

20 Years after Columbine: Highlights of School Safety Efforts in Colorado

In the twenty years following the Columbine High School tragedy, Colorado school safety has vastly improved, thanks to the efforts of school leaders and their community partners, a number of organizations and state and private agencies ranging from the Colorado General Assembly to private foundations, citizens, and others. Here's a chronology of some key milestones contributing to improved school safety for Colorado students and schools:

(Please note: The first ten year highlights were written by Linda Kanan, Ph.D., the founding director of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC/Center) 2008-2011. The second ten year highlights were compiled by Christine Harms, MS, who became director of the Center in January 2012.)

1999

The Colorado Trust, with other partners, funded the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder for a six-year initiative called "Safe Communities – Safe Schools" (1999-2005)

- Provided funding for statewide safe school planning efforts, yearly conferences, and supported sixteen pilot sites across the state.
- The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence continued extensive research begun in 1996 to identify proven prevention programs known as the "Blueprints." Blueprints, available online, provide examples of evidence-based violence prevention programs (proven to be successful).

The Colorado Attorney General's Office began publishing the *Colorado School Violence Prevention and Student Discipline Manual*.

- The manual is updated yearly and is an important resource for teachers and school officials who need to know the legal tools available to address the security problems posed by students who engage in violent or disruptive behavior or who use, possess, or distribute alcohol, drugs, or weapons on school grounds. The manual's most recent update is available online at www.ago.state.co.us/safe_communities.

State begins work to improve emergency services communications by issuing a request for proposals for a digital trunked radio network statewide.

2000

Columbine Review Commission is appointed by Governor Bill Owens in January 2000.

- The purpose of the Commission was to conduct an independent review of the tragedy and make recommendations to prevent further tragedies in the future

Colorado General Assembly passes the Safe Schools Act (C.R.S. 22-32-109.1). Highlights, with subsequent amendments, include--

- **Each school district board of education required to:**
 - Adopt a mission statement and safe school plan that makes safety a priority in each public school.



- Include a uniform and consistently enforced written conduct and discipline code in the safe school’s plan.
- Adopt a policy requiring school principals to report annually specified information concerning the learning environment in the school. These reports are submitted to the Department of Education.
- Enter into agreements with law enforcement officials, the juvenile justice system, and social services to help maintain a safe school environment.
- Have a written crisis management policy and procedures, and employee crisis management training.
- Adopt a policy requiring annual school building inspections for removal of barriers to safety.
- Adopt a policy to share and release information related to a student in accordance with state and federal guidelines in the interest of making schools safer.
- Adopt a policy to allow reasonable access of parents and board members to observe activities at a school with notice to administrative office.
- Adopt a policy for screening licensed and non-licensed employees.
- Establish a school response framework in compliance with the National Incident Management System – a model framework for responding to critical events.
- Adopt a policy for bullying prevention and education.
- Provides for immunity of school boards, teachers or others acting in good faith to comply with conduct and discipline codes.

The State Board of Education added compliance with the Safe Schools Act to the “Rules for the Administration of School District Accreditation.”

Colorado General Assembly passes Exchange of Information Related to Children – (HB00-1119)

- Allows for information sharing between state agencies and schools when there is a need to know to better serve children or to protect school safety.
- The Colorado Attorney General’s office oversaw the HB00-1119 Task Force, composed of representatives from school districts and state education-related agencies and organizations, law enforcement, district attorneys, social services, and mental health organizations. Guidelines for negotiating information sharing agreements also are available online at www.ago.state.co.us/safe_communities. Attorneys from the AG’s office provide training and advice to the local agencies mentioned above.

The Colorado Trust, Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Coca Cola, Big Horn Center, Channel 9 News, and the Denver Post launch the Colorado Anti-Bullying Campaign (2000-2002).

- Effort included a kick-off event for the campaign, website, hotline, resources to raise awareness, and provide assistance for bullying and harassment in schools.

Attorney General Ken Salazar and Professor Delbert Elliott from Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder toured 64 counties across the state and met with school and communities’ leaders and students to discuss school safety issues and provide individual guidance.



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment created the Office of Suicide Prevention. Colorado's suicide rate ranked high among all states; the office focused initial work on youth suicide prevention statewide.

Safe Communities-Safe Schools Conference, Boulder, May 2000. Provided safe school information from experts to Colorado Schools.

2001

Columbine Review Commission Report Issued, May 2001

- Ten recommendations were made.
- Report is accessible at http://www.state.co.us/columbine/Columbine_20Report_WEB.pdf.

The Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) hosted the U. S. Secret Service research staff at their annual summer training conference

- The findings from their landmark study of school shooters and forthcoming threat assessment model recommendations were shared.

First phase of statewide digital trunked radio system launched.

Bullying Prevention Efforts in the state:

- Spring 2001: The Colorado General Assembly amended the Safe School Act to require school districts to have a policy addressing the education and prevention of bullying.
- Summer 2001: The Colorado Association of School Boards issued a model policy to member school districts regarding compliance with the amended Safe Schools Act.
- Sept. 2001: The Colorado Department of Education provided a technical assistance packet to all school districts regarding bullying prevention best practices.
- Oct. 24, 2001: The Colorado Anti-Bullying Campaign was launched by the Colorado Trust, Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Coca Cola, Big Horn Center, Channel 9 News, and the Denver Post.
 - Effort included a kick-off event for the campaign, website, hotline, PSAs, and other resources to raise awareness and provide assistance for bullying and harassment in schools.

2002

The Colorado Department of Education launched the Positive Behavior Support statewide initiative that creates positive school-wide climates for safe and civil learning environments. Colorado now has the third largest number of schools involved in such a statewide initiative, with more than 500 schools implementing this framework.

Safe Communities-Safe Schools Conference, Broomfield, May 2002. Provided safe school information from experts to Colorado Schools.

Continued Bullying Prevention Efforts. 2002 – 2003 – The Colorado Department of Education confirmed that 100% of the school districts complied with the bullying prevention amendment to the Safe Schools Act.



2003

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and The Colorado Trust developed and released the state's suicide prevention strategic plan.

Safe Communities-Safe Schools Conference, Broomfield, May, 2003. Provided safe school information from experts to Colorado Schools.

Continued Bullying Prevention Efforts. 2003 forward – Numerous statewide safe school trainings, conferences, and websites include bullying prevention-related resources and ongoing research-related information for best practices.

2004

Safe2Tell Reporting Hotline and Awareness Campaign was launched.

- Provides a safe and anonymous way to report concerns of safety, focusing on awareness and early intervention
- Safe2Tell is a 501c3 agency made possible by grants and funding from the Colorado Trust, the Daniels' Fund, El Pomar Foundation, corporations and private donors, with a multi-agency advisory board. Executive Director is Special Agent Susan Payne.
- Trained Colorado State Patrol emergency communications staff handle calls 24/7 and determine what action needs to be taken to help students, parents, and school faculty facing a threat. Hundreds of planned acts of violence are averted.
- Has provided over 1,250 targeted presentations to students, school staff, community groups, law enforcement, and others statewide since 2004.

2005

The Colorado Trust initiated a three-year, \$9 million grant program to fund evidence- and school-based bullying prevention efforts. Forty-five grantees estimate they reached 50,000 young people in 40 Colorado counties during the 2005 – 2008 project period.

Safe Communities-Safe Schools Conference, Westminster, April 2005. Provided safe school information from experts to Colorado Schools.

Full mutual aid capability created between state digital trunked radio system and Denver.

2006

Five Colorado areas (the counties of Pueblo, Mesa, Larimer, Weld and El Paso and the University of Colorado at Boulder) trained in suicide awareness and intervention strategies by the state health department's Office of Suicide Prevention.

The Colorado Department of Education hosted regional trainings for local school districts and community partners regarding Homeland Security-related planning and resources. By this time, 100% of Colorado school districts were determined to be in compliance with the Safe Schools Act's policy requirement regarding written emergency response plans.



Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference, Denver, March, 2006. Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate and prevent violence based on the Blueprints Model and Promising Programs.

September - An armed, outside invader assaulted students and a teacher at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado. Emily Keyes tragically lost her life that day.

The recently constructed school includes design features incorporated by the architect as a result of the Columbine experience. Sheriff Fred Wegener's deputies and members of the Jefferson County SWAT team employed lessons learned from Columbine to respond to the incident. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation led the investigation, and the Colorado State Patrol assisted.

A report on the tragedy, [Lessons Learned: A Victim Assistance Perspective](#), was prepared by the Office for Victims Programs, Division of Criminal Justice of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

The "I Love U Guys" Foundation was established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes. The original and current mission is, "To restore and protect the joy of youth through educational programs and positive actions in collaboration with families, schools, communities, organizations and government entities."

- The first presentation on the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) was in April of 2006.
- The SRP was presented at a national conference in July of 2006 and Jefferson County R1 school district was the first implementation in September of 2006.

2007

At the request of President George W. Bush, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt and Gov. Bill Ritter convened a discussion group of two dozen Colorado school safety leaders in Denver following the Virginia Tech shootings to study broad mental health issues as they relate to Columbine and other acts of school violence. Colorado experts contributed to the formation of national policy on school safety. Gov. Ritter requested additional steps to be taken by the Colorado Department of Public Safety to advance school safety efforts in Colorado.

April 2007. CDPS proposed creation of School Safety Resource Center.

Colorado General Assembly passed bill supporting Safe2Tell Program (SB 07-197)

- Ensured anonymity of persons reporting to the hotline and confidentiality of Safe2Tell records.

The Colorado Attorney General's Office hosted SAFE SCHOOLS: The Next Generation Conference in April, 2007.

- Speakers provided information about a variety of topics related to keeping schools safe from violence. Colorado's new School Safety Resource Center has assumed the hosting of similar meetings with support from the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

2008

Governor Ritter identified school safety as a top legislative priority for his 2008 legislative agenda. He subsequently signed the first bill passed during the 2008 legislative session creating Colorado's State School Safety Resource Center - C.R.S. 24-33.5-1801 (SB 08-001)



- A state school safety resource center was established in the Department of Public Safety to assist schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations and to foster positive learning environments. It includes the identification of pilot sites to receive enhanced school safety services.
- This legislation created the Center’s advisory council, composed of representatives from five other state agencies, higher education, and school districts.
- Additional legislation amended the School Safety Resource Center pilot site projects to include funds to support pilot schools to provide school mapping information to first responders in case of an emergency (HB 08-1267).

Legislation passed to amend the Safe Schools Act to require all districts and the Charter School Institute (CSI) to adopt the tenets of the National Response Framework (NRF), including the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) - C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (SB-08-181)

- All districts and the CSI must establish a date by July 1, 2009, for when they expect to be in compliance with NIMS.
- Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, CASB, CDPS, CDE and Division of Emergency Management created a “Position Statement on SB08- 181” to further support schools in these efforts.

Approximately 13,500 first responders and managers have been trained during the past four years in National Incident Management System classes.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence re-established the Safe Communities-Safe Schools Initiative through funding secured by former Senator Ken Salazar (2008-2012). The initiative provided the following informational resources and violence prevention training and technical assistance to 104 schools in Colorado:

- Informational Resources-Website (www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools), Newsletters.
- Climate Survey Assessment-online student climate surveys for students in grades 3-12.
- Violence Prevention and Evidence-Based Programming Technical Assistance.
- School Safety Regional Trainings (violence prevention, threat assessment, information sharing, Safe2Tell).

Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference, Denver, March 2008 - Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate and prevent violence based on the Blueprints Model and Promising Programs.

Department of Public Health and Environment sponsored “Bridging the Divide: Suicide Awareness and Prevention” summit at Regis University, May 2008.

2009

Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., delivered a personal message to participants attending a regional school safety conference in Colorado Springs on April 15, 2009. For more information:

www.safeschools.state.co.us

Tenth anniversary of the Columbine shootings, April 20, 2009.



The Colorado Trust, Mental Health America of Colorado, and the Office of Suicide Prevention in the state health department released an updated suicide prevention strategy and report in May 2009.

More than 850 Colorado emergency service agencies, including local, county, state, and military agencies, now linked through the state digital trunked radio system. More than 46,500 radios now linked together, vastly improving communications among emergency service agencies.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, established in December 2008, hired staff, responded to requests from individual school districts, and hosted their first three regional trainings in Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction. These workshops were possible with the collaboration of the Office of the Attorney General and the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP). Both organizations have representatives who serve on the 13 member Advisory Board of the School Safety Resource Center.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center also identified three pilot sites in which school safety assistance would be initiated with the assistance of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The three sites were the Durango 9R School District, the Montezuma-Cortez School District, and Adams City High School. Additionally, Hayden and the Lewis-Palmer School Districts joined the pilot project on a limited basis, receiving school mapping funds.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, which provides insurance coverage to over 90% of Colorado schools, conducted a Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning training in Woodlin.

Office of Suicide Prevention held its second “Bridging the Divide: Suicide Awareness and Prevention” summit at Regis University in May, 2009.

2010

Youth suicide is addressed by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Colorado Department of Education, and the Colorado School Safety Resource Center with regional trainings in Highlands Ranch and Wheat Ridge.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center creates working groups to address school safety issues underscored in the Columbine Report.

- The **Interagency Information Sharing Work Group** met to determine barriers to the adoption and implementation of interagency Information Sharing Agreements between local jurisdictions and school districts as outlined in HB00-1119 and SB00-133. The group was facilitated by Chief Deputy Attorney General Cynthia Coffman and Colorado School Safety Resource Center Director Linda Kanan, and comprised of 30 additional individuals from five school district staffs and three district legal counsels, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV-CU), the Colorado Association of School Executives, the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, the Center for Network Development, judicial districts, and county sheriffs. The group explored legislative guidelines for information sharing and FERPA exceptions. Additionally, a brief survey was created with assistance from CSPV-CU for participants at a subsequent conference to gain a



better understanding of potential barriers to the implementation of interagency information sharing and focus for future training.

- The **Threat Assessment Work Group** was formed with the purpose of providing some clarification and consistency of best practices in threat assessment as used in schools, and coordinating with law enforcement agencies, as needed. This group was facilitated by Dr. Linda Kanan, with assistance from Dr. John Nicoletti, a member of the Columbine Review Commission. Thirteen individuals made up this original work group. The outcome of their efforts was the publication of *Essentials of Threat Assessment*, which the Center updates annually and has become an often-referenced document in the field of school threat assessment across the nation.
- The **Emergency Management Work Group** was convened with the purpose of providing emergency planning and response best practice guidelines to all school districts in Colorado, allowing them to customize these recommendations and guidelines to their own needs. The group was comprised of 23 representatives from schools and agencies across the state. The Emergency Management Work Group, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, the Division of Emergency Management, and the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, produced and distributed to all school districts in Colorado the School Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Toolkit in 2011. The Emergency Management Work Group also created recommended guidelines for K-12 schools that included having pre-specified actions for five conditions: Lockdown, Lockout (Secure Building), Shelter-in-Place, Evacuation, and Reunification of Students and Parents.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center sent out a School Safety Needs Assessment with follow-up surveys in 2010, 2013, and 2017. Results of the 2010 survey can be accessed [here](#).

The Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2010. The conference provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate and prevent violence based on using the Blueprints Models and Promising programs.

House Bill 10-1054 - School Safety Information in Higher Education - The general assembly found that the dissemination of safety information to students, faculty, and staff that reflects best practices for the institution may encourage students, faculty, and staff to respond appropriately and in coordination with school safety personnel in emergency situations.

House Bill 10-1336 was passed, allowing the Colorado School Safety Resource Center to accept gifts, grants, and donations to further serve Colorado schools.

2011

Providing Grant Resources to School Districts to Advance School Safety

- The Colorado School Safety Resource Center entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health to use existing funding to increase the technology, on-line learning delivery, and website capability of the Center.
- The funds were also used by the pilot site schools created under C.R.S.24-33.5-1803 to address their safety planning, school climate, and training needs.



- In addition, \$419,045 in funds were offered to Colorado school districts and BOCES through the Promotion of School Safety and Substance Abuse Prevention Grants in March 2011 to promote or enhance school safety or substance abuse prevention. The grant funding also served to promote or enhance bullying prevention, violence prevention, and positive school climates. The CSSRC administered thirty-seven grants with this funding between June and September 2011.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's (CDPHE) Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) and the Colorado Department of Education, held the third Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposium in Montrose.

Launch of Shakespeare & Violence Prevention Program, a collaborative partnership between the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Safe2Tell, the National Endowment of the Arts Shakespeare in American Communities, and University of Colorado at Boulder's Office for Outreach and Engagement.

- A synergy of art and science, this school-touring project combined professional Shakespeare performances with violence prevention research. Over 100,000 students throughout Colorado have experienced this program since its inception in 2011.
- Colorado Shakespeare Festival's touring program used live performance and the latest school violence research – students improved their Shakespeare literacy and learned intervention strategies they could use to effectively prevent violence and mistreatment they see happening around them.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool conducted School District Emergency Planning training in Denver, Grand Junction, and La Junta.

The I Love U Guys Foundation, established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes, collaborated on the first national Briefing on school safety in 2011. The Briefings have continued every year since with collaboration from various agencies, including the Office of the Attorney General, JeffCo R1 School District, and Adams 12 Five Star School District.

House Bill 11-1254 - Reduce Bullying in Schools was passed and created a grant program within the Colorado Department of Education.

- The bill led to a collaboration between the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Legacy Foundation (now Colorado Education Initiative), the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, along with non-profit agencies the Gill Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League, One Colorado, and, eventually, Facing History and Ourselves to conduct regional trainings across the state.
- By 2015, fifteen one-day trainings had been conducted across Colorado with over 1,500 school personnel and parents. All participants heard a national researcher, Dorothy Espalage, Ph.D., and participated in workshops on topics related to positive school climate.

Senate Bill 11-173 - Concerning Interoperable Communications in Schools was also passed in 2011.

- This bill required each board of education to establish a school response framework that consists of policies in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).



- To the extent possible, each public school was to create an all-hazard exercise program based on NIMS, conduct tabletop exercises and other exercises in collaboration with community partners from multiple disciplines, and, if possible, multiple jurisdictions to practice and assess preparedness and community interoperability with emergency agencies.

Senate Bill 11-266 – Concerning Background Checks for School Contractors was passed to further protect school students.

2012

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, under the new leadership of Christine Harms and in collaboration with other state and agency partners previously mentioned, expanded their regional trainings with three Positive School Climate Workshops, three Youth Substance Abuse Symposia, and the fourth Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention workshop.

The CSSRC launched their first two no-cost online courses to provide training without travel, especially to the rural districts within the state. Since that launch, 13 courses have been added, with over 8,000 people taking advantage of the training to date.

The CSSRC youth advisory council, Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²), was formed to provide a consistent student voice on school safety concerns. The Center has continued the youth council each year, except in 2018, when those funds supported three student/staff regional trainings in Pueblo, Ft. Morgan, and Grand Junction.

Blueprints for Violence Prevention Conference, San Antonio, April 2012.

- Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based methods to improve school climate and prevent violence, based on the Blueprints Models and Promising Programs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supported the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence as one of five designated Youth Violence Prevention Centers of Excellence in the nation to work in partnership with the Montbello community (2012-2016).

- Implemented evidence-based programs, practices, and policies in Montbello, including social emotional learning in the schools and family-based programs.
- Worked closely with partners from Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital to implement a violence risk screening tool.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool hosted two workshops on Crisis Management for member districts in the Haxtun and Prairie School Districts.

The "I Love U Guys" Foundation, established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes, introduced the Standard Reunification Method in 2012.

Senate Bill 12-79 Safe2Tell Legislation Passed to include all methods of reporting.

Senate Bill 12-036 Concerning Parental Consent for the Collection of Information from Students in Schools:

- A school or school district employee who requires participation in a survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation in a public school's curriculum or other official school activity shall obtain the written consent of a student's parent or legal guardian (except in certain



situations) prior to the student being given any survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation intended to reveal information, whether the information is personally identifiable or not, concerning the student or the student's parents or legal guardians.

- Nothing in this bill limits the ability of a school district to administer a suicide assessment or threat assessment.

The content of SB 12-046 (School Discipline) became an amendment to the School Finance Act (HB12-1345) on the last day of the 2012 Colorado legislative session. Governor John Hickenlooper signed this bill into law on May 19, 2012.

- The Colorado General Assembly declared that “zero-tolerance” policies have resulted in unnecessary expulsions, suspensions, and law enforcement referrals.
- This bill was an effort to allow school administrators and local boards to use their discretion to determine appropriate disciplinary response to each incident with policies that apply equally to all students. The bill included provisions for:
 - A conduct and discipline code requirement.
 - Guidelines on removal of a student from class.
 - Prohibition of students bringing or possessing dangerous weapons (with a revised definition), drugs, or other controlled substances to school, in a school vehicle, or during a school event.
 - Prohibition of students using or possessing tobacco products on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity.
 - Notifications of arrests by school law enforcement officers.
 - Reporting requirements for data on school cases handled by law enforcement and the district courts and with whom that data can be shared.
 - Additions to CRS 22-33-105 & CRS 22-33-106 around suspension, expulsion, and denial of admission.
 - Duties of the P.O.S.T. to establish standards for training of school resource officers.

2013

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment’s (CDPHE) Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) and the Colorado Department of Education, held the fifth Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposium in Grand Junction.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center sent out a School Safety Needs Assessment with a follow-up survey in 2017. Results of the 2013 survey can be accessed [here](#).

The CSSRC, with the help of school partners, created a training on Positive School Discipline. This was offered to school personnel in April and educated them on SB 12-046 and methods to address student discipline without suspensions or expulsions.



The Colorado School Safety Resource Center and the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool co-hosted a train-the-trainer workshop on Adult Sexual Misconduct. This workshop was offered by the U.S. Department of Education and allowed staff of both CSSRC and CSDSIP to be available to facilitate a two-hour training to any schools within the state on Adult Sexual Misconduct and how best to prevent it.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool then took that training to Lamar, Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Sterling, and Limon.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to launch the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development website, March 2013:

- Provided a registry of Blueprints-certified, evidence-based youth development programs designed to promote the health and well-being of children and teens.
- User-friendly website allowed users to search for programs that target specific age groups, risk factors, protective factors, and desired outcomes.

Tragically, Arapahoe High School experienced the shooting of one student by another student in 2013. Claire Davis was killed and the shooter died by suicide. The 2015 Colorado General Assembly voted to pass SB15-213 and SB15-214, which will be explained in the 2015 section.

Three separate reports on the incident and lessons learned were commissioned in the wake of the shooting. The reports were released in 2016 and further analyzed by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center that year. That analysis can be found in this document under those dates.

Senate Bill 13-138 - Concerning School Resource Officer Programs which clarified:

- School resource officers may carry guns on campuses and are to be familiar with the school response framework, the all-hazard exercise program, and interoperable communications of the school to which he or she is assigned.
- The School Safety Resource Center is to hire or contract for the services of an emergency response consultant with experience in law enforcement and school safety to provide guidance for schools, school resource officers, and other community partners for school building safety assessments and the use of best practices for school security, emergency preparedness and response, interoperable communications, and other provisions of the school response framework.

Senate Bill 13-230 - Budget and Expansion of School-Based Health Centers was appropriated in 2013. School-based health centers are located in schools throughout Colorado and provide primary medical and behavioral health care to children, youth, and young adults. As of 2019, there are 58 School-Based Health Centers in Colorado. Fifty-one are managed by CDPHE and the other seven are managed by a variety of agencies.

Senate Bill 13-283 - Concerning the Implementation of Amendment 64 and Tobacco Free Schools

- A study was ordered utilizing comprehensive school data, both statewide and by individual schools, including suspensions, expulsions, and police referrals related to drug use and sales, broken down by specific drug categories.



- A prohibition against the use of all tobacco products and all retail marijuana or retail marijuana products.

2014

In 2014, the Colorado Department of Education, in collaboration with the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, was awarded \$413,411 under a U.S. Department of Education, School Emergency Management Grant.

- The goal of the grant was to assist districts to enhance school emergency operations plans and to sustain the efforts by deepening partnerships across the state.
- With no-cost extensions between 2014 and 2017, 122 district/school teams completed the series of three one-day workshops at fourteen sites in Colorado.
- The Training Engagement Committee has continued partnerships to support school emergency management planning.

Colorado Attorney General John Suthers announced the launch of the Safe2Tell Education Toolkits.

- The toolkits provide Colorado students with age-appropriate resources to report school-safety concerns and showcase how Safe2Tell can help.
- Designed specifically for adoption by elementary schools and middle/high schools, the two toolkits provide educational resources that help students anonymously report any threatening behavior that endangers them, their friends, family, or communities.

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development Conference, Denver, April 2014. Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate, prevent violence, and promote healthy youth development based on using Blueprints Model and Promising Programs.

From 2014 on, both the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool and the CSSRC have offered the Adult Sexual Misconduct training by request.

First retail stores opened in January 2014 to sell marijuana to those 21 years of age and older following the enactment in 2010 of the Colorado Medical Marijuana Code to help license and regulate medication marijuana dispensaries.

Senate Bill 14-002 - Transferring the Safe2Tell Program to the Department of Law. On May 5, 2014, the Colorado General Assembly adopted Senate Bill 2014-002 (C.R.S. Section 24-31-601 et seq.), incorporating Safe2Tell under the Colorado Office of the Attorney General.

- This provided the necessary funding to ensure the Safe2Tell Colorado reporting avenues (phone, web, and text). Trainings, education, and awareness efforts remain available to Colorado students, schools, and communities.
- Colorado legislators came together and voted unanimously to pass this critical legislation, showing a bipartisan effort to creating safer schools and communities.
- Senate Bill 2014-002 was signed into law on May 21, 2014 by Governor John Hickenlooper and was enacted on August 8, 2014. Safe2Tell Colorado now operates as a state funded program of the Colorado Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General.



Senate Bill 14-088 - Creation of the Suicide Prevention Commission within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP).

- The Suicide Prevention Commission serves as the interface between the public and private sectors in establishing statewide suicide prevention priorities that are data-driven and evidence-based.
- By focusing on current resources and expanding the network of partnerships across the state, the commission boosts the efforts of Colorado's Office of Suicide Prevention and makes annual reports to the governor as well as the General Assembly (from the OSP website).

Senate Bill 14-215 Marijuana - taxes on marijuana and marijuana products and the disposition of moneys collected

- Created the School Health Professional Grant Program in the Department of Education to provide matching grants to education providers to enhance the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools throughout the state and facilitate better screening, education, and referral care coordination for secondary school students with substance abuse and other behavioral health needs.

2015

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Safe2Tell, reinstated the annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit in October 2015.

- The Summit has become an annual two-day training event held during October, as that is National and Colorado Safe Schools Month.

The Gill Foundation's Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado awarded the Colorado School Safety Resource Center two grants for work in schools.

- The purpose of the grants was to assist schools in deepening their school climate work.
- Twenty-one schools attended a one-day workshop and then received the assistance of a technical advisor from the Anti-Defamation League, the Colorado Education Initiative, or the School Safety Resource Center to conduct climate surveys, analyze their data, and initiate a project to enhance their school's climate.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's (CDPHE) Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) and the Colorado Department of Education, held the sixth Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposium in Thornton.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence collaborates with Colorado State University's Prevention Research Center to host a meeting and lecture by prevention scientist, Anthony Biglan, Ph.D., focused on promoting nurturing environments in schools and communities, Denver, April 2015

- Over 80 people attended this event that established the groundwork for working in collaboration across Colorado universities to support prevention science.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence collaborates with Random Acts of Kindness and the Anschutz Foundation to sponsor the first Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum, Aurora, May 2015



- The purpose of the Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum was to advance the understanding of social emotional learning among Colorado practitioners and initiate forward movement on developing a collaborative of partners throughout the Front Range community to promote best practices in SEL that result in “whole child” positive outcomes for students.

Safe2Tell introduced Mobile App Reporting.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool conducted School Safety Symposia in Loveland and Pueblo. Staff from CSDSIP also participated in the Architectural School Security Summit and offered the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Manual (SRM) training of the “I Love U Guys” Foundation in Greeley, Swink, and West Grand.

The “I Love U Guys” Foundation, established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes, released Version 2 of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) in 2015. By 2019, over 25,000 schools, districts, departments, and agencies are using the SRP in over a dozen counties.

Senate Bill 15-01 Medical Marijuana

- A student shall not possess or self-administer medical marijuana on school grounds, upon a school bus, or at any school-sponsored event;
- Except that a school district may adopt a policy, in accordance with statute that authorizes a student's parent or a medical professional who accompanies a student to school, on the school bus, or to any school-sponsored event and assists the student with the administration of medical marijuana to possess and administer medical marijuana to the student in an appropriate location on school grounds, upon a school bus, or at any school-sponsored event.

Senate Bill 15-020-Education to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Assault

- Mandates the Colorado School Safety Resource Center to provide materials and training as described in statute to personnel in school districts and charter schools, parents, and students regarding the awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse and assault.
- The CSSRC director shall appoint a person to the Center to collect and provide materials and to provide training to school personnel, parents, and students regarding preventing child sexual abuse and assault, including materials and training that are specific to preventing sexual abuse and assault of children with developmental disabilities.

Senate Bill 15-184 No Detention for Failure to Attend School

- This bill increased the timeline of pilot programs within the juvenile court system to address truancy,
- Using detention only as a last resort after exhausting all other reasonable sanctions and, when imposing detention, appropriately reducing the number of days served.

Senate Bill 15-213 - Waive Governmental Immunity for Acts of School Violence (Claire Davis School Safety Act)

- This act imposes a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for schools if a school fails to exercise “reasonable care” to protect all students, faculty, and staff from “reasonably foreseeable” acts of violence that occur at school or a school-sponsored activity.



- “Crime of violence” means that the person committed, conspired to commit, or attempted to commit one of the following crimes: murder; first degree assault; or a felony sexual assault as defined in section C.R.S. 18-3-402.
- Discovery components of the bill became effective in 2015; compensatory damages went into effect on July 1, 2017.

Senate Bill 15-214 – Creating a Legislative Committee on Safety in Schools. The Committee was tasked to:

- Study issues relating to school safety and the prevention of threats to the safety of students, teachers, administrators, employees, and volunteers who are present on the grounds of each public and private school in the state.
- Study and evaluate programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis.
- Develop standardized criteria for school personnel to use in assessing the potential threat posed by one or more students.
- Study and evaluate the implementation of Senate Bill 15-213.
- No recommendations or legislation came out of the work of the SB15-214 committee.

2016

Three reports are commissioned on the shooting at Arapahoe High School in order to provide lessons learned. The SB15-214 Committee heard summaries of the three reports on January 22, 2016.

- The [Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence](#) created a report on the lessons learned from the Arapahoe High School shooting that was funded by the Denver Foundation. The purpose of the report was to understand the school’s threat assessment procedures and responses and the lessons learned that could improve school violence prevention.
- Littleton Public Schools commissioned reports from [Drs. Linda Kanan and John Nicoletti](#) and [Safe Havens International](#).

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center sent out a general invitation to anyone who wanted to review the three Arapahoe High School reports and make recommendations for schools. Thirty-five people made up the review committee. [The report can be accessed here.](#) Some of the findings included:

- Only five recommendations were common to all three reports: utilization of climate surveys; written memoranda of understanding between school districts and law enforcement agencies about information sharing; schools being training in the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act; utilization of the 11 questions of the U.S. Secret Service in the threat assessment process; and encouraging schools to use Safe2Tell.
- However, of the 158 total recommendations between all three reports, the review committee agreed with 153 of those recommendations.
- The review committee also agreed that schools would need additional resources in order to fulfill 139 of the recommendations.
- Rural schools would be at the greatest disadvantage in fulfilling the recommendations.



- The SB15-214 Interim Committee heard highlights of this work group’s recommendations at the September 13, 2016 meeting.

With federal Formula Grant Funds from the Division of Criminal Justice, the Colorado School Safety Resource Center conducted six one-day workshops between 2016 and 2017 on Restorative Practices for School Personnel.

- Approximately 310 individuals participated in the workshops.
- A follow-up survey revealed participants were either motivated to continue the restorative practice work already occurring in their schools or to initiate this work during the current school year.

The CSSRC hosted the first annual Child Sexual Abuse Prevention workshop during Colorado and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center is mandated to serve all schools in Colorado including institutions of higher education. In 2015, the Center started a networking group for campus personnel responsible for school safety. To support these professionals, the CSSRC held the first one-day IHE Summer Symposium on June 9, 2016. These Summer Safety Symposia have become an annual event.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment’s (CDPHE) Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) and the Colorado Department of Education, held the seventh and eighth Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposia in Grand Junction and Colorado Springs.

The National Institute of Justice funded the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence to implement and evaluate the Safe Communities Safe Schools (SCSS) model, a comprehensive approach to school safety (2016-2019).

- Researchers are currently implementing the model in 44 middle schools in Colorado with the purpose of evaluating the feasibility and impact of the model through a randomized control trial.
- Using evidence-based practices and a public health approach, the model provides educators with a framework and processes for gathering and sharing information about concerning youth, identifying and addressing the mental health and behavioral needs of youth, and creating and sustaining a positive school climate. The SCSS model has four main goals:
 - Promote positive school climate and increase school safety
 - Develop effective systems to address student mental health and safety concerns
 - Increase student prosocial behaviors (e.g., positive peer relationships, academic achievement)
 - Reduce student problem behaviors (e.g., delinquency, bullying, violence), as well as mental health and safety concerns.

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development Conference, Denver, April 2016. Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate and prevent violence based on the Blueprints Model and Promising Programs.



The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence collaborates with the Anschutz Foundation to sponsor the Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum, Aurora, June 2016.

- The purpose of the Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum was to advance the understanding of social emotional learning among Colorado practitioners and initiate forward movement on developing a collaborative of partners throughout the Front Range community to promote best practices in SEL that result in “whole child” positive outcomes for students.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence as one of five designated Youth Violence Prevention Centers of Excellence (YVPC-D) in the nation, with local community organizations in the Montbello and Park Hill neighborhoods of Denver, Colorado, to prevent youth violence (2016-2021).

- YVPC-D utilizes the [Communities That Care](#) (CTC) model, an evidence-based process that engages and mobilizes local communities to make data-driven decisions to address critical health issues in the community.
- CSPV collaborates with *Steps to Success* in Montbello and *Park Hill Strong* in Park Hill, two local organizations which build and maintain community coalitions to support and sustain youth violence prevention efforts.
- CSPV works with partners from Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital to implement a violence risk screening tool.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment launches Communities That Care in 47 Colorado communities. The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence serves as the external evaluator and provides technical assistance for this initiative (2016-present).

- CTC communities focus on primary prevention by creating policy, systems, and environmental changes and integrating evidence-based programs locally. These efforts aim to improve protective factors and reduce risk factors and adverse health outcomes in Colorado youth.
- CSPV, along with other collaborative partners, supports 47 CTC communities throughout Colorado. Each site has a coalition to carry out the CTC process and a facilitator who coordinates all CTC efforts in their community.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool continued to host training by the “I Love U Guys” Foundation on the SRP/SRM in Bayfield, Cortez, Lamar, Monte Vista, and the Northeastern BOCES. Additionally, they presented a Safety Symposium in Colorado Springs in 2016.

The “I Love U Guys” Foundation, established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes, updated the Standard Reunification Method in 2016.

House Bill 16-1063 Mental Health Professional Disclosure on School Safety.

- This bill encourages mental health providers who are aware of a clear and significant threat of danger to a school to report that to the appropriate school officials and law enforcement.
- There can be no penalties to the mental health provider for reporting or not reporting under this bill.

House Bill 16-1373 Student Medical Marijuana Use at School

- This bill outlines precautions to be taken when administering medical marijuana at schools.



- It also allows districts to create policies for staff to administer medical marijuana but does not require schools to do so.

House Bill 16-1436 No Edible Marijuana Products Shaped to Entice Kids

This bill:

- Prohibits the production and sale of edible medical marijuana-infused products that are in the distinct shape of a human, animal, or fruit.
- Geometric shapes and products that are simply fruit flavored are not considered fruit.
- Products in the shape of a marijuana leaf or logo are permissible.

Senate Bill 16-147 Suicide Prevention Through Zero Suicide Model

- A number of organizations, including physical and mental health clinics, within our educational system are encouraged to adopt the Colorado Plan for Zero Suicide.
- Included relevant training and other services as part of the Colorado Suicide Prevention Plan.

Senate Bill 16-193 Safe2Tell to Provide Free Materials and Training

- Funded S2T to provide materials to any school and youth organizations within the state and provide training to all youth service entities.

2017

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center sent out a School Safety Needs Assessment follow-up survey in 2017, having previously gathered information from schools in 2010 and 2013. Results of the 2017 survey can be accessed [here](#).

With grant funding from the Gay and Lesbian Fund of the Gill Foundation, the CSSRC held three Student/Staff Safety Symposia in Durango, Grand Junction, and Denver.

- This was an opportunity for adults and students to hold conversations about the safety concerns of youth and for students to create projects to address some of those concerns.

The Colorado Office of the Attorney General announced funding for youth suicide prevention programs in order to assist schools with the implementation of these programs. The Attorney General's Office provided \$200,000 in funding that would allow up to 40 schools in Colorado to implement the Sources of Strength program.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence collaborated with Random Acts of Kindness and the Anschutz Foundation to sponsor the Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum, Aurora, June 2017.

- The purpose of the Colorado Social Emotional Learning Forum was to advance the understanding of social emotional learning among Colorado practitioners and initiate forward movement on developing a collaborative of partners throughout the Front Range community to promote best practices in SEL that result in “whole child” positive outcomes for students.
- The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence collaborated with the University of Denver School of Social Work Kickoff Event Ensuring Healthy Development for Youth in Colorado, Denver, October 2017.

- The event highlighted Unleashing the Power of Prevention, a national initiative that provides a blueprint for extending and implementing effective preventive interventions and policies, which will provide the guiding framework for the event’s panels and interactive activities.
- Featured panels of national and state prevention scientists, policy experts, and practitioners who engaged the audience in a discussion of: 1) prevention initiatives and resources in Colorado; 2) strategies to increase infrastructure support for preventive interventions; and 3) implementation of the Communities that Care prevention initiative in Colorado.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool continued to offer the “I Love U Guys” Foundation trainings on SRP/SRM in Canon City, Limon, Norwood, and Pikes Peak BOCES. 2017 was also the start of workshops on Digital Threat Assessment hosted by CSDSIP featuring staff from the Safer Schools Together organization. These workshops took place in Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction, Durango, Greeley, Denver, and Pueblo.

House Bill 17-1276 Restraints on Public School Students

- With certain exceptions, the bill prohibits the use of a chemical, mechanical, or prone restraint upon a public school student.
- Each school district shall require any school employee or volunteer who uses any type of restraint on a student to submit a written report of the incident to the administration of the school not later than one school day after the incident occurred.

House Bill 17-1302 Juvenile Sexting Crime – This bill implements changes to the way prosecutors can address juvenile "sexting" cases.

- Prior to the enactment of this law, prosecutors’ only option for charging teen sexting behavior, even among consenting friends, was felony exploitation of a child.
- The new law, which applies to behavior on or after January 1, 2018, is a tiered approach that separates abusive forms of sexting, such as malicious distribution, from consensual electronic exchange of explicit images.
- The Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) was mandated to create a comprehensive education program to distribute to schools by June 2018, regarding risks, consequences, and defenses to charges of sexting behavior.
- CSSRC released a brief video and summary to help school staff, school resource officers, and the public understand this new, tiered system.

Senate Bill 17-068 School Counselors Early Support for Students

- Concerning early support for student success through access to school counselors.
- Serving all grades through the behavioral health care professional matching grant program and the school counselor corps grant program.
- This bill expanded SB14-215 to allow grant funds to be used for elementary school health providers.

Senate Bill 17-291 School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board Sunset

- The bill implements the recommendations of the sunset review and report on the School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board (board).



- Eliminating the repeal date of the board and extending the board through September 1, 2022.

2018

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center celebrated 10 years of service to Colorado schools at the annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit in October. Former Governor Bill Ritter was the honorary speaker for the event and many former CSSRC Advisory Board members joined the participants for a luncheon celebration.

CSSRC staff continued the Student/Staff Safety Summits with workshops in Pueblo, Fort Morgan, and Grant Junction.

Continuing statistics on the increase in youth suicide motivated the Center, in partnership with CDPHE/OSP, CDE, and the Office of the Attorney General, to host two one-day workshops for school staff on youth suicide in February and September.

The 11 regional trainings held in 2018 by the CSSRC also included one day on Youth Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention in collaboration with the Office of Behavioral Health from the Colorado Department of Human Services. This was held in June 2018.

The Director of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center was invited to participate in both the 2018 School Security Roundtable Meeting hosted by the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Education's Federal Commission on School Safety's listening stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

On January 11, 2018, Attorney General Cynthia Coffman [released an opinion paper on the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). "The Opinion addresses misconceptions about FERPA's scope to teachers, administrators, and other school staff that they may proactively respond to safety concerns, including threats of school violence, without violating students' and families' privacy rights."

Since 1999, the *Colorado School Violence Prevention Legal Manual*, prepared by the Attorney General's Office, has been a source of information on the legal tools available to school administrators and personnel committed to creating a safe learning environment and preventing school-related violence. The manual was last updated in 2018 and is available online through this link:

https://coag.gov/sites/default/files/filefield_paths/final_as_of_october_11_2018.pdf

The Attorney General's office also commissioned a report on youth suicide in four Colorado counties. That report can be accessed here:

https://coag.gov/sites/default/files/final_youth_suicide_in_colorado_report_10.01.18.pdf

The Colorado Attorney General's Office commissioned the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence to produce the *Colorado School Safety Guide 2018*.

- The guide includes information on evidence-based programs and practices for promoting safety and preventing violence in school settings.
- The guide can be found online at https://coag.gov/sites/default/files/coloradoag_schoolsafetyguide_final_electronic.pdf



William Woodward from the Center for the Study & Prevention of Violence presents TEDx Talk: *School Shootings Can Be Prevented—Here’s How*. The video can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89XeX4eeulw>

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development Conference, Denver, May 2018. Provided information to practitioners and policy makers about research-based ways to improve school climate and prevent violence based on the Blueprints Model and Promising Programs.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool hosted the “I Love U Guys” Foundation SRP/SRM trainings in DeBeque, Ignacio, Pawnee, Ridgeway, and the Southeastern BOCES. Two Violence Threat Risk Assessment trainings were held in Denver and Montrose and Basic and Advanced Digital Threat Assessment trainings were held in Denver.

The “I Love U Guys” Foundation, established in October of 2006 by the parents of Emily Keyes, enhanced the Standard Reunification Method in 2018.

House Bill 18-1064 Training Program for Prevention Child Sexual Abuse

- Allows funds from the Colorado Children's Trust Fund (CCTF) to be used to develop, promote, maintain, and monitor a research-based child sexual abuse prevention training model.
- The bill expands current training to include all persons who interact with young children, including parents, childcare providers, teachers, and any other mandatory reporter.
- Finally, the bill adds a component to the voluntary child care credentialing system for education and training on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

House Bill 18- 1128 Protections for Consumer Data Privacy

- Except for conduct in compliance with applicable federal, state, or local law, the bill requires covered and governmental entities in Colorado that maintain paper or electronic documents (documents) that contain personal identifying information (personal information) to develop and maintain a written policy for the destruction and proper disposal of those documents. Entities that maintain, own, or license personal information, including those that use a nonaffiliated third party as a service provider, shall implement and maintain reasonable security procedures for personal information.
- The notification laws governing disclosure of unauthorized acquisitions of unencrypted and encrypted computerized data are expanded to specify who must be notified following such unauthorized acquisition and what must be included in such notification

House Bill 1156 Limit Penalties for Juvenile Truancy

- Restricts the use of youth detention for youths who are habitually truant by requiring that:
 - the court provide all procedural protections mandated in the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure when instituting a contempt of court proceeding.
 - a judge or magistrate, when issuing a warrant, allow for the release of the youth from temporary custody on an unsecured personal recognizance bond that is cosigned by a parent or guardian.
 - any warrant that directs a youth be arrested must indicate that the arrest must occur during court hours.



- detention, as a sanction for contempt of court, only be used in the best interests of the youth and that specific factors should be considered.
- any sentence to detention for contempt of court cannot be more than 48 hours.
- truancy plans developed by school districts must use appropriate sanctions other than detention.
- The bill also created a rebuttable presumption that a youth must receive credit for time served and, if the court rebuts this presumption, it must be explained on record.
- Finally, the bill clarifies that the Department of Human Services (DHS) can use its appropriation for services to juveniles on youth who are habitually truant and under the age of seventeen.

House Bill 1269 Parent Notice for Student Safety and Protection

- The bill set procedures for local education providers (LEPs) to notify parents of charges brought against current or former employees who had contact with students. Under current law, LEPs receive routine reports from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) relating to employees who have previously been subject to a background check.
- When a LEP receives a report from the CBI that an employee has been arrested for specified offenses, the LEP is required to monitor the criminal proceedings and notify parents if an employee has been charged.
- The notification must occur within two school days after a preliminary hearing is held or waived by the employee, or, if the offense is not eligible for a preliminary hearing, within two days after the employee is charged.
- The LEP must also notify parents within two school days of confirming the disposition of the charges.
- Notifications may be delayed if requested by law enforcement. The LEP must notify parents if an employee is charged with certain outlined offenses.
- The bill specifies the contents of the notification, including a statement that the employee is presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- The notification may not disclose the identity of the alleged victims and must be in the same form that the LEP typically uses to send important information to parents.

House Bill 1413 Create School Safety Grant Program

- Created the enhanced school safety incident response grant program in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety (grant program) to provide funding for research, program development, and training to improve school safety incident response.
- The funding can be used by recipients to provide training, develop best practices and protocols, conduct research and development, and upgrade technology and infrastructure used for training related to school safety incident response.
- Applications for the grants must be made by October 1 and grants must be awarded by December 1 for each year of the grant program.



- Applicants must be nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations and must have experience providing school safety incident response training and working with law enforcement, first responders, school districts, and school personnel on issues related to school safety incident response.
- This award was made in 2018 to the Frank DeAngelis Center for Community Safety.

House Bill 1434 Safe2Tell Program New Duties and Annual Report

This bill expands Safe2Tell program duties to:

- Provide training and support to all preschool, elementary, and secondary schools and school districts regarding Safe2Tell. This training is to include answering questions and discussing reports received by the program.
- Provide training materials to schools aimed at preventing the misuse of the program.
- Provide technical assistance and support to law enforcement and school officials when misuse of the program occurs.
- Analyze and follow-up with law enforcement and schools to determine the outcome of a report made to the program.
- On or before December 1, 2019, and each December thereafter, the program must analyze data from the previous year and prepare a written report for the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 18-151 Colorado Department of Education Bullying Policies Research (Ashawnty's Law)

- Requires CDE, in coordination with the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, to research approaches, policies, and practices in other states related to bullying prevention and education, and to develop a model bullying prevention and education policy after considering its research.
- The Department is required to publish the results of that research and its model policy on the department's website by July 1, 2019, as guidance for school districts, charter schools, and the Charter School Institute in developing and implementing bullying prevention and education policies.
- The research and model policy must be updated and published every 3 years.

Senate Bill 18-158 School Access to Interoperable Communication Technology

- Created the school access for emergency response grant program in DHSEM to provide funding for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance, and training to allow for seamless communications between existing school communications systems and first responder communications systems.
- Grant recipients may use the money received through the grant program to deliver training programs to teach effective communications with first responders in an emergency, to implement an interoperable technology solution to provide or upgrade a system for effective communication with first responders in an emergency, to maintain, improve, or provide interoperable communications hardware or software, and for any necessary radio system capacity expansions where school loading has been determined to have a significant impact on public safety system loading.
- The grant provided for \$5 million for six years.



- Twelve grants were awarded in December 2018.

Senate Bill 18-269 School Security Disbursement Program

- A school district, charter school, institute charter school, or board of cooperative services may apply for a disbursement by submitting an application to the department.
- A disbursement recipient may use the money for one or more of the purposes specified in the bill, which include building improvements to enhance security and training for school personnel.
- 95 local education agencies applied with 305 projects considered.
- All received at least some of their requested funding.
- Awardees were announced in February 2019.

Senate Bill 18-272 Crisis and Suicide Prevention Training Grant Program

- Codifies the existing Office of Suicide Prevention into law
- Creates the crisis and suicide prevention training grant program in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to provide assistance to public schools and school districts to annually provide comprehensive crisis and suicide prevention training for all teachers and staff.
- These funds were disbursed in November 2018 to 17 schools.

2019

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center hosted a one-day threat assessment regional training in February with the nationally recognized expert Peter Langman, Ph.D. Safer Schools Together Vice President Sam Jingfors also trained participants in Digital Threat Assessment. Additionally, the Center continues to train individual school teams in threat assessment with over 120 trainings on this topic to date, both within and outside of Colorado.

On March 15, 2019, a collaboration between CSSRC, CDPHE/OSP, and CDE hosted a one-day training entitled Building Resiliency for Suicide and Substance Abuse Prevention with author Jonathan Singer, Ph.D. and Kent McLarren, Executive Director of Rise Above Colorado.

On April 16, 2019, the Center for Bioethics & Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the Colorado School of Public Health and its Program for Injury Prevention, Education & Research (PIPER), and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder will present a one-day workshop in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School tragedy. This event will explore what we have learned about preventing school violence since the Columbine event, what questions remain and, perhaps most importantly, what is preventing us from implementing what we have learned to end these tragedies.

Cross University Prevention Partnership forms in Colorado (2019). This prevention partnership is led by representatives from Colorado State University, University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Denver.

- An interdisciplinary group of researchers, practitioners, and policy experts interested in strategically advancing prevention practice, policy, and research.



- The partnership promotes the use of tested and effective programs and policies aimed at preventing behavioral health problems in young people from birth to age 25. These problems include behaviors like anxiety and depression, self-inflicted injury, risky sexual behaviors, unwanted pregnancies, obesity, risky driving, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, delinquent behavior, violence, and aggressive behavior, and school dropout.

The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool continued to host the “I Love U Guys” SRP/SRM trainings with one in Steamboat Springs. A Violence Threat Risk Assessment training was held in Colorado Springs with both a Basic and Advanced Digital Threat Assessment Training at the same site. CSDSIP partnered with the Frank DeAngelis School Safety Center to host a one-day training in Salida. Adult Sexual Misconduct trainings continue as requested.

For further information on the work of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center since it was established in 2008, please see the annual Legislative Reports that can be [accessed here](#).

