedness Directive 8 (PPD-8) of 2013, the Center (now the OSS) aligns its work with the five missions of preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. The 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 approximately 11,747 contacts, including phone calls, meetings, emails, assistance with training registrations, and site visits, were conducted during the 2024 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information. This represents the total workload of the Office of School Safety, and this data helps the staff track that workload. Figure 4 (below) illustrates the number of contacts.

Consultation requests within a contact log maintained by the OSS are primarily a direct result of multiple outreach and marketing efforts of staff, such as the website, trainings, newsletters, mailings, E-Updates, and referrals from board members, nonprofit partners, and others knowledgeable about the Office of School Safety's resources and expertise. Consultations in 2024 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 627 by the first week of December 2024.

**Figure 4. Contacts by Year 2009-2024**



Staff also tracked collaborations with other state departments that serve youth and schools within the contact log. These collaborations totaled 754 in 2024. OSS staff work closely with CDE, CDPHE’s Office of Suicide Prevention, the Behavioral Health Administration, and the Colorado Attorney General’s Office of Safe2Tell, among others.

Accessible captions - Figure 4. Contacts by Year 2009-2024

- Year 2011 - 945
- Year 2012 - 1130
- Year 2013 - 1017
- Year 2014 - 1247
- Year 2015 - 1959
- Year 2016 - 2051
- Year 2017 - 1858
- Year 2018 - 2226
- Year 2019 - 2839
- Year 2020 - 5975
- Year 2021 - 6639
- Year 2022 - 10164
- Year 2023 - 11404
- Year 2024 - 11747

## Training

### Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP Grants

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 by the CSSRC in Colorado and six other states, the Center applied for and was

awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant from the National Institute of Justice in 2019. The \$999,987 grant, known as the STOP (Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing School Violence) Grant, offered an opportunity to refine the Colorado Threat Assessment & Management Protocol (CTAMP) and roll it out with five pilot sites, then 30 additional schools. The [Center for the Student and Prevention of Violence](#) (CSPV) at the University of Colorado Boulder served as the qualitative evaluators of the project.

With funding from that grant, a vendor was hired to create an online version of the CTAMP protocol. That statewide portal, which houses the assessments and the Response Management & Support (RMS) Plans, creates a secure case management system to maintain documentation of threat assessments. It makes it easier for districts to confidentially share information vital to providing students with additional assistance, creating safer environments for all. Presently, 15 schools have applied for the use of the tool. This year, it was expanded to house Suicide Risk Assessments. That work was rolled out for beta testing in November.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence released its quality improvement evaluation of the implementation of the CTAMP training early this year. Using pre- and post-test quantitative surveys, training monitoring, focus groups, and threat assessment case reviews, the CSPV concluded that there were statistically significant improvements in attitudes (teams' perception of their ability to follow the protocol with fidelity), skills (whether they relied on a variety of sources to analyze threats and worked with others when decision making), and confidence (ability to make a team determination regarding a threat). The training significantly increased knowledge acquisition regarding important considerations, such as when information may be shared under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Participants in the grant research also indicated that they intended to use the protocol, that they were satisfied with the training, and that it was culturally responsive.

In July of 2022, the CSSRC and CSPV again collaborated to submit a new 2022-2025 STOP grant application to the BJA of the National Institute of Justice and were awarded a \$1,992,085 grant. This grant expands the threat assessment work from the previous grant. It has allowed the Center to provide an additional 75 licenses for the online threat assessment case management system, continue the threat assessment training for school teams and pay them for off-contract time to train, and partner with CSPV to evaluate the work. The grant has also provided funding to enable 150 SROs and 30 of their supervisors to participate in the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) workshops, 30 multidisciplinary school safety teams to participate in NASRO's *Project Unite*, and three districts to pilot the *Handle with Care* project, in collaboration with Safe2Tell. *Handle With Care* is a trauma-informed collaboration between local law enforcement and schools that ensures that children who are exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve academically at their highest levels. This work began in the fall of 2022 and continues until September 30, 2025.

The success of the 2019 and 2022 grants buoyed the partnership between the OSS and the CSPV, who undertook to secure another funding opportunity this year. The agencies seek to rigorously evaluate the CTAMP with a large school district through a Participatory Action Research approach with a particular focus on making sure that the CTAMP is advancing equity. The National Institute of Justice awarded \$1.1 million to conduct the research, which will begin in early 2025. The Office of School Safety is grateful for the opportunity to collect additional data on CTAMP with an eye toward an evidence-based designation.



### Topic-Centered Regional Trainings offered Statewide

In an effort to provide in-depth training opportunities on school safety issues across the state per its legislative directive, the Colorado School Safety Resource Center has, alone or in partnership with other state agencies, conducted topic-centered statewide workshops. These training events are hosted virtually or in differing locations to allow for maximum attendance from various school districts, with deference to their limited budgets and funding for travel. Both in-person and live-streamed events have taken place.

### January Speakers' Series - January 9, 16 and 23, and 30, 2024

This series, hosted for the fourth year, was presented over lunchtime and recorded to reach school staff and caregivers, who often cannot leave classrooms or workplaces to take advantage of training. Four national speakers addressed Center audiences: Angelie Donzati, M.A., M.B.A, Senior Analyst for the San Jose Police Department, provided a case study on sextortion; the Office of School Safety's own Margaret Ochoa, J.D., and Kati Garner, M.Ed., provided resources for caregivers and conversation starters to address the proliferation of pornography; Colton Easton from [Safer Schools Together](#) explored the powers and risks of artificial intelligence; and Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, promoted empathy building as the antidote to bullying and cyberbullying. Each speaker reported on trends and concerns but offered practical solutions to keep students safe and empower adults to have difficult conversations.

At least some part, if not all, of the entire series was experienced by 197 people live, with others watching the recordings over the thirty days they were available from Zoom.

Comments from the evaluations included:

- "This topic isn't talked about enough. I appreciate the information and the content. The additional resources are definitely helpful." (*Pornography Isn't Going Away: What Are We Going to Do About It?*)
- "Well done with very insightful information to be shared with all who keep students (and staff) safe." (*Pornography Isn't Going Away: What Are We Going to Do About It?*)
- "Thank you for an eye-opening presentation and resources that can be provided to students and families." (*Sextortion*)
- "I appreciate the information and would love to see it taught in schools to parents, students, and staff." (*Sextortion*)
- "I truly enjoyed hearing best practice ideas!" (*Cyberbullying Prevention and Empathy Building*)
- "Important information was conveyed that could pertain to other areas as well, such as DEI." (*Cyberbullying Prevention and Empathy Building*)
- 

The OSS has already secured experts for the 2025 January Speakers' Series.

### National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment, April 8-9, 2024

The Center hosted the [National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment](#) (NABITA) over a day and a half in April. Participants were mostly from higher education institutions, drawn to the workshops: *The Violence Risk Assessment of the Written Word*, which is an expert system to assess the risk level and potential for violence present in written content, and *Addressing the Intersection of BIT, Conduct, and Disability*, designed to assist institutions in developing approaches that align with best practices and provide adequate support to students with disabilities. 40 registrants took advantage of the training over the two days, which was paid for by the threat assessment funding awarded by the legislature as a part of SB23-241.



### Threat Assessment Symposium, May 6 - 7, 2024

The legislature’s allocation also allowed the Office of School Safety to host a two-day conference on behavioral threat assessment in May. On the first day, we hosted local expert plenary speakers, including Dr. Melissa Reeves, who discussed the unique considerations necessary to ensure threat assessment processes do not violate special education protocols and procedures, and former CSSRC School Outreach Consultant Dr. Ron Lee, who examined the relationship between threat assessment and data, and why it matters. Nate Thompson, MSW, of Littleton Public Schools, brought a group of students to illustrate threat assessment interviewing skills, and Kristin Bailey, J.D., Equity and Safety Counsel for Denver Public Schools, explained the law related to search and seizure in public schools.

On the second day, internationally renowned school attack expert Dr. Peter Langman presented four back-to-back workshops on attackers, including a bio-psycho-social-cultural analysis, disparate identities, damaged masculinity, warning signs, and barriers to action. His workshops were universally well received. 87 participants attended in person and 82 virtually over the course of the two days. Comments from the evaluations included:

- “For me, the content of this presentation will be especially useful in training others in my district in conducting threat assessments.” (*Threat Assessment Interviewing: Skills and Strategies*)
- “Valuable information. Significant amount of information in a very short time. Would love a deeper dive. Great presenter and well prepared. Knows her stuff.” (*IDEA, Section 504, and Title II Legal & Best Practice Considerations in BTAM*)
- “Great presentation. Very eye opening!” (*Stereotypes, Warning Signs and Barriers to Action*)
- “Incredibly knowledgeable speaker. Thanks for the opportunity.” (*A Bio-Psycho-Social-Cultural Analysis of School Shooters*)
- “Very good block of instruction. I was not aware of some of the nuances of this topic.” (*The Legalities of Student Searches Under Colorado Law*)

### Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium - May 31, 2024

The Center hosted this annual event virtually. Speakers included Tiffany Sewell, [Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships](#), [US Department of Homeland Security](#), who shared a model of information sharing in threat assessment among higher ed institutions; Mekenah Jensen, expert analyst on targeted violence prevention on the Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence Program, and a summary of the new Title IX rules from Colleen Mulholland, JD, [Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center](#). 82 watched the event by livestream. Comments from the evaluations included:

- “Great resources, grants, and information. Thank you!” (*The Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence Program*)
- “I am brand-new to this realm of work, so while a lot of this information was new to me, I gained 3 actionable steps thanks to this presentation.” (*The Power of Information Sharing in Threat Assessment*)
- “I appreciate the support in understanding best practices and protocols.” (*The Colorado Preventing Targeted Violence Program*)
- “Thanks for focusing on upstream prevention and specific examples!” (*The Power of Information Sharing in Threat Assessment*)

- “Well done! TONS of good info. Thanks so much!” (*Title IX - The Moment We’ve All Been Waiting for! What Do We Do Now?*)
- “Wonderful job getting through so much content! Thank you!” (*Title IX - The Moment We’ve All Been Waiting for! What Do We Do Now?*)

### School Safety Academy - Week of June 3, 2024

The School Safety Academy is a foundational training for school staff who are often relied upon to manage safety concerns as an add-on duty. However, it remains relevant for SROs and safety and security directors. Sixteen Specialists completed the 20-hour training this year.

Representatives from large and small districts participated over the five days. From a brief history of school safety in Colorado to emergency management planning, overviews on threat and suicide assessment, crisis response, child abuse prevention, and psychological safety issues, the mornings were packed with relevant information. Specialists were introduced to all three units of the Office of School Safety and met additional partners who support school safety. Hence, they know to whom they can turn for additional resources.

The Academy has created a natural partnership between the Center and Academy Specialists going back to 2021. Many have reached out for more intensive training for their districts from the OSS staff, and just as many have provided important information on trends and resources.

### Colorado Safe Schools Summit - October 17 - 18, 2024

Held during Colorado Safe Schools Week, the Summit is an annual event. The Center once again partnered with [Safe2Tell](#) and the [Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence](#) at CU Boulder to host the event. For 2024, the event was held completely virtually. CDPS Deputy Director Jana Locke welcomed the attendees to the two-day event.

Day one was live-streamed and recorded and was composed of four plenary presentations. Rev. Dr. Jose Silva with [Generation Schools Network](#) introduced the audience to work supporting justice-engaged students in Colorado. The presentation pointed out existing resources, gaps in support, and state partnerships across departments to assist these students. David Yusem, Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator with [Oakland Unified Schools](#) in Oakland, California, shared his experiences leading the RJ work in his district. He provided skill-building tips on implementing RJ, helping the Colorado audience learn how to make culture shifts and sustain the work. The third speaker, Gabrielle Juliano-Villani, addressed burnout. She provided simple but effective grounding techniques supported by polyvagal theory. The last speakers of the day talked about high-conflict situations in the educational space. Former Commissioner of Education, Dr. Katy Anthes and Dana Sorensen, both from the [Public Education & Business Coalition](#), explained the high-conflict cultures in which many school communities find themselves and provided tips for diffusing it and transforming conflict into spaces where relationships can flourish.

The second day was also virtual and recorded. Participants could choose from 28 workshops and were given access to all of the recordings after the Summit. After a call for proposals, the workshop selection was broad and well-received. As of this writing, 491 either attended or have viewed recordings of the workshops.

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

- “It was a great look at the insight needed to develop solid safety plans with individuals who are from different cultures in mind.” - (*Cultural Considerations in School Safety*)

- “The information in this session really made me think about the different students I have been in contact with in my career, and how I could have connected better with them. I will be able to take what was presented and apply it to the other students I come in contact with.” - (*A Brain-Based Framework for Supporting Students after a Traumatic Event*)
- “This was great! Super helpful to have a deep dive into this data. Thank you so much!” - (*Top Data Stories from the 2023 HKCS & What Youth Think About the Results*)
- “As a Civics teacher, I found the discussion about political division in an election year very beneficial!” - (*Transforming Conflict*)
- “Great presentation. I valued the examples and models. Walking through a scenario is such a great way to make sense of the process. Your information was timely and relevant to the work I am currently engaged in.” - (*Effective Implementation for Culture & Safety Initiatives*)

Comments about the Summit in general:

- “All info was awesome and sometimes eye opening”
- “Thanks for putting this on every year - I really enjoy this Summit and receive such beneficial information!”
- “I always come away from the Summit with useful knowledge.”
- “The presenters were all knowledgeable and had great information and examples.”
- “I absolutely love the training. It is very well presented and the information is so valuable!!”

#### Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium - November 14, 2024

In collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Suicide Prevention, the Center hosted a one-day symposium at the Lowry Conference Center. Dr. Thomas Joiner from Florida State University presented two plenaries. The topics focused on understanding murder-suicide and Acute Suicide Affective Disorder. Dr. Anna Mueller from Indiana University provided her insights from the Colorado and Youth Wellbeing Study, a suicide research project in two Colorado school districts. Susie Reynolds Reece closed the day by providing youth support recommendations from the lens of a person with lived experience. Seventy-one attended in person, with 40 more online. Participants continue to view the recordings.

The attendees scored the day favorably in their evaluations:

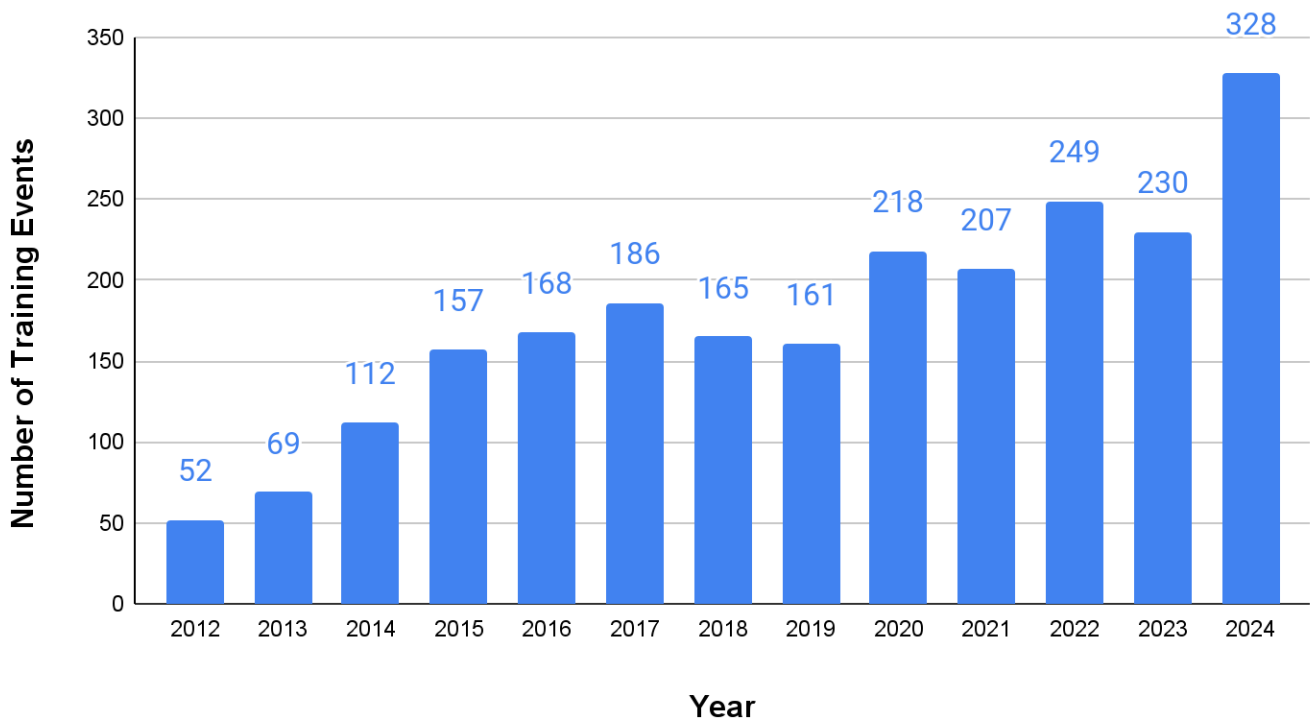
- “This was an excellent presentation. Great information and exercises as well as a very engaging presentation.” (*Supporting Suicide Survivors*)
- “Interesting, helpful research, and loved the free resources.” (*Building Systems to Prevent Suicide in Schools: Insights from the Colorado Social Worlds & Youth Well-Being Study*)
- “I really appreciated the connections and engagement opportunities!” (*Supporting Suicide Survivors*)
- “Wonderful speaker, engaging, fun, and eloquent. I would listen to her present any opportunity I got.” (*Supporting Suicide Survivors*)
- “Very informative. I learned a lot as I did not have prior knowledge of this.” (*Murder/Suicide*)

## District/School Site-Based Trainings Site-Based Trainings

Because the OSS is not a compliance agency and Colorado is a local-control state, training is conducted based on requests from school personnel on selected topics. It is hosted at school sites or conferences across the state when possible. The numbers and types of workshops or presentations offered by OSS staff are summarized below. Future workshops will be developed based on survey results, priority of needs, requests, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the total number of workshops provided in 2024. The Center delivered 328 training opportunities in 2024. The training included the STOP Grant and other CTAMP workshops, the October Summit, regional trainings, conference presentations, and those presentations for individual districts and schools. The Summit and regional trainings are publicized to districts across the state via the E-Update and direct email marketing campaigns. These efforts, along with working with many partners across Colorado, continue to raise the profile of the OSS and increase the services requested.

**Figure 5. Number of Trainings (Hosted & Presented) 2011-2024**



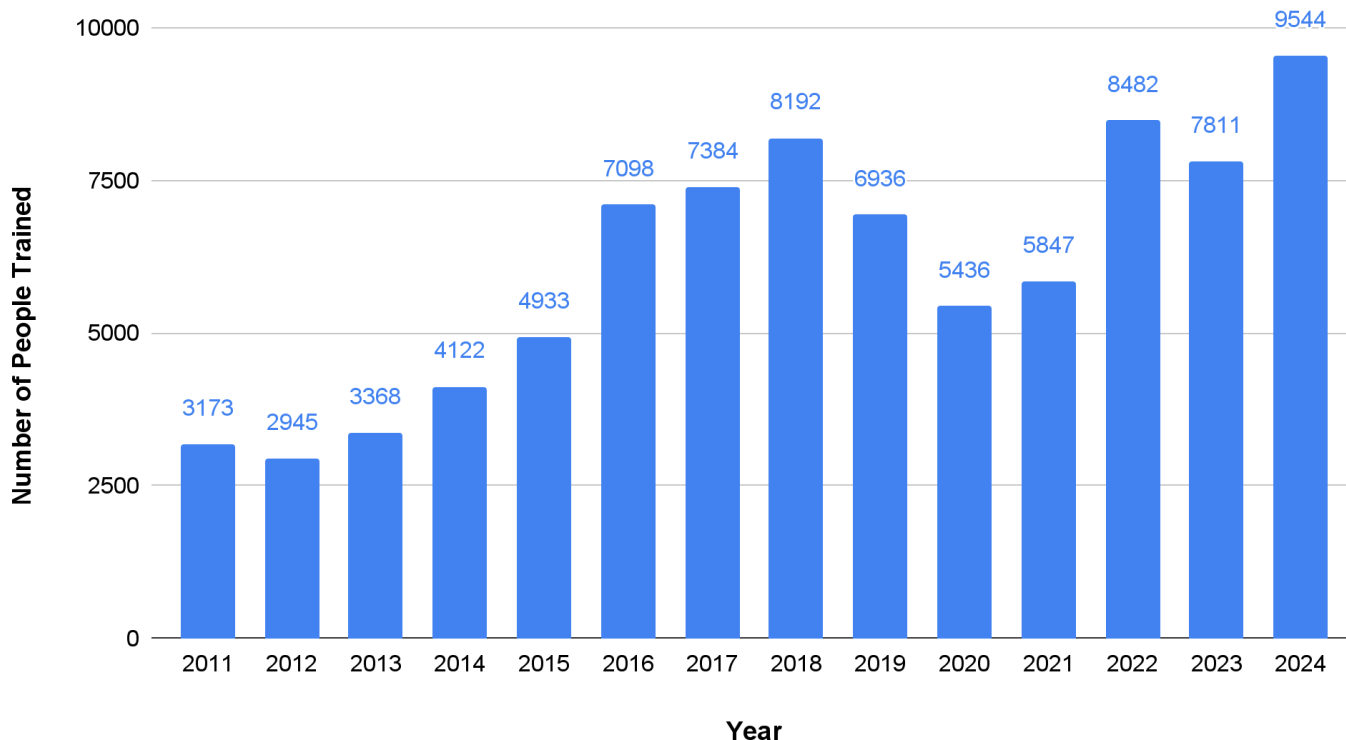
Accessible captions - Figure 5. Number of Trainings (Hosted & Presented) 2008-2024

- Year 2008 - 2
- Year 2009 - 18
- Year 2010 - 36
- Year 2011 - 55
- Year 2012 - 52
- Year 2013 - 69
- Year 2014 - 112
- Year 2015 - 157

- Year 2016 - 168
- Year 2017 - 186
- Year 2018 - 165
- Year 2019 - 161
- Year 2020 - 218
- Year 2021 - 207
- Year 2022 - 249
- Year 2023 - 230
- Year 2024 - 328

Figure 6 shows the number of training participants in 2024, which was 9,544. Since the Center’s inception in 2008, 90,134 participants have attended a training event or workshop presented by the OSS. Each year, the number of people trained varies, partly due to the quantity of training provided and partly to the location of the workshops and district circumstances.

**Figure 6. Number of People Attending CSSRC/OSS Trainings 2011-2024**

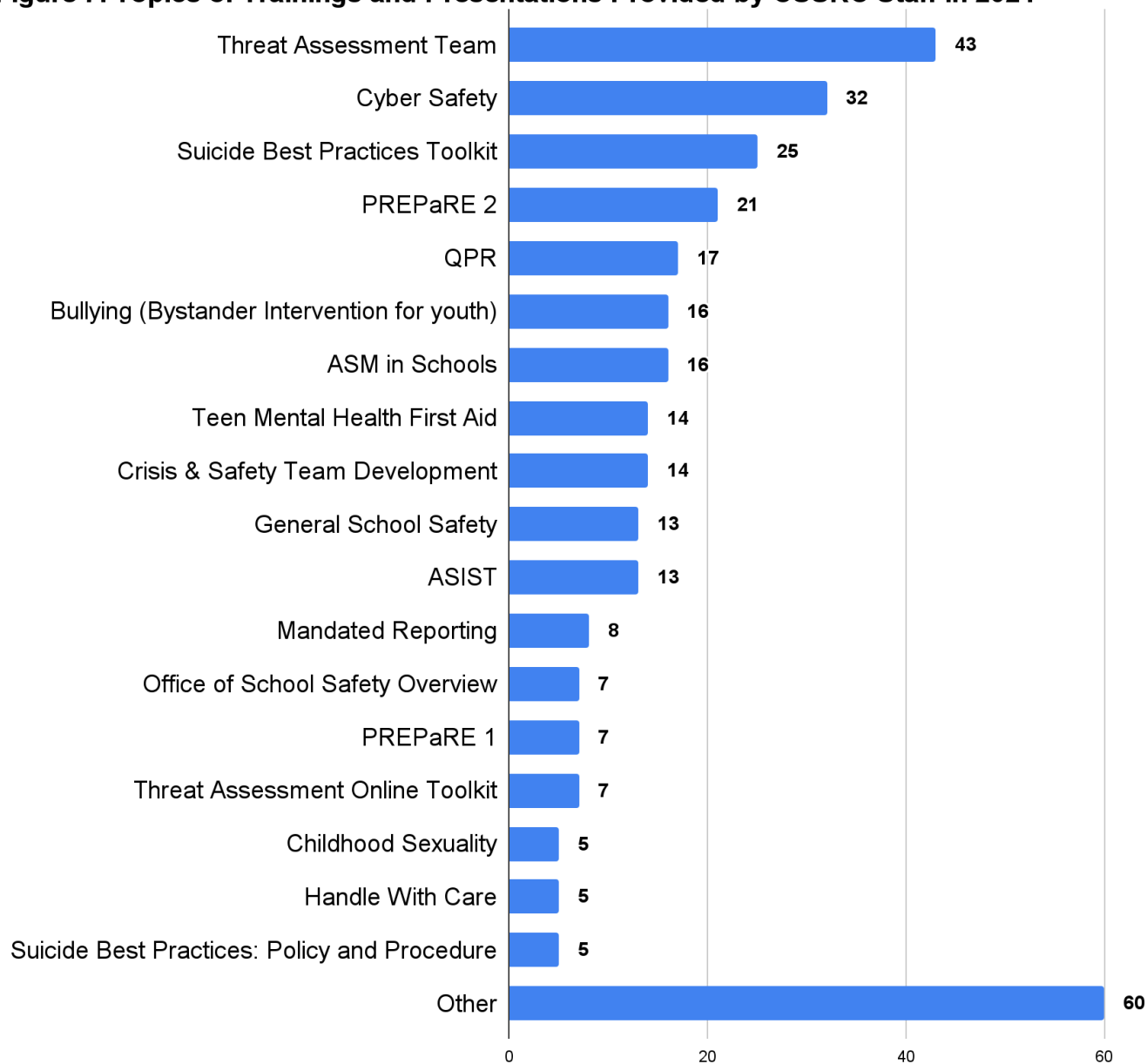


Accessible captions - Figure 6. Number of People Attending CSSRC/OSS Trainings 2011-2024

- Year 2008 - 161
- Year 2009 - 1723
- Year 2010 - 2979
- Year 2011 - 3173
- Year 2012 - 2945
- Year 2013 - 3368
- Year 2014 - 4122
- Year 2015 - 4933
- Year 2016 - 7098
- Year 2017 - 7384
- Year 2018 - 8192
- Year 2019 - 6936
- Year 2020 - 5436
- Year 2021 - 5847
- Year 2022 - 8482
- Year 2023 - 7811
- Year 2024 - 9544

Figure 7 is a breakdown of the training events in 2024 by training topic.

**Figure 7. Topics of Trainings and Presentations Provided by CSSRC Staff in 2024**



Accessible captions - Figure 7. Topics of Trainings and Presentations Provided by OSS Staff in 2024

- Threat Assessment Team - 43
- Cyber Safety - 32
- Suicide Best Practices Toolkit - 25
- PREPaRE 2 - 21
- QPR - 17
- Bullying (Bystander Intervention for youth) - 16
- ASM in Schools - 16
- Teen Mental Health First Aid - 14
- Crisis & Safety Team Development - 14
- General School Safety - 13
- ASIST - 13
- Mandated Reporting - 8
- Office of School Safety Overview - 7

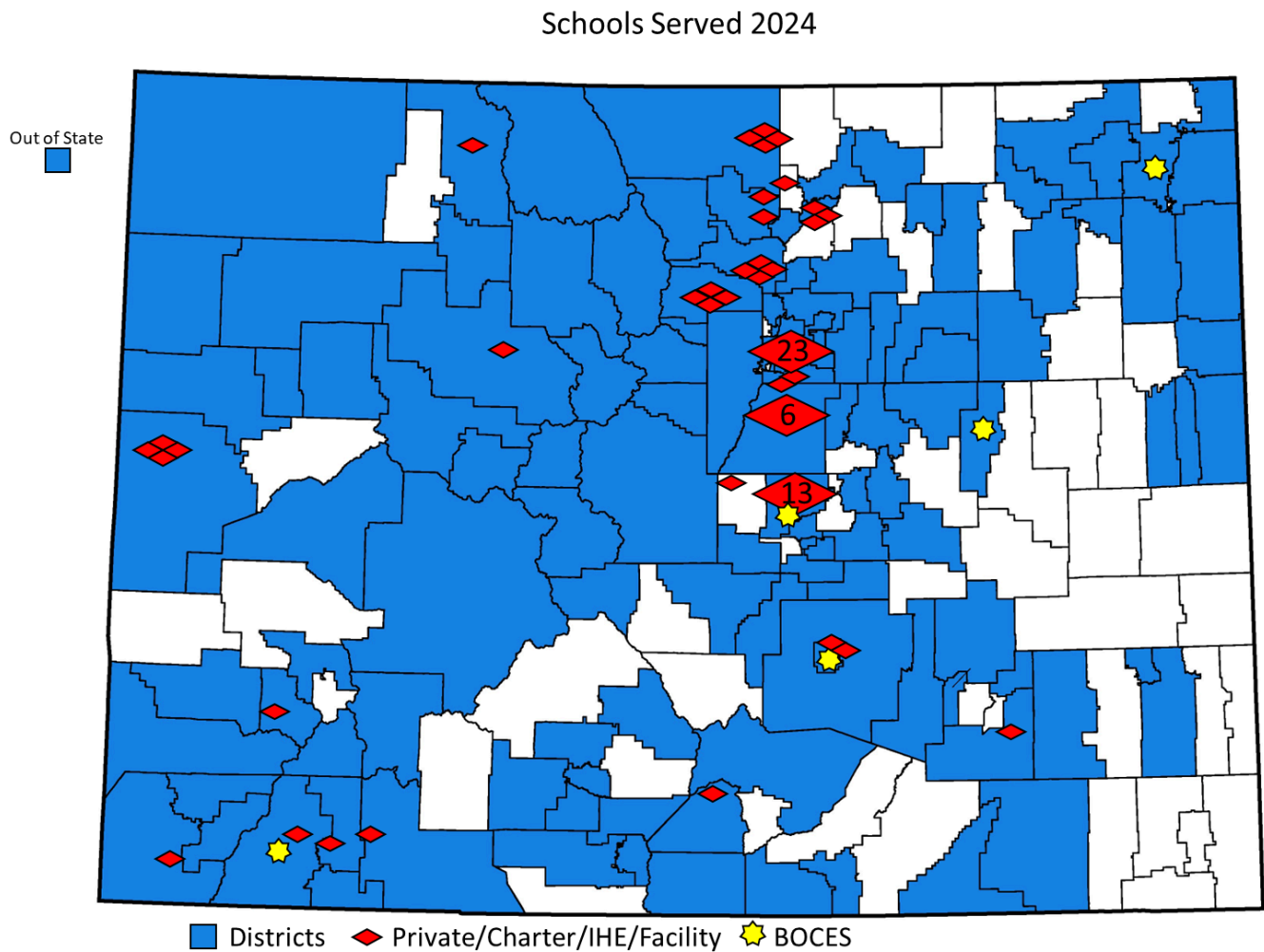


- PREPaRE 1 - 7
- Threat Assessment Online Toolkit - 7
- Childhood Sexuality - 5
- Handle With Care - 5
- Suicide Best Practices: Policy and Procedure - 5
- Other\* - 60

\*Other training options include various workshops related to Threat Assessment, Suicide Prevention, EOPs, Substance Use, and interpersonal violence, among others.

Figure 8 outlines the school districts in Colorado, with the colored portions showing the locations of all OSS outreach and training activities in 2024.

Figure 8- Locations of all OSS Outreach and Training Activities in 2024



### Statewide Conferences & Regional Presentation

In addition to regional and site-specific training, staff continue to be invited to present at statewide conferences and meetings. This year, staff presented for the following organizations:

- Colorado Association of School Boards
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers
- Colorado Department of Education
  - Landscape of Wellbeing Conference

- Kaleidoscope Conference
- Colorado League of Charter Schools
- Colorado Office of Victims Assistance
- Colorado Rural Schools Alliance Meeting
- Colorado School Counselors Association
- Colorado School of Public Health Shared Risk and Protective Factors Conference
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists
- Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management
- State Employees Leading Colorado Conference
- Northeast BOCES
- Pikes Peak BOCES
- South Central BOCES
- Southeastern BOCES
- San Juan BOCES
- Santa Fe Trail BOCES

### Online Course Development

The CSSRC staff developed and published their first two online training courses for school personnel in 2012. Since that time, 16 more courses have been added. Technology changes over the last 11 years have made some courses corrupted and inaccessible. The content for those courses remains available through live training.

All online courses (except for *Threat Assessment: What Parents and Guardians Need to Know*, available on our website, and *Sexting: What You Need to Know*, as described below) are exclusively hosted through the Colorado TRAIN system ([www.CO.Train.org](http://www.CO.Train.org)). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment manages the CO TRAIN system as a comprehensive learning platform 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 maintained by CO TRAIN. These online courses can be counted for professional development, and a printable certificate is provided upon successful completion. Four courses arose from the Center's School Security Personnel Workgroup, created to guide the training of non-sworn school security personnel. At least one district requires several 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 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 link to [Sexting: What You Need to Know](#) is provided here. Those learners can print a certificate for their diversion/probation officer but are not accounted for by CWTS. The Center has provided analytics only regarding the number of adults who have accessed the course through CO TRAIN. Youth that completed *Sexting* and/or provided evidence of that through the juvenile justice system have not been tracked.

Figure 9. Online Course Participant Summary 2012-2024

Online Course Title	2024 Participants	Total Participants to Date (2012-2024)
1. Adolescent Development	388	3029
2. Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	-	4672
3. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Under Colorado Law**	-	1510
4. Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event**	-	419
5. Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	123	1523
6. Informed Supervision for Schools	208	697
7. Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	-	3767
8. Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	458	4364
9. Preparing and Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	-	492
10. Proactive School Discipline	-	1082
11. School Security Personnel: Emergency Management**	-	932
12. School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications**	-	660
13. School Security Personnel: Observation Skills and Incident Reporting	663	2287
14. School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics	171	1335
15. Sexting: What You Need to Know*	94	760
16. Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs**	-	671
17. Threat Assessment: What Parents and Guardians Need to Know‡	-	-
18. Youth and Marijuana in Colorado	34	373
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>28,573</b>

\**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.

\*\* These courses were unable to be updated and will need to be recreated: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Under Colorado Law; Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event; School Security Personnel: Emergency Management; School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications; and Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs.

‡ *Threat Assessment: What Parents and Guardians Need to Know* was hosted on the OSS website until late December, 2024, when it was approved for hosting by CO TRAIN. Accordingly, there are no metrics regarding participation with this course for 2024. Anecdotally, it has been well received.

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

Highlands Ranch	Denver	Miami	Colorado Springs	Kremmling
Aurora	Lakewood	Longmont	Holyoke	Steamboat Springs

Courses are consistently highly rated, with comments from evaluations such as:

- “GREAT COURSE” (*Adolescent Development*)
- “I think it was very informative and really put into perspective what adolescents are dealing with and how us, as adults, can help them navigate this developmental period.” (*Adolescent Development*)
- “Sensational” (*Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers*)
- “Great training for all who work in the front office.” (*Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers*)
- “Important information and efficient presentation.” (*Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff*)
- “Helpful and thorough. Made me consider things I would not normally have considered.” (*Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff*)
- “I have a better understanding of observation and reporting skills as a school security officer.” (*School Security Personnel: Observation Skills and Incident Reporting*)
- “Excellent training module. Very thorough.” (*School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct and Ethics*)
- “AWESOME!!!” (*Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs*)
- “This course was informative and thorough. I like that every legal matter was broken down and explained as simply as possible.” (*Sexting: What You Need to Know*)

## Resources

### Website

The [OSS website](#) has been designed as a state information and resource repository, offering various support to a broad audience of pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade schools, higher education institutions, and the parents, caregivers, 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, training, grants, and educational opportunities. As a project of the Office of School Safety, the website has added robust information regarding grant applications and support and the opportunities available for schools through the Crisis Response Unit.

Accessibility of the website is a primary value of the OSS. Taylor Wolf was hired in October of 2024 as the Interagency Resource Specialist. She ensures that the website meets accessibility standards set by the state and federal governments.

Highlights of the website include:

- Immediate connection to the Grants and Crisis Response Units, with full access to grant opportunities, writing resources, and forms, as well as training for schools in crisis response and access to clinical staff to assist in the aftermath of an event.
- Creation of a “Training/Presentation Request” platform which allows our audience to request specific school safety needs and training. Website users can now directly request NO-COST training, consultations, resources, and technical assistance for all schools in

Colorado by completing the form on the website. This online web-form platform was used frequently in 2024.

- The Resource Specialist refined the user experience in 2024 to make it easier to access training, guidelines, articles, assessment tools, and other resources.
- The Office migrated from the old “Listserv System” to “Constant Contact” in our delivery of the E-Update (OSS Monthly Newsletter). This new system provides secure and accurate control and management of the OSS’ E-Update subscribers. It has made it easier for parties to sign up, for the Office to track newsletter delivery, and to secure better analytics, which helps reach more audiences.
- The OSS has information on accessibility on all website pages to ensure reasonable accommodations are provided to enable users to engage fully in our training, meetings, and/or events. The website is “Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, level AA” Compliant.
- Training opportunities for school staff, including a calendar of national and local opportunities by the OSS and its partners.
- Updates to all links to the [Healthy Kids Colorado Survey](#) (HKCS).
- Periodic updates to links to Colorado school safety legislation and current grants.
- Weekly updates on new highlighted topics, upcoming trainings/events, and features.

### 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 includes tracking of visits to the website, pages viewed, and information about downloaded materials (see Figures 11 and 12 below). Throughout 2024, there were approximately 115,152 page views with many document downloads.

Figure 11. Top 5 Most Visited Pages of the OSS Website (Beyond the Homepage) in 2024

Page Title   Created By
Mandatory Reporting   School Safety Resource Center
School Security Disbursement Program (SSD)   Grants
Gun Violence Prevention   School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act   School Safety Resource Center
Grants Overview   Grants

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

The Center now provides six resource guides for schools:

- [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](#)

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

- [Anonymized Threat Response Guidance from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#)
- [Post Election School Resources](#)
- [School Safety Working Group Physical Safety Committee Site and Building Design](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Students and Families](#)
- [Justice-engaged Students](#)
- [Tribal, Indigenous, and Native Communities](#)

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 OSS Website

Top Countries	
Philippines	United Kingdom
Canada	India
Hong Kong	Australia
France	Netherlands

### Working Groups

Since its inception, the Center has adopted the responsibility to facilitate workgroups on topics of identified need 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, Crisis Response Guidelines, 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 2024, four working groups were still active from previous years. A new working group was added in 2024 to highlight the work of the Office of School Safety’s Crisis Response Unit. Professionals charged with managing school crises find support and resources in this new space. The Networking Groups include:

### Threat Assessment Networking Groups

Threat Assessment has been at the core of the Center’s work since its inception. Working Groups on this topic have been active for over a decade. Updates from the United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Homeland Security and work on the STOP grants have sparked regular meetings. Invested parties have looked to the CSSRC to create space for discussion on this content.



The general threat assessment advisory group continued to meet in 2024. A separate group of those grantees and schools using the CTAMP also met regularly. The two meetings allow CSSRC staff to independently identify and solve specific questions and problems using the CTAMP and online tool.

#### 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 had not yet adopted such instruments. The working group reviewed the finalized toolkit, and training on it began in the spring of 2020. In 2024, Center staff trained 26 districts on the use of the toolkit. Staff continue to refine the toolkit and are incorporating additions and revisions from the 2nd Edition of *Suicide in Schools*, the book on which it was based, with permission from the authors.

This networking group is now facilitated by School Outreach Consultant Cary Lynch and focuses on those districts that are using the CSSRC Suicide Intervention and Assessment Toolkit. When she hosts speakers of general value to school-based mental health professionals, such as state experts who can assist schools with resources from partner state departments, Ms. Lynch expands the working group invitations to a broader audience.

#### Statewide Crisis Response Networking Group

The Crisis Response Unit established the Crisis Response Networking Group within its first year of inception to collaborate and consult with statewide crisis response partners and to build partnerships and skills to aid in future responses. Invited are all collaborators throughout the state responding to crises in schools, including representatives from K-12 and post-secondary, private, and public institutions, as well as statewide groups such as the Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP) crisis team, Office of Disaster Behavioral Health and the Denver Metro crisis response team. The group meets quarterly and includes an informational session regarding crisis response and a discussion of crisis responses or relevant and pressing issues facing the state. There have been two meetings so far, and topics presented or discussed have included urban and rural crisis response frameworks and statewide collaboration with the Office of Disaster Behavioral Health. The group continues to grow with additional members, topics, and discussion points during each quarterly meeting.

#### School Based Professionals Working with Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors

Problematic sexual behaviors are a unique challenge to school safety. This working group was requested in 2022 by constituents engaged in the previous groups, who saw a need the Center's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist could fill. This year, the Center hosted Jessica Dotter from the [Colorado District Attorneys' Council](#), who examined the mandatory reporting law and prosecutions for failure to report; CBI Investigative Analyst Emily Gulotta, who debunked myths and provided tips to prevent child trafficking and sextortion; Paige Brown, Juvenile Implementation Specialist with the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management, regarding the update to the [Reference Guide for School Personnel Concerning Juveniles Who Have Committed Sexually Abusive and Offending Behavior](#); and plans to host SOMB providers who will speak on trauma-informed practices. This and the other networking groups will continue in 2024.



## Collaboration

The Office of School Safety 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 OSS 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, OSS staff attend regular meetings as a participant, active members, school safety voices, or fellow presenters with the following statewide groups:

### [Association of Threat Assessment Professionals \(ATAP\) \(Rocky Mountain Chapter\)](#)

The [Association of Threat Assessment Professionals](#) (ATAP) was founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization comprised of law enforcement, state, and federal government partners, prosecutors, mental health professionals, corporate security experts, probation and parole personnel, and others involved in the area of threat and violence risk assessment. Participation in ATAP allows staff to access training and network with other violence prevention professionals. Brad Stiles, Cary Lynch, and Kelly Addington joined Mike Vagher as Rocky Mountain Chapter members in 2024 and attended ATAP's conference in November.

### [Boys and Girls Clubs \(BGC\)](#)

The Boys and Girls Clubs around the country provide mentors, guidance, leadership, and safe and positive places for children and youth. The [BGC of La Plata County](#) runs one of the most successful out-of-school time programs in southwest Colorado. The Club has consulted with Ms. Miglinas for consultation in physical safety, vulnerability assessments and staff training around youth mental health, positive and trusted adult behavior and substance use. Two of the Youth Violence Prevention grants were awarded to Boys and Girls Clubs in Colorado.

### [Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence \(CSPV\) - University of Colorado Boulder](#)

The OSS (and the CSSRC before it) have partnered with CSPV for years. The CSPV has evaluated the CSSRC's work on National Institute of Justice school safety grants (see pp 20-21, above). Dr. Beverly Kingston and her team have assisted in writing grant applications, drafting curriculum for delivery by the OSS training team, and evaluating training outcomes. Additionally, the CSPV once again partnered with the OSS on the Safe Schools Summit in October. The OSS is working on a third grant with CSPV to evaluate the outcome of the CTAMP in a large Colorado school district. The grant period is from October 2024 through September 2027.

### [Child Protection Ombudsman of Colorado \(CPO\)](#)

The [Office of the CPO](#) is an independent agency working on behalf of Colorado's children and families. The office is designed to listen to the public about their experience with and concerns about child protection, research and investigate those issues, and determine the best way to resolve each inquiry. They also collaborate with lawmakers, professionals, and other interested partners to advance legislation and policies that will have a lasting, positive impact on our children and families. Margaret Ochoa served as the CDPS representative on the CPO's [Mandatory Reporting Task Force](#), which completed reviewing national best practices and consulting with numerous experts, researchers, and people with lived experience to make recommendations to the General Assembly at the end of 2024.

### Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

The OSS has worked with [CASB](#) on a number of initiatives and working groups. Currently, Sarah Fishing of Montrose Public Schools represents CASB on the CSSRC Advisory Board. OSS Director Chris Harms was invited to speak at CASB's state conference in December of 2024.

### 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/Principal Rebecca Hall with the Hinsdale School District and, until the spring of 2024, Superintendent Todd Bitner of Norwood Schools. Colorado Commissioner of Education Susana Córdova has recently made a recommendation to fill Mr. Bitner's seat. From the Front Range, Carolena Steen, Ph.D., the Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, also serves as a representative to the CSSRC Advisory Board. OSS staff attended CASE's winter and summer conferences in 2024.

### Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) and National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)

[CASRO](#) membership consists of school resource officers, other law enforcement personnel, and affiliated partners. The Center is a member of this Association. Brad Stiles, Emergency Outreach Consultant at the Center, is an advisor to the CASRO Board of Directors. CSSRC's Advisory Board chair is Kelly Jacobsen from the Westminster Police Department, who also serves as the Secretary on CASRO's board. Mr. Stiles, Kati Garner, Kelly Addington, and Mike Vagher all attended the annual CASRO conference in Keystone in June. Mr. Stiles actively participated in running the conference, and other staff presented workshops.

Funding from the 2022 STOP Grant has enabled strong collaborations between the OSS and [NASRO](#). The OSS sponsored the opportunity for Colorado SRO supervisors to complete the NASRO Supervisors' Course in Keystone in June of 2024. Advanced SRO Training was also made available in the Denver Metro and Grand Junction this summer. Dozens of SROs took advantage of these opportunities. OSS staff were trained to facilitate the *Project Unite* curriculum (a partnership between NASRO and the [Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence](#) at CU Boulder) in 2023. The first training was made available in August of 2024. Seventeen attendees were present.

### 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. OSS staff attend and report on statewide initiatives.

### Colorado Ceasefire

[Ceasefire](#) is the longest-running grassroots gun violence prevention organization in the State of Colorado. It includes parents, teachers, students, community members, and gun violence survivors who have been working since 2000 to prevent and reduce gun violence in Colorado. They provide education and outreach. Ceasefire representatives have met with Center staff to strategize on safe gun storage and education regarding Extreme Risk Protection Order education for school staff and communities.

### 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. In 2024, among other protections for survivors, CCASA's priority

bills secured funding for victim services through the firearms and munitions excise tax, including school safety funding via the School Security Disbursement grant. CCASA also worked to pass the Best Practices in Preventing Discrimination in Schools Bill. Subsequently, Jae Dee Wood and Margaret Ochoa served on CDE’s evaluation task force to assist in the selection of a vendor to make discrimination prevention training available for Colorado schools. Ms. Ochoa and Ms. Wood served on CCASA’s Policy Committee in 2024, gaining early access to information on pending legislation.

#### [Colorado Department of Early Childhood \(CDEC\)](#)

With the passage of [SB24-113](#) (Safer Youth Sports), the CDEC Family Strengthening Unit gathered a group of experts to develop policies to help prevent child abuse and child sexual abuse for youth sports organizations that are outside school affiliation. Jae Dee Wood, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist, was invited to serve on this Model Policy for Youth Sports Subcommittee.

#### [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](#). The Commissioner of Education appoints multiple CSSRC Advisory Board members from CDE and the school community. Christina Monaco is the CDE staff member who serves on the advisory board. Others appointed by the Commissioner of Education include Dr. Carolena Steen, Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District; Board Secretary Dr. Jane Lineman, Student Safety Coordinator for Denver Public Schools; and Todd Bitner, Superintendent of the Norwood School District, who resigned from the board in 2024. His replacement is underway.

The Office of School Safety meets monthly with multiple units of CDE to ensure continuity of safety services to schools. Participants include units within the Student Excellence Division, such as the [Field Services and Supports Unit](#). Also represented in those meetings are the [District Improvement Strategy Office](#), the [Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement](#), the [Exceptional Student Services Unit](#), the [Office of Health and Wellness](#), and the [Office of Learning Supports](#). The work on the Educator Safety Task Force has bolstered work between the OSS and the [Office of Facility Schools](#). These meetings strengthen the partnership between the OSS and CDE and help avoid duplication of efforts in school safety matters.

In addition to these regular meetings, 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 OSS training conferences. She has trained at the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium and led a workshop in 2024 at the Safe Schools Summit. She coordinates referrals to and from staff as necessary. Ms. Ottenbreit and the [CDE website](#) have proven to be valuable resources to Center partners.

There is also a productive working relationship with the staff at CDE who manage the [BEST grants](#) and the CSSRC. Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, is often asked to conduct site assessments and make recommendations for districts on requests regarding their BEST grants.

CDE developed a [Model Bullying Policy](#) in compliance with SB18-151 and HB21-1221. The Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Coordinator has been a tremendous resource for Colorado Schools in accessing and implementing that policy. The Center has partnered with CDE to

promote the adoption of these principles. School Outreach Consultant Cary Lynch sat on the Model Policy Revision Working Group in 2024. As CDE enhances its work in violence prevention in schools, the OSS has acted as a consultant with experience in managing STOP grants, as well as a school safety partner invested in ensuring that the two departments do not duplicate efforts.

Krista Klabo, the [School Psychology and Special Education](#) Evaluation Specialist at CDE, has presented at all of the School Safety Specialist Academies since 2021. She is a consistent and valued partner in the Center's work. Ms. Lynch (CSSRC) and Ms. Mills (Crisis Response Unit) presented at the Kaleidoscope Conference. The conference is designed to support staff at facilities schools and those who support students with significant social and emotional needs. It highlights the need for psychological safety among staff to support positive school culture and climate.

The [Office of Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness](#) within CDE oversees the [Colorado School Counselor Corps Grant Program](#). Mrs. Miglinas serves on the advisory board for this program as a state agency representative. The advisory board works to equitably allocate the \$12 million grant funds as well as advocating for comprehensive school counseling programs throughout Colorado. Representation from the OSS allows school safety to continue to be part of the conversation for holistic programming in schools.

#### [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. Mark Pokorny, Environmental and Emergency Preparedness Manager for Metropolitan State University of Denver, serves on the Advisory Board as the appointee of the Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education. Mr. Pokorny offers his services to schools on storing and disposing of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes. Mr. Greg Busch, Emergency Manager for the Community College System within CDHE, recently resigned from his position on the CSSRC Advisory Board due to an out-of-state move but will be replaced in early 2025 by the Executive Director of the Colorado Community College System. A representative from CDHE participates in the School Safety Working Group.

#### [Behavioral Health Administration \(BHA\)](#)

The [Behavioral Health Administration](#) (BHA) launched in 2022 and is a cabinet member-led agency within the State of Colorado. The BHA is designed to be the single entity responsible for driving coordination and collaboration across state agencies to address behavioral health needs. Suzy Morris, Program Manager - School Based Mental Health Services and Youth Substance Use Disorder Services, within the Behavioral Health Administration, sits on the CSSRC Advisory Board. OSS staff in the CSSRC and Crisis Unit have met with the BHA regarding the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Implementation Plan to seek out opportunities to partner in the work. Tripti Sharma, Manager for the IMatter program, sits on the School Safety Working Group.

#### [Department of Human Services \(CDHS\)](#)

The Center looks to the [Division of Child Welfare](#) for expertise regarding child abuse and neglect. Shared messaging across departments is key to consistency for partners in education and beyond. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist Jae Dee Wood follows the agency's lead on child abuse prevention efforts during Child Abuse Prevention Month to create awareness of both departments' work.

CDHS is responsible for implementing the [Statewide Youth Development Plan](#), which emphasizes the importance of collective action across state agencies while also underscoring the need for a collaborative framework that includes families, local communities, nonprofits, and other stakeholders essential to youth success, with youth voice at the center, guiding all work. Ms. Lynch provides a school lens on the Advisory Group.

Gretchen Russo, Judicial and Legislative Administrator, is a member of the School Safety Working Group.

#### [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#)

The Office of School Safety staff have enjoyed access to the experts at CDPHE since the Center was established. The OSS has tapped CDPHE partners to plan and speak at conferences, serve on the Advisory Board, and provide input in working groups. The relationship has been reciprocal over the years. In 2024, Ms. Ochoa and Ms. Wood presented at the Shared Risk and Protective Factors Conference, which is co-hosted by CDPHE and the [Colorado School of Public Health](#). The OSS will be presenting training for the Office of Suicide Prevention in early 2025. Other collaborations are noted below.

#### [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. Kati Garner, Crisis Unit Manager, represents the OSS at quarterly meetings. Representatives from CoCERN were actively involved in the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group.

#### [Division of Disease Control and Public Health Response \(DCPHR\)](#)

The OSS worked with the Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene Unit of the DCPHR for the first time in 2024. Due to the increase of wildfires in Colorado and the impact on air quality, especially for students who may be outside at athletic events and other school activities, plans are underway to draft language for a wildfire smoke annex or sub-annex for schools soon.

#### [Office of Disaster Behavioral Health](#)

The Crisis Response Unit has worked collaboratively with Disaster Behavioral Health since the Unit opened in October. Disaster Behavioral Health works to provide resources to promote, maintain, and restore individual and community psychosocial well-being from preparedness to recovery. Members of Disaster Behavioral Health are active members of the Crisis Response Networking Group and have presented at the Office of School Safety's annual School Safety Summit.

#### [Office of Suicide Prevention](#)

The OSS has worked collaboratively with [CDPHE](#) to systematically prevent suicide and sexual violence. CDPHE's [Office of Suicide Prevention](#) (OSP) is the lead entity for suicide prevention, intervention supports, and postvention efforts in Colorado. The OSS and the OSP meet regularly to stay current on trends, research, and available resources. Participants benefit from frequent workshops and meeting updates by members from the OSP at regional conferences and the Suicide Prevention working group. Since 2010, the Center, CDE, and the OSP have joined forces to present 15 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, Cary Lynch, School Outreach Consultant for the Center, represents the



Center on the Suicide Commission. She also participates in the Youth Specific Initiatives and Older Adults and Postvention workgroups. Crisis Response Unit Manager Kati Garner participated in the Suicide Postvention Working Group for the entirety of 2024.

Lena Heilmann, Ph.D., Director 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 a number of the presenters for this year's Suicide Prevention Symposium and introduced them at the conference.

#### Healthy Kids Colorado Survey and Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source

The Center has long had a representative on the [Healthy Kids Colorado and Smart Source Surveys](#)' Steering Committee. Margaret Ochoa presently serves on the committee. CDPHE staff promote this work. The surveys are conducted by the University of Colorado, Denver in alternating years. They 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 the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Behavioral Health Administration, and CDE.

#### Prevention and Wellness

Ms. Wood promotes the work of the [Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education Grant Program](#) as a mode of sexual violence prevention. That work is reflected in the [Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention Resource Guide](#), and was on display at the Safe Schools Summit in October.

Carrie Cortiglio, Division Director, Prevention Services Division, along with the newly appointed Molly Siegel, Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention in CDPHE, both serve on the School Safety Working Group.

#### Colorado Department of Public Safety Colorado State Patrol (CSP)

The Office of School Safety maintains a professional relationship with [CSP](#), 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, PILLAR, and provided refresher training to the deliverers of the curriculum on identification of child abuse on request. In December, the OSS appeared at the CSP Strategic Review and Forecast Meeting with CSP captains to present office updates and learn how the offices can collaborate in 2025.

#### Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ)

Multiple offices within the Division of Criminal Justice have collaborated with the CSSRC and OSS over the years. That partnership continued this year.

#### Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA)

Kelly Abbott, Manager of the OAJJA, presently serves on the CSSRC Advisory Board. She has long been a valued partner to the Center. She refers districts seeking training to the OSS, promotes awareness of school-centric grant opportunities, and reviews proposed legislation with the office to highlight the potential impact on our constituents.

#### 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 board staff and the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist have collaborated on school training and statewide

projects for years. Kati Garner and Jae Dee Wood each presented at the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management Conference in July. Paige Brown From the SOMB consulted at a school-based professionals networking group in October.

#### [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 collaborative efforts as schools work to ensure that their emergency preparedness for active shooter situations does not interfere with fire safety policies. In [this podcast](#), Director Christine Harms and Fire & Life Safety Section Chief Brunette discuss the interconnectedness of school safety and fire prevention. In 2024, DFPC and the OSS updated the Emergency Drill White Paper for Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Junior Colleges based on the 2021 International Fire Code.

#### [Coordinated Response to Mass Firearm-Related Incidents](#)

This coalition began meeting in 2024 to address targeted violence. Groups invited to the table include the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), the [Attorney General's Office](#), the federal [Department of Homeland Security](#), the [Trailhead Institute](#), and representatives from multiple offices in the Colorado Department of Public Safety, including the Division of Criminal Justice and Office of School Safety. Preliminary meetings have focused on a public health approach to gun violence prevention.

#### [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 the private sector local, tribal, and federal partners. When appropriate, the CIAC and the OSS collaborate to distribute informational messages regarding school safety to the Center's collaborators.

The CIAC supports the [Safe2Tell](#) program through the housing of tip analysts. Safe2Tell is an anonymous tip line open to all citizens, but it is focused on students and provides a tool for them to 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 CIAC and the OSS relationship and helps CDPS further support school safety.

The CIAC implemented its Colorado [Preventing Targeted Violence Program \(CO-PTV\)](#) in 2023. That initiative established a whole-of-community approach to address targeted violence by building a solutions-driven, equity-informed strategy with multidisciplinary partners to create a safer and healthier Colorado. The OSS highlighted the Program in its IHE Symposium in 2024 and has connected with CIAC local support members in the CSSRC's regional territories. This collaboration has resulted in trainers from both offices attending the training of the others to enhance the prevention of targeted violence in schools and communities that surround them.

#### [Colorado Education Initiative \(CEI\)](#)

The [CEI](#) is an independent 501(c)(3) that partners with the Colorado Department of Education in effectively implementing programs and public policy related to education. The Center and staff from CEI have worked together on many projects in the past and continue to interact through the Educator Safety Task Force.



### [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. OSS Director Chris Harms presented at the League's second virtual town hall in November.

### [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. Jae Dee Wood and Jennifer Mills presented a workshop at this year's COVA Conference, and Ms. Wood collaborated with Emily Gulotta from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for a second presentation at the conference.

### [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 OSS director is invited. Both Ms. Harms and Ms. Ochoa presented to this group in 2024. The OSS has always viewed Colorado's rural schools as a primary constituent of the OSS services.

### [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. Under the leadership of new Executive Director Ken Canning, the relationship between CSDSIP and the OSS has continued to flourish. CSDSIP has been a loyal sponsor of the annual Safe Schools Summit during Safe Schools Month for years. 2024 was no exception. Craig Hein, J.D., General Counsel for CSDSIP, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board. Staff from the CSSRC attended training hosted by CSDSIP in 2024.

### [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. At CSCA's Annual Conference in October of this year, Amy Miglinas, Jenny Mills, and Brandi Vos presented workshops. Kelly Donnelly and Kelly Addington also attended the conference to learn and network.

### [Colorado School Safety Initiative](#)

Confluence Policy & Strategy Group and the Public Education & Business Coalition launched the [Colorado School Safety Initiative](#) in 2023. The coalition and research initiative brings together system leaders, educators, students, parents, government officials, mental and behavioral health experts, law enforcement, security experts, counselors, community leaders, communications experts, and other collaborators to discuss various issues affecting school safety and climate. This initiative will outlast the work of the School Safety Working Group, and the Office of School Safety will be a partner in its efforts. They provide an annual report to the Colorado General Assembly. At their last meeting in December 2024, they updated the group on the working committees facilitated by the Colorado Department of Education and the Office of School Safety.

### [Colorado Society of School Psychologists \(CSSP\)](#)

The mission of [CSSP](#) is to strengthen the effectiveness of school psychologists in addressing the academic, social, and emotional needs of children and youth in Colorado. Jenny Mills and Brandi Vos presented at the CSSP conference in November. Dr. Franci Crepeau-Hobson, representing the CSSP crisis team, was also an active member of the Statewide Crisis Response Working Group. Dr. Melissa Reeves, former [National Association of School Psychologists](#) (NASP) president, worked with Kati Garner this year to train OSS staff to deliver the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) PREPaRE crisis training.

### [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, cybercrime, and many others. Staff from the FBI have presented numerous times at CSSRC statewide training on threat assessment and human trafficking. This year, Mr. Stiles coordinated an appearance by an FBI analyst for the Colorado Association of School Resource Officer Conference and worked with their agents on an unrelated school matter. Director Harms also collaborated with the Denver field office to coordinate training for SROs, which will likely occur in 2025.

### [Illuminate Colorado](#)

[Illuminate Colorado](#) is a cohort of agencies whose mission is the effective prevention of child maltreatment. They are the Colorado branch of Prevent Child Abuse America. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialists from the Center have served on the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition since 2021. That group was convened by Illuminate and is composed of experts from the nonprofit sector, state government, and individual members. Ms. Ochoa and Ms. Wood have met regularly with facilitators trained by Illuminate to enhance opportunities for training.

### [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 about trends in school safety, training opportunities, resources, and best practices from the field. The NSSA members are also responsible for advocating for best practices in school safety at both the state and national levels. Director Harms was a founding member of the NSSA and served on its board of directors until August 2022, but she remains active in the twice-monthly meetings.

### [Partners for Children's Mental Health \(PCMH\)](#)

This agency, supported by Children's Hospital Colorado and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, is designed to serve as a statewide resource to increase mental health services' capacity, access, and quality for children, youth, and families. The OSS works with [PCMH](#), [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 mentioned above caters to behavioral health leaders from the schools. Ms. Lynch's participation in this Community of Practice helps bridge the two groups. The CoP will continue to meet and share strategies and resources to reduce suicide rates.

### [Rise Above Colorado](#)

[Rise Above Colorado](#) is a statewide prevention organization that measurably impacts teen perceptions and attitudes about the risks of substance misuse to help youth make empowered,

healthy choices. The CSSRC has worked with Rise Above for the past two years in bringing positive norms to Colorado students regarding the low numbers of youth in the state who are using substances. Staff from Rise Above presented the plenary sessions at the Student-Staff Summits hosted by the Center in 2023 and will collaborate with the CSSRC again next month. These sessions are assisting the Center in meeting the governor's Wildly Important Goal of bringing opioid prevention messaging to at least 18 school districts in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

#### [ROAR Coalition of La Plata County \(Recognizing Opportunities Around Resilience\)](#)

The [ROAR Coalition](#) is a local partnership dedicated to preventing youth substance use and promoting healthy behaviors for young people ages 12 - 24 in La Plata County. This community-led coalition consists of partners in public health, local government, law enforcement, youth-serving organizations, educators, key leaders, parents and more. Amy Miglinas serves as a representative for the OSS with this organization and is active on the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey task force to promote and support schools participating in 2025.

#### [School-Based Mental Health Advisory Board \(SBMHAB\)](#)

The School-based Mental Health Advisory Board (SBMHAB) is led by the Project AWARE team within the Office of Health and Wellness at CDE. The purpose of the SBMHAB is to bring together constituents from multiple state agencies (i.e., CDE, CDPHE, CDPS, CDHS, BHA) and district staff to provide updates on efforts (e.g., training, funding opportunities, service offerings, training/technical assistance) for school-based professionals and respective partners such as community-based organizations focused on the behavioral health of students in schools across Colorado. Additionally, the SBMHAB aims to enhance alignment, coordination, and collaboration across multiple state agencies related to state government infrastructure, systems, and processes that impact how behavioral health supports reach students in Colorado. The School Outreach Consultant serves on this board with input from the Director of the OSS so that the work of the SSWG is aligned with this committee.

The School Outreach Consultant also serves on the Suicide Prevention Training Policy and the Workforce Strategy Subcommittees through the SBMHAB. The Training Policy group is developing a model district and school-level policy regarding suicide prevention training in schools by utilizing data to inform best practice trainings for schools and districts. The Workforce subcommittee is focusing on increasing interest in school-based mental and behavioral health roles while also increasing state efforts for retention of school mental and behavioral health staff. Jennifer Mills from the Crisis Response Unit and Chelsey Lehmkuhl, CSSRC, serve on the Trauma Responsiveness and Resilience Promotion Subcommittee. This subcommittee is creating a resource inventory and will compare the results of those available resources with the data from the field to see where overlap and gaps exist related to trauma responsiveness and resilience promotion.

#### [United Way of Southwest Colorado](#)

The CSSRC Southwest Regional Training Consultant is collaborating with Team UP Southwest Colorado, an organization employing collective impact methods to ensure every child thrives from cradle to career. Using intentional and coordinated efforts by leveraging content matter expertise - especially when focused on youth mental health, safe space identification and parent resources - and fostering community connections and promoting shared goals a powerful partnership has been forged.

## Youth Healthcare Alliance (Formerly Colorado Association for School-based Health Care “CASBHC”)

Established in 1996, the [Youth Healthcare Alliance](#) is a non-profit membership organization that helps communities throughout Colorado establish, operate, and expand school-based clinics to ensure K-12 students and their families receive comprehensive, equitable healthcare. Currently, there are 68 School-Based Health Centers in the state. The Center Manager and Emergency Response Outreach Consultant met with staff from the Alliance in 2024 to discuss potential gaps in emergency planning regarding health clinics.

## Youth Sexual Health Alliance

Trailhead Institute has built a statewide Alliance of community-led organizations, including educators, district administrators, health care providers, local public health departments, advocacy groups, and other key participants, to better coordinate our efforts across the state and increase referral linkages between schools, clinics, and communities. Starting in 2024, the Youth Sexual Health Alliance will use a rotating facilitator model. It will be utilizing a new Youth Sexual Health Alliance Google Group to increase communication among the group with quarterly meetings. The Youth Sexual Health Alliance shares resources, events, community-based opportunities, and announcements.

## Summary and Conclusion

This year was the first calendar year in which the three units of the Office of School Safety realized full staffing. The synergy has been powerful. The creation of the OSS has resulted in more training to more locations by more experts than ever before. Critical, life-changing training took place.

The legislature has entrusted the OSS with the interagency collaboration on school safety, which resulted in a final report in 2024. That work has continued robustly through interdepartmental partnerships, and become a part of the school safety landscape in the state. The Educator Safety Task Force was also assigned to the OSS this year. Monthly task force and subcommittee meetings are ongoing in order to complete this important work on a short timeframe. These two topics are of grave importance to all who work in school safety, and will impact generations of students and school professionals.

The investments of 2023 and early 2024 have enabled the training teams from the CSSRC and Crisis Response Unit to reach thousands of school professionals. Schools have been supported after crises, and the Grants Unit successfully collaborated with 197 awardees, managing a portfolio of \$24.5 Million Dollars across 10 Segments within four grants programs. Yet another National Institute of Justice grant was acquired to expand the Threat Assessment work. Colorado continues to lead the nation, both through its model of providing services, and in its school safety protocols.

The OSS team elevates accessibility and inclusivity as high priorities. Resources are available to diverse populations, training is presented in multiple formats and languages, and cultural responsiveness is a key value throughout all of the work.

The OSS is working to achieve a Wildly Important Goal of increasing awareness and prevention education regarding the opioid crisis to Colorado school districts. The CSSRC trained several school districts in 2023, and will strive to increase that number by 50% at the Student-Staff Summits in January and February of 2025.

The Office is near completion with its requirements under the BJA STOP Violence Grants. Staff have trained all of the required grantees in the Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol. New schools have applied to participate in the grant as recently as November of 2024. Training on the CTAMP occurs nearly every week during the academic year somewhere in the state. The online case management system is in use, and has been expanded to include schools that utilize the OSS' Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit. This time-saving, secure platform is a welcome solution for Colorado schools, especially rural districts. The first cohorts of SROs were trained in the Basic NASRO course in 2023, and two groups were trained in the Advanced course this year. Additionally, SRO supervisors were trained under the grant at the CASRO conference in the spring. Preliminary discussions are underway to offer the Basic course again in 2025. OSS staff delivered the *Project Unite* curriculum over the summer, and planning is underway with NASRO and the CSPV to refine the training and offer it across the state in 2025. The *Handle with Care* project has been launched. One pilot site has been utilizing the program and training has been offered to the others. OSS staff are ready to assist schools statewide on all of these initiatives.

The School Safety Resource Center is always looking to create opportunities to expand its threat assessment work. Receiving the National Institute of Justice Grant presents an opportunity to do an outcome evaluation of the CTAMP, showing its efficacy through behavioral change. Work on that grant starts next month.

The Office of School Safety provided training on the foundational elements of school safety via the fourth School Safety Academy this year. The Crisis Response and Grant Units provided an opportunity for an even more comprehensive understanding of school safety. Participants met staff from partner agencies as well. The OSS is pleased to host Specialists from past Academies in its working groups and at regional conferences. The Academy is on the calendar for June of 2025. The CSSRC is budgeting with hopes to host and pay for the event in person to maximize attendance opportunities.

The structure of the OSS has enabled it to expand existing training, create and deliver new curricula, and serve schools after a crisis. The Grants Unit helps schools and community agencies fund the prevention of violence and bolster security on campus. The team reaches partners within the Colorado Department of Public Safety, external state departments, and federal agencies, while keeping its primary constituents, small and rural schools throughout Colorado, at the forefront.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [cssrc.colorado.gov](https://cssrc.colorado.gov) or [oss.colorado.gov](https://oss.colorado.gov)  
Colorado School Safety Resource Center  
Department of Public Safety  
303-550-2737 [CDPS\\_School\\_Safety\\_Center@state.co.us](mailto:CDPS_School_Safety_Center@state.co.us)

## 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 OSS staff during 2024. It does not include individuals from multiple districts who participated in livestreamed or recorded workshops.

### Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)

- Board of Cooperative Education Services' Directors
- East Central BOCES
- Northeast BOCES
- Pikes Peak BOCES
- San Juan BOCES
- South Central BOCES

### Denver Metro

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Adams County 14
- Adams-Arapahoe 28J
- Boulder Valley Re 2
- Cherry Creek 5
- Denver County 1
- Douglas County Re 1
- Englewood 1
- Jefferson County R-1
- Littleton 6
- Mapleton 1
- School District 27J
- St Vrain Valley RE1J

### Facility School

- Griffith Center
- Morgridge Academy at National Jewish Health
- Tennyson Center for Children

### Higher Education

- Aims Community College
- Colorado Mountain College
- Colorado State University

- Otero College
- Regis University
- University of Denver

### Other Organization

- Adaptive Sports Center
- Apex Learning
- Association of Colorado Independent Schools
- Boys & Girls Club Metro Denver
- Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County
- Centennial Mental Health
- City of Aurora
- Colorado Association of School Boards
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers
- Colorado Attorney General's Office
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Colorado Dream Foundation
- Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Colorado School Based Health Center Staff
- Colorado School Counselors Association
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists
- Colorado Springs Fire Department
- Denver Trust
- Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Management Board



- Eagle River Youth Coalition Inc. (Mountain Youth)
- El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- EUREKA
- Glacier View Ranch, Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
- DeAngelis Center Foundation
- Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families
- League of Charter Schools
- Mesa County Sheriff's Office
- Montezuma Sheriff's Office
- Monument Police Department
- Mosaic Unlimited
- NXT Chapter
- Riverside Education Center
- Rural Alliance
- Safe2Tell
- School Based Health Center Providers
- YESS Institute

#### **Outlying City**

- Alamosa RE-11J
- Canon City RE-1
- Durango 9-R
- East Otero R-1
- Fort Morgan Re-3
- Lamar Re-2
- Moffat County RE: No 1
- Montezuma-Cortez RE-1
- Roaring Fork RE-1
- Steamboat Springs RE-2
- Trinidad 1
- Valley RE-1

#### **Outlying Town**

- Akron R-1
- Archuleta County 50 Jt
- Aspen 1
- Bayfield 10 Jt-R
- Bennett 29J
- Buena Vista R-31

- Burlington RE-6J
- Center 26 JT
- Clear Creek RE-1
- Crowley County RE-1J
- Delta County 50(J)
- Eagle County RE 50
- East Grand 2
- Eaton RE-2
- Estes Park R-3
- Fowler R-4J
- Fremont RE-2
- Garfield Re-2
- Gunnison Watershed RE1J
- Holyoke Re-1J
- Huerfano Re-1
- Idalia RJ-3
- Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J
- Julesburg Re-1
- Lake County R-1
- Las Animas RE-1
- Limon RE-4J
- Meeker RE-1
- Monte Vista C-8
- Rangely RE-4
- Salida R-32
- Summit RE-1
- Telluride R-1
- Upper Rio Grande School District C-7
- Weld Re-8 Schools
- West Grand 1-JT
- Wray RD-2
- Yuma 1

#### **Private/Charter**

- Animas High School
- Arma Dei Academy
- Aspen Academy
- Aspen Ridge Prep Academy
- Atlas Preparatory School
- AXIS International Academy
- Bethlehem Lutheran School
- Bixby School

- Boulder Country Day
- Cactus Bloom Community School
- Caprock Academy
- Castle Rock Christian Academy
- Castle Valley Academy (UT)
- Challenge to Excellence Charter School
- Cherry Hills Christian
- Colorado Charter School Institute
- Colorado Christian Academy
- Colorado Early Colleges (CEC)
- Colorado International Language Academy
- Coperni 3 Charter School
- Crown Pointe Academy
- Denver Academy
- Diocese of Colorado Springs
- Early College of Arvada
- Firestone Charter Academy
- Flagstaff Academy
- Frontier Academy Charter School
- Gardner Valley Charter School
- Global Village Academy Aurora
- GOAL Academy
- Golden View Classical Academy
- Graland Country Day School
- Havern School
- Highline Academy Southeast Charter School
- Holy Family High School
- James Irwin Charter Schools
- Joyful Journey Preschool
- Kwiyyagat Community Academy
- Landmark Baptist School
- Liberty Common School
- Merit Academy
- Montessori del Mundo
- Montview Community Kindergarten
- Monument View Montessori Charter School
- Mountain Sage Community School
- New America School
- New Summit Charter School
- Pagosa Peak Open School
- Pinnacle Charter School
- Pueblo School of Arts and Science
- Ricardo Flores Magon Academy
- Ridgeview Classical Schools
- Shining Mountain Waldorf
- Southwest Colorado Expeditionary School
- St. Elizabeth School
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic School
- Stanley British Primary School
- Steamboat Montessori
- Telluride Mountain School
- The Academy of Charter Schools
- The Classical Academy
- The Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind
- The Vanguard School
- Thomas MacLaren School
- Tointon Academy
- University Prep Commerce City
- Valor Christian
- Vega Collegiate Academy
- Watershed School
- Windsor Charter Academy
- Youth on Record

**Remote**

- Agate 300
- Bethune R-5
- Branson Reorganized 82
- Briggsdale RE-10
- Buffalo RE-4J
- Byers 32J
- Calhan RJ-1
- Centennial R-1
- Cheraw 31
- Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1
- De Beque 49JT
- Deer Trail 26J

- Dolores County RE No.2
- Dolores RE-4A
- Elizabeth School District
- Ellicott 22
- Frenchman RE-3
- Garfield 16
- Gilpin County RE-1
- Hanover 28
- Haxtun RE-2J
- Hinsdale County RE 1
- Ignacio 11 JT
- Kim Reorganized 88
- Kiowa C-2
- Lone Star 101
- Mancos Re-6
- Manzanola 3J
- Miami/Yoder 60 JT
- Moffat 2
- North Conejos RE-1J
- North Park R-1
- Norwood R-2J
- Park County RE-2
- Peyton 23 Jt
- Platte Canyon 1
- Primero Reorganized 2
- Ridgway R-2
- Sanford 6J

- Sargent RE-33J
- Sierra Grande R-30
- Silverton 1
- South Routt RE 3
- Strasburg 31J
- Stratton R-4
- Weld County School District RE-3J
- Weldon Valley RE-20(J)
- Wiley RE-13 Jt
- Woodlin R-104

#### Urban-Suburban

- Academy 20
- Colorado Springs 11
- Fountain 8
- Greeley 6
- Harrison 2
- Lewis-Palmer 38
- Manitou Springs 14
- Mesa County Valley 51
- Poudre R-1
- Pueblo City 60
- Pueblo County 70
- Thompson R2-J
- Widefield 3

**Total: 248**