



## 2025 Staff/Student School Safety Summit

January 15 - Otero College, La Junta  
January 29 - Impact Career Innovation Center, Durango  
February 26 - Northeastern Junior College, Sterling

9:45 AM

Welcome

Margaret M. Ochoa, Manager  
Colorado School Safety Resource Center

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Plenary: Rise Above Colorado

Jonathan Judge, Director of Campaigns & Media

What does substance use really look like for teens in Colorado? And how can we empower students to rise above the pressure and influence of media and peers? In this keynote, [Rise Above Colorado](#) will provide a data-driven look at youth substance use across the state, dispelling myths and normalizing safe, healthy behaviors. Students will learn how to critically evaluate media messages and navigate peer pressure all while building supportive relationships that empower them to make choices aligned with their goals. An understanding of the presence of fentanyl in our communities and critical information about avoiding it will be discussed. This engaging and inspiring session will leave participants with the tools and confidence to shape a positive future for themselves and their communities.

11:05 AM - 11:50 AM

1st Breakout

*See the back of this page for descriptions of each of the Breakout Sessions.*

11:50 AM - 12:20 PM

Lunch (Provided)

12:25 PM - 1:10 PM

2nd Breakout

1:15 PM - 1:55 PM

3rd Breakout

1:55 AM - 2:00 PM

Adjournment



**COLORADO**

**Office of School Safety**

Department of Public Safety

## **Breakout Sessions:**

**Everyone will be assigned a group. You will rotate with your group to all three of the topics. School staff are expected to stay with their students and hear their feedback. This will afford everyone the opportunity to discuss the topics and offer strategies to address the content in your school.**

### **Building Safe and Inclusive Schools: Where Everyone Belongs**

What makes a school truly feel safe - not just physically, but also psychologically? In this workshop, we'll explore the elements that create a sense of security and belonging for students. Through group discussion and safe space mapping, participants will identify what helps them feel safe and valued in their school environment. We'll also focus on the role of trusted adults in fostering inclusion, building connections, and promoting a culture where everyone feels they belong. This session will provide actionable insights for creating schools that support the wellbeing and success of all students.

### **Substance Use in Schools: Understanding the Landscape and Supporting Each Other**

Substance Use is a challenge many schools face, but what do students actually see and experience? In this interactive workshop, we will anonymously gather student input on the types of substances they encounter in school and with their peers. Methods of delivery, like vaping, will be front and center in the conversation. Together, we'll explore strategies students use to avoid peer pressure and stay substance-free, and discuss how to recognize the signs when a friend may need help. This session creates a safe space for honest conversations and empowers students with knowledge and resources to support themselves and their peers in making healthy choices.

### **Popular Media and Healthy Relationships**

How do TV shows, movies, music, and viral videos shape students' understanding of relationships? In this engaging workshop, we'll explore how popular media portrays love, friendship and family dynamics - and how these representations impact students' perceptions of what is normal, desirable or healthy. Participants will gain tools to help students critically evaluate the messages they consume, distinguish between media-driven narratives and their own values, and develop a stronger sense of agency in building relationships that align with their personal goals and aspirations. This session will spark meaningful conversations and provide practical strategies for educators and counselors.

**Thank you for sharing your day with us!**

**Please submit your completed evaluations electronically. Thank you!**

