

# Legislative Report 2018

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

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

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



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

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# Executive Summary

## Mission

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

The CSSRC has six staff positions as of November 2015 and provides consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance to foster safe and secure learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention to prevent crises. Information and resources from the CSSRC are available to all schools, school officials, and community partners throughout Colorado. The Center supports schools and local agencies in the five missions of school safety preparedness: prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery (as outlined by the U.S. Department of Education, the Presidential Directive—National Preparedness Directive PPD-8).

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

## Key Accomplishments in 2018

The CSSRC is proud to have reached the 10th anniversary of the inception of the Center and celebrated this milestone during the 2018 Colorado Safe Schools Summit. Since 2008, the Center has provided a central and readily available repository of resources for school safety-related issues. Consistent with its legislative mandate, the Center has worked to deliver services and foster collaborations, connecting governmental agencies and community partners. The following are highlights of key accomplishments for 2018.

- **2018 Regional Trainings** - During 2018, the Center was able to host, or co-host, 11 regional trainings across the state. These included:
  - Two **Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposia** with partners from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Suicide Prevention along with the Colorado Department of Education. The Colorado Attorney General’s office also collaborated on the fall symposium. These were held in February and September.
  - A **Trauma Informed Care for Educators** workshop in March.
  - The third annual **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium** in April.
  - The annual **Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium** in June.
  - An **Advanced Restorative Practices** workshop in June.
  - **Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Symposium**, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Office of Behavioral Health.
  - The highly successful two-day **2018 Colorado Safe Schools Summit** in October, during which the **10th Anniversary of the Center** was celebrated.
  - Three **Student/Staff Safety Summits** in Grand Junction, Fort Morgan, and Pueblo during November and December.
- **Enhancing Electronic Communication Capability** – The **CSSRC’s updated website** continues to be a dynamic hub of current and topical information for schools, emergency responders, community partners, and the general public. Please see (<http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter> or <http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>) .
  - a. The website is continually updated and modified to include more resources and to improve searchability. Additionally, a monthly E-Update newsletter is distributed to a **Listserv that now includes over 5,918 members**

representing various stakeholder groups around the state. The newsletter includes school safety news and resources and highlights upcoming training and grant opportunities.

b. In 2012, the Center initiated a **Twitter account**, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>, to update followers between issues of the E-Update. Currently there are **778** followers of the CSSRC Twitter account.

● **Providing Training, Consultation, and Resources** – The Center provides both regional and school site trainings across the state throughout the year.

a. Along with the **regional trainings**, the CSSRC continues to provide various staff development, topic-focused trainings and consultations in individual districts, schools, and charter schools across the state. In 2018, **165 trainings** or workshops were provided or co-hosted on a variety of school safety topics. **8,192** participants were trained in 2018, bringing the total number of people trained since the Center opened to **46,078**.

b. **Creation and Delivery of Online Learning** – During 2012, the Center launched its first two **online training courses** for school personnel. These interactive courses provide training and resources without travel. Participants also have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits.

In 2018, the Center was able to add two new online courses to the menu of thirteen courses already available to anyone at no cost. The first is a course designed in response to 2017 juvenile sexting legislation that mandated the Center have training available for any youth reported to authorities for sexting. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist collaborated with experts across the state to create the online course, ***Sexting: What You Need to Know***. Additional resources to assist educators in utilizing this course in their classrooms have also been posted to the [CSSRC website](#). Visit the course ***Sexting: What You Need to Know*** on CO Train by clicking [here](#).

The School Outreach Consultant created a course for non-mental health school staff in an attempt to help address the increase in youth suicide. That course is entitled ***Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs***. It is designed to give anyone who takes the course information on risk factors, warning signs, and suggestions of how best to engage and support a student with thoughts of suicide and successfully refer them to a mental health professional. Visit this course on CO Train by clicking [here](#).

c. To date, there are fifteen online courses which have been accessed by approximately **3,580** people in 2018.

● **Resources** - During 2018, the CSSRC received and responded to approximately **2,182 contacts for resources, trainings, consultations, and technical assistance** on a variety of school safety-related issues. The Center distributed **20,029 hard copies of 398 school safety-related resources** demonstrating the continued utilization of the Center as a Colorado resource.

● **Developing and Deepening Collaborations** – Recognizing the need to maximize services and resources to schools, the Center has been working with a multitude of agencies since its inception in 2008.

a. In 2018, Center staff participated in regular meetings with 36 organizations and presented at 12 statewide conferences.

b. New this year were two working groups to support Colorado schools. One group first met in January to create best practice recommendations for district suicide prevention strategies. The group's recommendations can be accessed [here](#). The mental health providers from this group have continued to meet periodically to discuss ongoing efforts on this topic.

The second group, made up of school mental health professionals and security personnel, has met a number of times in 2018 to revisit the threat assessment policies, procedures, and protocols utilized in Colorado schools, as well as compare them to other state and national models. Center staff have also been consulting with federal partners and professionals from national organizations to inform Colorado efforts around threat assessment. This work continues and committee recommendations will be released in 2019.

The Center continues to facilitate the Institutions of Higher Education Networking Group. In 2018, a decision was made to redirect funding for the Youth Advisory Council, known as Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES<sup>2</sup>), to the Student/Staff Safety Summits as a way to engage more students in discussions around school safety issues. A decision will be made as to whether to return to the YES<sup>2</sup> format or the summits for youth involvement in 2019.

## Looking Forward

Since the passage of SB15-213 “Concerning the Limited Waiver of Governmental Immunity for Claims Involving Public Schools for Injuries Resulting from Incidents of School Violence” (the Claire Davis School Safety Act) and with the seemingly unstoppable occurrence of national school tragedies, the Center has seen, and will likely continue to see, an increase in the number of requests for both threat assessment and adult sexual misconduct training.

In 2018, the Colorado General Assembly passed two bills to increase funding for school safety in Colorado schools. The School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) grant (SB18-158) was created to enhance interoperability between school districts and their community emergency responders. Grant applications were due on December 3, 2018, and the grant work will start in early 2019. Twelve districts covering frontier, rural, suburban, and urban districts were awarded the first SAFER grants. This \$5M funding will continue for five additional years.

The Legislature also created the \$29.5M School Security Disbursement grant program (SB18-269). Applications for this grant are due in January 2019 and this one-time funding will be awarded later in the new year. Although CSSRC staff have been involved in alerting the schools to these opportunities and participating in the grant review committees, the grants are being managed by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety, as that office has the experience and capacity to manage such large funding streams.

Although schools and state agencies are working tirelessly to prevent youth suicide, the problem persists. In 2018, the Center addressed this concern with two symposia, a new online course, and an ongoing working group to address mental health concerns and thoughts of suicide. The 2018 Colorado Legislature saw fit to provide \$400,000 in grant funding (SB18-272), which will be awarded to and utilized by our schools in 2019. This grant program is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Suicide Prevention. These efforts and more need to continue until this trend is reversed.

Center staff continue to experience the positive effect on engagement from our rural school partners since the utilization of the School Emergency Management Grant, which ended in 2017. Requests for training and technical assistance from schools across the state are tracking at about the same rate as last year. A goal of the Center, when funding is available, is to establish regional representatives in outlying areas around the state for increased support to the rural districts.

The CSSRC will continue to provide best practice consultation, training, resources, and technical assistance to schools within the state. This work is never done by the CSSRC alone, rather the Center staff rely on the collaborations built with other state agencies, school districts, and non-profit organizations fostered over the last 10 years. Nationally, Colorado is at the forefront when it comes to school safety with the Center considered a leader. Collaborations with federal agencies and national organizations will continue in an effort to bring the best to Colorado schools and assist others across the country.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter](http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter) or [www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC](http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC)  
Colorado School Safety Resource Center  
Department of Public Safety  
303-239-4435  
[CDPS\\_School\\_Safety\\_Center@state.co.us](mailto:CDPS_School_Safety_Center@state.co.us)

# Legislative Report 2018

The following report outlines the activities, efficacy, and value of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC – also referred to as the “Center”), as created by [CRS §§24-33.5-1801](#), *et seq.* This report provides details as to the Center’s operation, including the Advisory Board, training and resources available to schools, the important issues being studied by work groups created through the Center, and the significant outreach and alliances that have been developed to enhance school safety in Colorado during 2018. Additional information may be obtained through the CSSRC website: <http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter>

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

## Operation of the Center

### Advisory Board

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	APPOINTED BY
<b>Greg Busch</b>	Emergency Management Director	Colorado Community College System	Executive Director of Colorado Community College System
<b>Officer Kelly Jacobsen</b>	School Resource Officer	Westminster School District & City of Westminster Police Department	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Steve Fast</b>	Executive Director	Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Vacant</b>		Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health	Executive Director of Human Services
<b>Jamie Haukeness</b>	Principal	Cortez Middle School	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Jarrold Hindman, Chair</b>	Deputy Chief	Office of Violence & Injury Prevention, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
<b>Sheriff Matt Lewis</b>	Sheriff	Mesa County	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Lorrie Odom</b>	Vice President for Programs	Colorado PTA	Governor
<b>Kathy Plomer</b>	Adams 12 Five Star School Board	CASB Board of Education	Colorado Association of School Boards

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	Executive Director	Safe2Tell, Colorado Department of Law	Attorney General
<b>Mark Pokorny</b>	Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education
<b>Lynne DeSousa</b>	Colorado PBIS Statewide Coordinator	Colorado Department of Education	Commissioner of Education
<b>Jenny Schoen</b>	Teacher	Littleton Public Schools	Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety
<b>Carolena Steen</b>	Assistant Superintendent	Cheyenne Mtn. School District	Commissioner of Education
<b>Melanie Voegeli-Morris</b>	Mental Health and Prevention Coordinator	Poudre School District	Commissioner of Education
<b>George Welsh</b>	Superintendent	Cañon City School District Fremont RE-1	Commissioner of Education
<b>Chris Wilderman, Secretary</b>	Director - Safe & Sustainable Environments	Adams 12 School District	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Meg Williams</b>	Manager - Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance	Colorado Department of Public Safety	Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety
<b>Dave Young</b>	District Attorney	17 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	Governor

The Advisory Board meets four times during each year and receives regular updates on the activities of the Center. Advisory Board Members have provided significant input and advice about the Center's activities, mission, and vision. The Advisory Board approved operating bylaws on June 1, 2010.

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

All Advisory Board meeting agendas, notes and, bylaws are posted on the CSSRC website: <http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter> or <http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC>.

## Vision and Mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

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

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

The mission of the Center, as defined in legislation, is significant and wide reaching. During the 2017-18 school year there were 910,280 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools in our state, from 185 local education agencies (LEAs). The state has approximately 1,888 total pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools, 250 charter schools, and 42 online schools. The Colorado Department of Education has identified 133 of the 185 LEAs with an enrollment of fewer than 2,000 students. Of these, 109 had an enrollment fewer than 1,000 students. The CSSRC is of particular assistance to these smaller districts and non-public schools by providing needed services and resources that likely are not otherwise available.

In the Colorado higher education system, there are 31 public two- and four-year institutions and an additional 457 private institutions and technical schools educating approximately 406,037 students. Initially, the Advisory Board had prioritized the kindergarten-12th grade mission of the Center during the earliest phases of operation. Since 2014, the outreach of the Center has been expanded to include institutions of higher education.

## Staff of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

As of 2015, the Center has six positions. Christine R. Harms, MS, the first School Outreach Consultant for the Center, was appointed Director in January of 2012. As Director, she is responsible for supervising and directing all activities, programs, budget, and personnel issues of the Center and reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Kevin Rants.

Dustin Hunter, MA, serves as the Center's School Outreach Consultant, providing consultation with schools and others concerned with school safety. He also provides training and workshops on topics of high interest and need, establishing and maintaining networks and grant writing. With a master's degree in psychology, Mr. Hunter concentrates on prevention and response phases of school safety. He also co-facilitates the Center's youth advisory council (YES<sup>2</sup>) with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist. He joined the Center in August 2017.

Brad Stiles joined the team in November of 2013, with the passage of SB13-138, as the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant. This expanded the Center's outreach to more emergency responders in the state. He has participated in active shooter trainings and has consulted with numerous schools on their emergency operations plans. He has taken a leadership role in the outreach to institutions of higher education and is the lead trainer on the threat assessment work. Mr. Stiles is a former law enforcement officer with a graduate degree in emergency management.

In the 2015 legislative session, SB15-20 created a new position in the Center. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist is tasked with gathering resources and providing training to school personnel, parents, and students regarding personal safety and the prevention of child sexual abuse and assault. Margaret Ochoa, J.D., is a former Assistant Jefferson County Attorney, having specialized in child protection work. She joined the Center in April of 2016 as the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist and took the lead on educational pieces around the 2017 sexting prevention legislation.



The Center has a School Safety Resource Specialist who identifies, acquires, and reviews resources, consults about those resources, manages the website and all social media, and assists with the planning and delivery of school safety trainings and workshops. Evan West joined the Center in this capacity in August of 2018 and is the newest member of the team, but comes with a great deal of website experience.

The Program Assistant position is held by Melissa Rubeo, who joined the Center in February 2017 from the Department of Regulatory Agencies. She provides a wide variety of general support for the Center and staff, including supporting the Center's fiscal accountability through budgetary management, ordering of office resources, planning for meetings and trainings, creating materials, and maintaining communication with the listserv members.

## Center Funding

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center's FY 2019 appropriation is \$642,091. Legislation during 2010 (House Bill 10-1336) created a school safety center cash fund and authorized the Department to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations, and charge fees to attendees of training programs. Until 2016, only minimal training fees had been collected from out-of-state attendees at trainings. As the work of the Center has expanded and, therefore, mileage costs have increased, it has been necessary to charge a nominal fee for regional trainings since 2016 in order to meet all district requests for services. These fees have not appeared to deter school personnel participation in the regional trainings.

## Activities of the Center

In 2018, the Center continued its mission of providing consultation, technical assistance, resources, and training to school safety partners. The Center's partnerships and outreach have continued to grow; the Center continues to provide hard copies and to increase the number of resources distributed electronically. The details of the Center's 2018 activities follow:

### Outreach

#### CSSRC E-Update

A listserv for the CSSRC was created in August 2009 and has a current database containing over **5,918** email addresses from various providers and school safety partners. The listserv group receives monthly electronic newsletter updates (E-Update) from the Center, which include important announcements, upcoming training opportunities, and new resources related to prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery efforts in schools, including potential grant funding resources.

#### CSSRC Twitter Account

To supplement the Center's monthly E-Update communication with additional timely information about training, events, resources, and funding opportunities, a CSSRC Twitter account was created in 2012. The School Resource Specialist sent the initial Twitter message on April 4, 2012. In 2018, **7,804** Twitter messages had been posted. Currently, **778** people interested in Colorado school safety follow the CSSRC Twitter account, which can be found at <http://twitter.com/CoSSRC>.

Figure 1. CSSRC Twitter Followers 2018

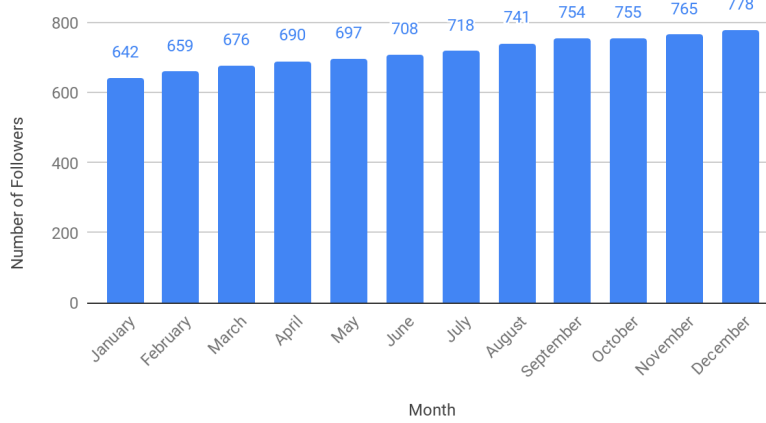


Figure 2. 2018 Twitter Impressions

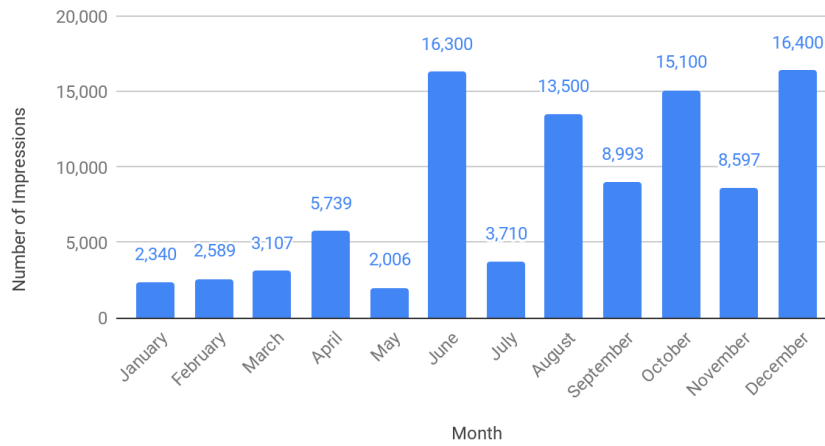
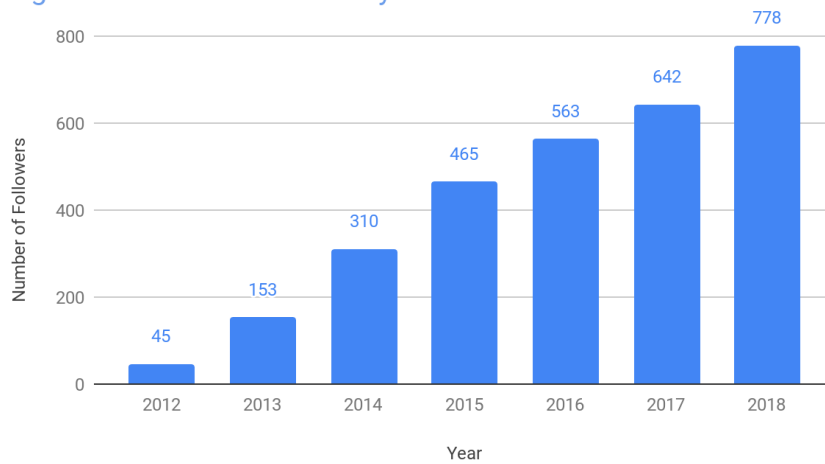


Figure 3. Twitter Followers by Year



## Direct Outreach to Colorado Schools

Below is a list of the schools, districts, institutions of higher education, and other programs which received direct services from the Center staff during 2018:

Figure 4. CSSRC Outreach Activities by District

### Denver Metro

Adams 12  
Adams County 14  
Adams-Arapahoe 28J  
Brighton 27J  
Cherry Creek 5  
Denver County 1  
Englewood 1  
Jefferson RE-1  
Mapleton 1  
St Vrain Valley RE-1J

### Urban-Suburban

Academy 20  
Colorado Springs 11  
Fountain 8  
Manitou Springs 14  
Mesa County Valley 51  
Pueblo City 60

### Outlying City

Alamosa RE-11J  
Cañon City RE-1  
Fort Morgan RE-3  
Moffat County RE NO.1  
Montrose County RE-1J  
Roaring Fork RE-1  
Steamboat Springs RE-2  
Valley RE-1

### Outlying Town

Archuleta County 50 JT  
Ault-Highland RE9  
Brush RE-2(J)  
Clear Creek RE-1  
Del Norte C-7  
Delta County 50(J)  
East Grand 2  
Eaton RE-2  
Fowler R-4J  
Hayden RE-1  
Holyoke RE-1J  
Huerfano RE-1

### Outlying Town Cont.

Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J  
Lake County R-1  
Meeker RE1  
Platte Valley RE-7  
Summit RE-1  
West Grand 1-JT  
Woodland Park RE2  
Yuma 1

### Remote

Agate 300  
Aguilar Reorganized 6  
Big Sandy 100J  
De Beque 49JT  
Edison 54 JT  
Elbert 200  
Elizabeth C-1  
Garfield 16  
Kiowa C-2  
Moffat 2  
Mountain Valley RE-1  
Primero Reorganized 2  
Sanford 6J  
Sargent RE-33J  
Sierra Grande R-30  
South Conejos RE-10  
South Routt RE 3  
Weld County RE-3J  
Weldon Valley RE-20(J)

### Early Childhood

Firefly Autism  
Goddard III Denver  
Paddington Station Preschool  
Paradise Place Preschool

### Charter/Private

Colorado Early Colleges Network  
Crestone Charter  
Denver Christian  
GOAL Academy

### Charter/Private Cont.

Golden View Classical Academy  
Fountain Valley  
Jefferson Academy  
New Legacy  
Pinnacle  
Regis Jesuit High School  
Renaissance Secondary  
Stanley British Primary  
St. Bernadette Parish  
STRIVE Prep  
STS Academy  
Two Rivers  
University Schools

### Higher Education

Colorado College  
UC Denver  
University of Denver  
University of Nebraska Omaha

### BOCES

Centennial BOCES  
Colorado River BOCES  
Northeast BOCES  
Northwest BOCES  
San Luis Valley BOCES

### Others

Alabama Dept. of ED  
Adaptive Sports Center  
Boys & Girls Club of Denver  
Charter School Institute  
Colorado League of Charter Schools  
Colorado Municipal League  
Colorado PTA  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
Omaha, NE Police Dept.  
Teaching Autism Community Trades (TACT)

## Outreach to Superintendents and BOCES Directors

Recognizing that administrative changes take place annually, mailings were sent to all superintendents across the state at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. This outreach is part of the ongoing strategy to expand knowledge about the Center and the services it can offer to schools. [This mailing](#) included letters sent via email to 178 superintendents and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) directors with a request to forward copies to other district administrators.

The CSSRC has also continued contact with the public school superintendents, Archdiocesan administrators, and the BOCES administrators across Colorado. Since the School Emergency Management Grant work, done in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education from 2015 through the end of 2017, many superintendents have been attending trainings requested in their districts. CSSRC staff have also presented at the Rural Educators Alliance meetings, the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), and the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) annual conferences.

## Outreach Beyond Colorado

CSSRC staff are proud of the reputation earned for their expertise within Colorado as well as beyond. The Director continues to participate in monthly phone meetings with staff from the United States Department of Education, the National Institute of Justice, and the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center, as well as a cadre of school safety directors from across the country. The Director was also invited to participate in 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, in August 2018. The Director was invited to the National Council of State Legislators Education Committee Meeting in September in Idaho to participate on a school safety panel.

Additionally, the Director and the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant were asked to consult on the table top exercise kits created by the United States Department of Homeland Security for kindergarten-12th grade schools focusing on active shooter situations.

Finally, the Emergency Response Outreach Consultant and the School Outreach Consultant were invited to the Montana Behavioral Initiative 2018 Summer Institute to conduct two days of training on threat assessment. They also traveled to Alabama and Nebraska to conduct threat assessment trainings and have been invited to train in Wyoming in 2019.

## Training

### Grant-Inspired Work

#### Restorative Practices Workshops for School Personnel - Advanced Training

The Center's Director served on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council from July 2012 through June 2016, having been appointed by Governor Hickenlooper. She also served as co-chair of the Low Risk, High Needs (LRHN) committee of the council. The LRHN committee had been successfully facilitating grants to three judicial districts for truancy problem solving courts, and wanted to expand efforts to help schools incorporate restorative practices to reduce truancy and suspensions and foster more positive climates. According to the Colorado Restorative Justice Council, "Restorative justice has been shown not only to *decrease suspension rates anywhere from 40% to 80%*, but has also resulted in a *nearly 50% drop in absenteeism* and a *60% decrease in tardiness*."

The LRHN committee outlined a grant proposal to include a series of four two-day training sessions for school personnel focusing on the components necessary to create and implement an effective restorative practice program through restorative classrooms and asked the Center to lead this work. The originally proposed trainings

were conducted between May and November of 2016. Because of utilizing cost-saving venues, assistance from other offices with transportation, and operating the workshops with as few staff as possible, grant funds remained after 2016. The Center was given permission by the Division of Criminal Justice, managers of the grant, to conduct two additional two-day workshops in March and August of 2017. In total, six workshops were provided with grant funding which ended in 2017. Although the grant work had been completed, the Center conducted a follow-up advanced training session in June 2018. (Please see Topic-Centered Regional Trainings below.)

## Topic-Centered Regional Trainings

In an effort to provide in-depth training opportunities on school safety issues across the state in accordance with its legislative directive, the Colorado School Safety Resource Center has, either alone or in partnership with other state agencies, conducted topic-centered regional trainings. These training events are hosted in multiple locations to allow for maximum attendance from various school districts, with deference to their limited budgets and funding for travel. Unless otherwise noted, these trainings were designed as one-day, in-depth events to support attendance by school personnel, and with the approval of the CSSRC's Advisory Board.

### Youth Suicide Prevention & Intervention Symposia - February 28th (Lowry) & September 14th (Thornton)

Tragically, the suicide rate for youth in Colorado continues to rise. The Center has made many efforts to help schools combat this issue, including providing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for any district and facilitating a working group with school mental health professionals described elsewhere in this report. An ongoing effort of the Center has been hosting regional trainings on suicide prevention for school staff. These were the ninth and tenth suicide symposia that the Center has co-hosted with the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Colorado Department of Education, since 2010. The September symposium was also supported by the Colorado Attorney General. Close to 200 participants attended each day. Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., a world-renowned suicide expert, presented in February on *Why People Die by Suicide*, his best-selling book. Anna Mueller, Ph.D., a researcher from the University of Chicago, enlightened the group in September on her studies of suicide diffusion (contagion). The Center and state partners are planning another regional training in 2019.

### Trauma-Informed Care for Educators Training - March 12th (Thornton)

School staff are understanding the effect that trauma has on the developing brain and are eager for information on how to support traumatized children at school and help them build resiliency. The 2017 Needs Assessment Survey distributed by the Center and completed by a number of districts ranked this as a high priority for further training. This was the third time the Center collaborated with the Colorado Department of Human Services' Office of Behavioral Health's (OBH) Trauma-Informed System of Care to deliver a workshop for school personnel. Ashley Brock-Baca, Ph.D., is the professional from the OBH office who delivered the training to an enthusiastic crowd of 140 educators.

### Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium - April 12th (Lowry)

This event had its inaugural year in 2016 and has become an annual event thanks to positive feedback. This year, a team from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force provided vital guidance to our stakeholders on cyber safety for our youth. They dramatically illustrated the risks of online sexual exploitation through a local trafficking case study, explaining how schools can assist local and federal law enforcement in investigations. Workshops included Overcoming Barriers to Preventing Child Abuse, Guidance for Trusted Adults, Human Trafficking in Colorado Schools, and Title IX in the K-12 Setting. Attendance (74) was up from 2017, so holding the conference during Child Abuse Prevention Month may help the event to continue to grow. Comments about the day included:

- “Outstanding event! Relevant presentations that were of interest to school officials.”
- “This was one of the best trainings I've been to in a long time, thank you.”
- “Thank you, your trainings/conferences are always wonderful.”
- “Instill caution not fear so that the victims will come forward for support. Amazing job, thank you.”

The Center has already made plans for the 2019 Symposium on April 4th back at the conference center in Lowry.

### [Institutions of Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium – June 6th \(Pueblo\)](#)

This was the third annual IHE Summer Safety Symposium hosted by the CSSRC. This year, the Center had the collaboration of Advisory Board member Greg Busch, who arranged the venue at Pueblo Community College. Forty-six representatives from a variety of college campuses converged for an extremely well-received cadre of presenters. The day’s lectures included information on twenty-first century marijuana, trauma-informed interviewing of sexual assault survivors, large event security planning, conducting exercises on IHE campuses, and developing protocols for detecting and disrupting insider threats and attack-related behaviors. Plans are already being made for next year with the hope of drawing an even larger crowd.

### [Restorative Practices in Schools – June 14th \(Wheat Ridge\)](#)

As explained above, although the grant-sponsored restorative practices training had been completed in 2017, the Center felt an obligation to conduct a follow-up session for participants in 2018. Kerry Quinn, a restorative practices expert who has worked with many districts in Colorado, agreed to conduct an advanced one-day training on Trauma Responsive Restorative Communication. Ninety-seven school personnel joined us for the training. Some of the evaluation comments included:

- “Excellent training, presenter was very knowledgeable!”
- “A lot of rich content.”
- “Even better than last summer!”

### [Youth Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Training - June 19th \(Thornton\)](#)

The Center partnered with the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Office of Behavioral Health, with the cooperation of Chanel Freeman, an Advisory Board Member at the time, to present a one-day workshop specifically on substance abuse prevention. Previously, the Center had highlighted substance abuse at the annual Summit, but this was the first time in six years that the CSSRC focused an entire day on the topic for a regional workshop. The day opened with Ben Cort, a national expert on marijuana addiction with adolescents. Eight workshops on a variety of topics afforded participants the opportunity to attend sessions more relevant to their specific work. The day ended with a presentation by Lynn Riemer, President of ACT on Drugs, a chemist and former member of the Denver Drug Task Force. Ms. Riemer updated school personnel on the kinds of drugs circulating in our communities. The day was very successful, as evidenced by the evaluations.

### [2018 Colorado Safe Schools Summit/10th Anniversary Celebration – October 1st & 2nd \(Thornton\)](#)

Center staff organized the annual Summit during National and Colorado Safe Schools Month. There was an added dimension to the festivities as it was a time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Center in 2008. Once again, the Center staff worked with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) - CU Boulder, and Safe2Tell (S2T), from the Colorado Attorney General’s office, to present an exciting and informative two-day event.

Keynote presenters included Victor Strecher, Ph.D., from the University of Michigan, and Rosalind Wiseman, author and educator with the Cultures of Dignity organization. A comedian lightened things up at the conclusion of the first day and former Governor Bill Ritter kicked off the anniversary luncheon on day two.

Participants had the opportunity to choose four of the 24 workshops, which covered prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. Topics included threat assessment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking, cultivating safe schools for LGBTQ students, trauma-responsive behavior modification systems and behavioral plans, disproportionality of students of color within the juvenile justice system, and best practices for crisis response. Two hundred fifty school professionals attended on the first day and 350 helped celebrate the Center’s anniversary on the second day. A link to the program, photos from the two days, and handouts from various workshops can be found [here](#).

Participant feedback included:

- “Thank you for all your hard work setting this up for us.”
- “Great day, well done like always.”
- “Love the focus and intentionality of self-care.”
- “Great conference again! Helpful information!”
- “Loved it, tons of resources!”

### [2018 Student/Staff Summits - November 27th, December 11th, and December 13th \(Grand Junction, Fort Morgan, and Pueblo\)](#)

With grant funds from the Gill Foundation in 2017, the Center conducted three student/staff workshops to glean students’ perceptions of school safety and encourage them to create projects to address issues of safety in their schools. The three workshops were so successful that the Center decided to dedicate the youth advisory council funding to conduct three more workshops in 2018.

Held between the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, and scheduled around bus transportation times, attendance improved from the 2017 offerings. The summit in Grand Junction kicked off with a two-hour presentation by Ben Cort on 21st century marijuana that captured the attention of the students. Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D., co-founder of the Cyberbullying Research Center, engaged the students on positive school climate and digital citizenship in both Fort Morgan and Pueblo.

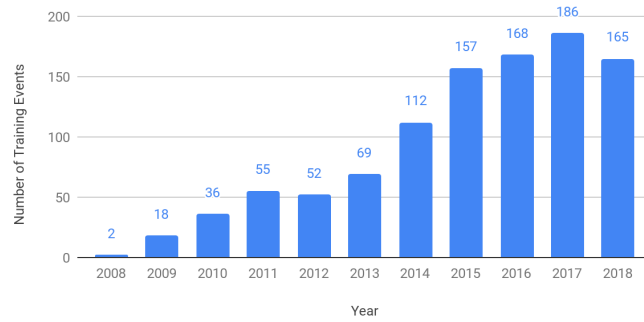
Discussion groups followed that were facilitated by CSSRC staff on healthy relationships and sexting prevention, bullying, suicide, and safety drills. Students not only informed the adults present of their perspectives on these topics, but many formulated plans to further address these issues when they returned to their schools. Having an opportunity to hear students' perspectives on school safety and their ideas on how to address these challenges is vital. The Center will continue these workshops in the future as funding allows. A summary of the focus groups can be found [here](#).

### **Conference and District/School Site-Based Trainings**

Trainings are conducted based on requests from school personnel on selected topics and hosted at school sites or conferences across the state. The numbers and types of workshops or presentations offered by CSSRC staff are summarized below. Future workshops will be developed based upon request, priority of needs, and available funding.

Figure 5 displays the total number of trainings provided between 2008-2018. The Center presented 165 training opportunities in 2018. The workshops have been well-attended and there continue to be requests for training by various groups. The trainings include the October Summit, regional trainings, conference presentations, and presentations at individual districts and schools. The Summit and regional trainings are publicized to districts across the state via the E-Update. These efforts and working with many partners across Colorado continue to raise the profile of the CSSRC and increase the services requested. Concerns about SB15-213, the Claire Davis School Safety Act that limits governmental immunity, continue to help drive the training numbers.

Figure 5. Number of Trainings (Hosted and Presented) 2008-2018



In Figure 6 below, the increase in training participants is apparent with a high of **8,192** trained in 2018. Since the Center’s inception in 2008, **46,078** people have attended a training event or workshop presented by the CSSRC. Each year, the number of people trained varies, partly with the quantity of trainings provided and partly with the location of the trainings. Events in rural areas reach fewer people than events in large urban settings. See Figure 7 for a breakdown of the number of people trained last year by training topic.

Figure 6. Number of People Attending CSSRC Trainings 2008-2018

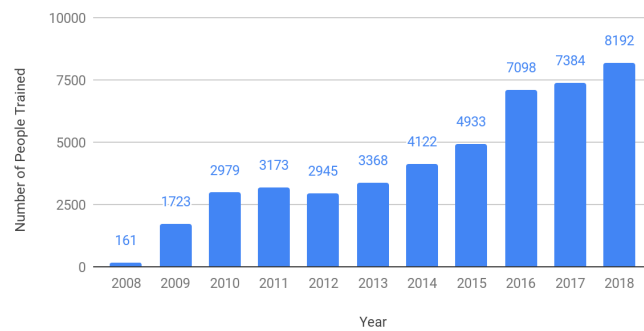


Figure 7. Topics of Trainings and Presentations Provided by CSSRC Staff in 2018

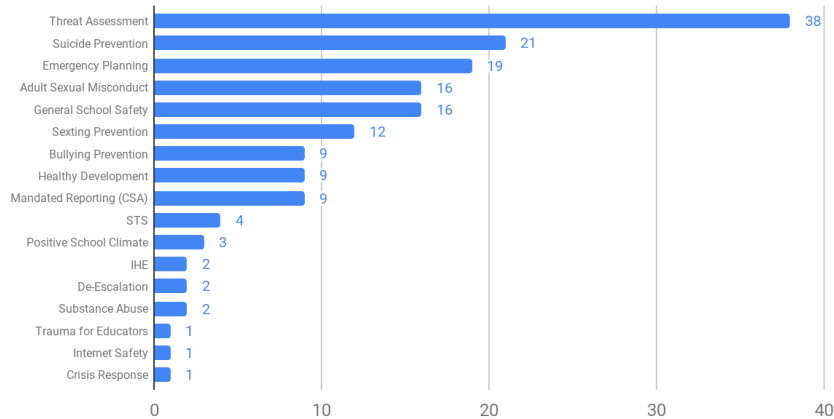
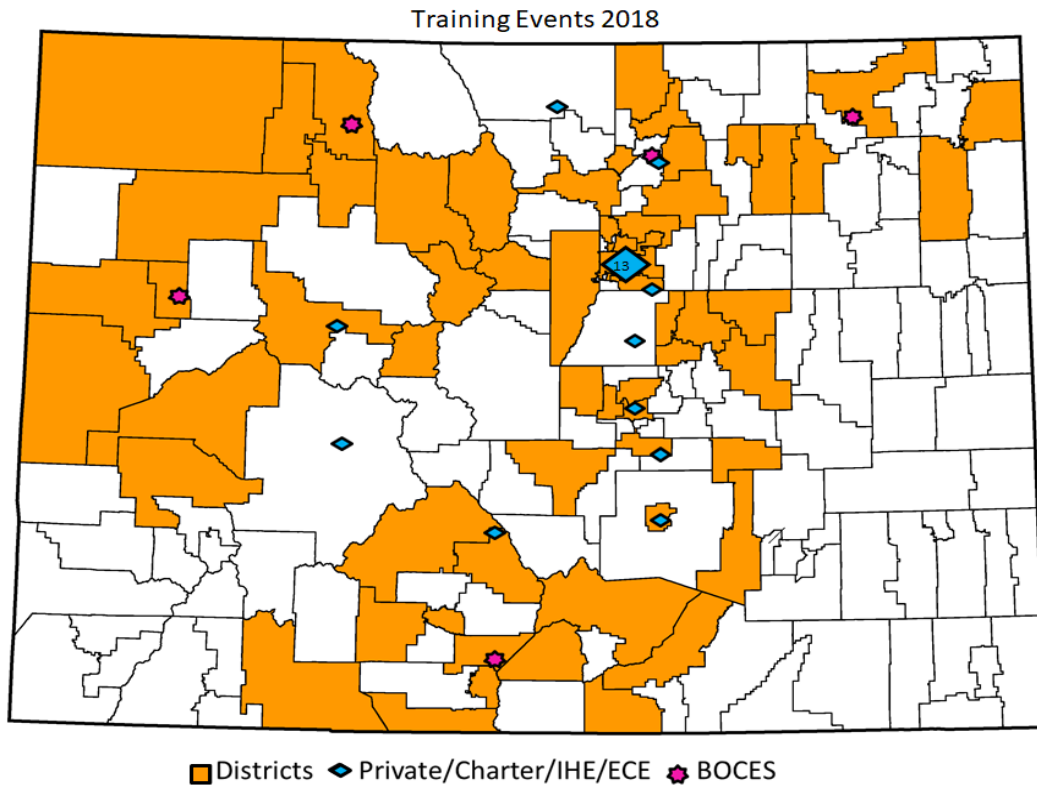




Figure 8 outlines the school districts in Colorado with the colored portions showing the locations of all CSSRC outreach and training activities in 2018.

Figure 8- Locations of all CSSRC Outreach and Training Activities in 2018



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

- Colorado Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC)
- Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)
- Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)
- Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)
- Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB)
- Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS)
- Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA)
- Colorado School Health Professional Grant Program (SHPG)
- Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)
- Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference
- Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA)
- RMC Health - Healthy Schools Leadership Retreat

## Online Course Development

The CSSRC staff developed and published their first two online training courses for school personnel in 2012. Since that time, 13 more courses have been added, including two in 2018: *What All School Staff Need to Know About Suicide* and *Sexting: What You Need to Know* (hereinafter “*Sexting*”). All of the Center’s online offerings, except the sexting course, were produced with the specific intention of providing training to rural and outlying school districts and to support school personnel who are not able to travel to live trainings. The Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) underwrote a portion of the creation of one of these courses. The Center is also indebted to its partners in the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and the Division of Criminal Justice for their generous contribution to the content and publication of these courses.

The suicide prevention course provides a thorough introduction to youth suicide prevention topics for all school staff. The state of Colorado has seen a steady rise in the number and rate of youth suicide over the past few years. The course provides statistics emphasizing this trend and identifies risk factors and warning signs common in cases in which young people have died by suicide. The course then provides guidelines for suicide prevention (policies and training), intervention (how to have a conversation and provide support), and postvention (information sharing, memorials). The goal of this course is to raise awareness among all school staff and provide basic information and skills to prevent student suicide, assist students who are in danger, and help staff make their school community a safer place. Access the course online at:

<https://www.train.org/colorado/course/1080982/>

*Sexting* was created for a separate but coordinated mission. In 2017, the state legislature created a felony carve-out from the child exploitation felony to account for juvenile sexting behavior. That law, HB17-1302, codified at C.R.S. §18-7-109, required the Center to develop an educational program for juveniles regarding the risks, consequences, and defenses to charges of sexting. A distance-learning platform was the only effective way to meet this mandate, but slight changes in the Center’s traditional online protocol were required for student access.

All online courses, except *Sexting*, are hosted exclusively through the Colorado Train (CO.Train) system ([www.CO.Train.org](http://www.CO.Train.org)). The CO.Train system is managed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a learning resource for professionals who protect the public's health. CO.Train is part of the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN) and is a free service of the Public Health Foundation. Because the CO.Train system requires a state employee registration, it was not possible to host *Sexting* for the student population on that site. The Center is grateful that the Department of Human Services stepped in to host the course on the Colorado Child Welfare Training System (CWTS) network, which is simple to navigate with only an email address. Juveniles have been encouraged to access the resource through CWTS, while school staff may access it there or through Co.Train. See, *Sexting: What you Need to Know* on CO Train:

<https://www.train.org/colorado/course/1077649/> : *Sexting: What you Need to Know* on CWTS:

<https://www.coloradocwts.com/sexting>

Figures 9 and 10 describe the number of online course participants and their geographical origins, as maintained by CO.Train. These online courses can be counted as one or more hours of professional development and provide a printable certificate upon successful completion. Four of the courses arose from the Center’s School Security Personnel Workgroup, which was created to provide guidance for the training of non-sworn school security personnel. View Figures 9 and 10 with the understanding that the metrics may not capture the youth who are required to take the *Sexting* course as a part of their court-ordered diversion or probation program, as those juveniles may participate via the CWTS. Those learners are able to print a certificate for their diversion/probation officer, but are not counted by CWTS. As of this writing, the Center has not been provided with analytics regarding how many youths have completed *Sexting* and provided evidence of that through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 9. Online Course Participant Summary 2012-2018

Online Course Title	2018 Participants	Total Participants to date
Adolescent Development	326	712
Basic Mental Health Awareness for Educators	484	1,777
Bullying Prevention & Intervention Under Colorado Law	185	902
Crisis Planning for an Off-Campus Event	99	293
Front Office Staff: School Gatekeepers	156	516
Making Referrals to Your Threat Assessment Team	675	867
Mandated Reporting of Sexual Abuse for School Staff	758	925
Preparing & Conducting a Tabletop Exercise for Your School	100	142
Proactive School Discipline (online)	102	454
School Security Personnel: Emergency Management	132	637
School Security Personnel: Interpersonal Communications	97	460
School Security Personnel: Observation Skills & Incident Reporting	205	680
School Security Personnel: Professional Conduct & Ethics	105	411
Sexting: What you Need to Know (released in June 2018)	119	119
Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs (released in October 2018)	37	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>8,252</b>

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

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

Anonymous evaluation results for 14 of the 15 courses reveal that 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their knowledge has increased because of the training, they plan to use the information in their work, and the additional resources included were helpful.

Comments from evaluations include:

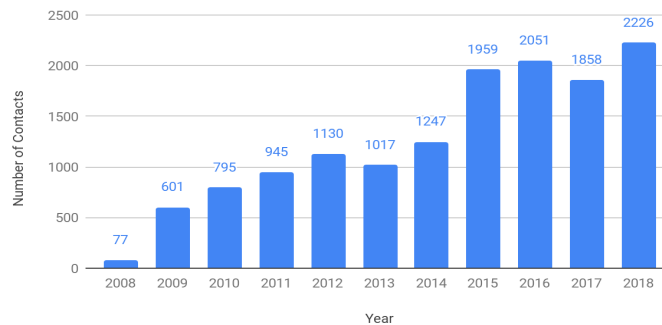
- “Very useful information! Easy to navigate and understand.” (Basic Mental Health Awareness)
- “Great information to know and be aware of, along with being able to share!” (Sexting)
- “This was a great webinar. I am a counselor that works with 9 different districts, and I will be sharing this with them!” (Suicide Risk Factors and Warning Signs)
- “This was an excellent course! I would highly recommend it to all school officials!” (School Security Personnel: Emergency Management)

## Consultation

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

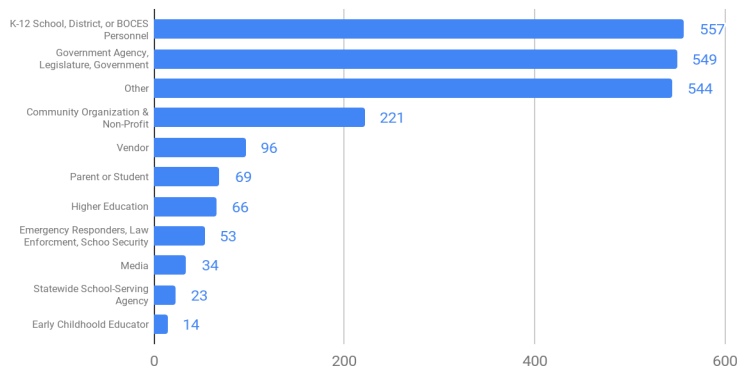
An all-time high of **2,226** contacts, including emails and requests for site visits, were answered during the 2018 calendar year regarding a wide range of school safety issues and requests for information. Figure 11 below illustrates the number of contacts in comparison with previous years. Consultation requests are primarily a direct result of multiple outreach and marketing efforts of staff, such as the Center website, trainings, newsletters, mailings, E-Updates, and through referrals from board members and others knowledgeable about the CSSRC’s resources and expertise.

Figure 11. CSSRC Consultations by Year 2009-2018



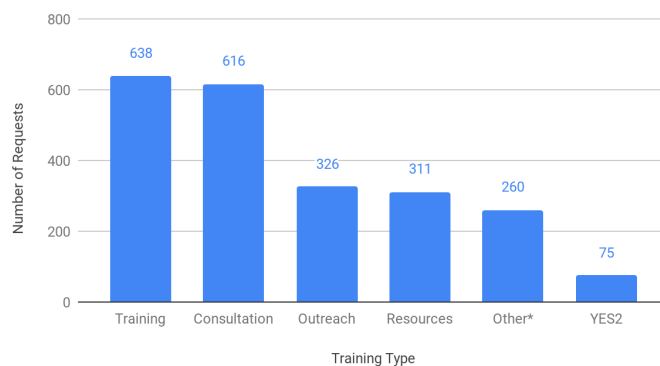
School or school district personnel account for about 25% of the consultation requests (Figure 12), with many of the remaining requests coming from law enforcement personnel, government agencies, community organizations, or vendors. These data also demonstrate the increased outreach by the Center staff and the increased knowledge of our consumers about the services that can be provided. Colorado schools and communities are clearly using the services the Center offers.

Figure 12. Position of Person Consulted



The greatest number of contacts relate to trainings (Figure 13). Consultation, resources, and outreach account for most of the remaining contacts. Other requests include such things as meetings, media contacts, and requests addressing listserv management. Consultation by telephone and in-person has been provided related to emergency planning, crisis and threat assessment team training, creating a positive school climate with bullying prevention strategies, suicide prevention, as well as on a variety of issues related to social networking and electronic bullying or harassment, sexting, child abuse reporting, adult sexual misconduct, fire safety codes, and others. The requests for more in-depth technical assistance from superintendents for district-wide assistance continue to increase. The Center has also spent time growing the Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES<sup>2</sup>) youth advisory council, as well as outreach to charter schools, early childhood centers, and institutions of higher education.

Figure 13. Number of Consultations by Type



## Resources

### Website

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

The updating of current resources and trainings occurs several times per month through the Center staff’s research and information management. Highlights of the website include:

- Federal and state resources organized according to topic
- Training opportunities for school staff
- Links to Colorado school safety legislation and current grants
- Links to agencies related to school safety efforts
- Current research and statistics
- CSSRC listserv subscription sign-up
- New highlighted topics and features updated weekly

The Resource Specialist is constantly finding ways to make the site more user-friendly while adding current information.

## Website Use Data

The Statewide Internet Portal Authority offers Google Analytics to track website traffic. Google Analytics provides historical data about website visitors and evaluation of the site's usability. Monthly website use tracking and analysis profiles are collected. The software provides tracking of visits to the website, pages viewed, and information about downloaded materials (see Figures 14 & 15 below). Over the course of 2018, there were approximately **54,100** page views with **12,539** document downloads. Pages compiling valuable school safety resources and documents created by the Center continue to be the most popular pages on the CSSRC website.

Figure 14. Top 5 Most Visited Pages of the CSSRC Website, Beyond the Homepage in 2018

Page Title   Created By
Mandatory Reporting   School Safety Resource Center
Threat Assessment   School Safety Resource Center
Claire Davis School Safety Act   School Safety Resource Center
CSSRC Online Training   School Safety Resource Center
Substance Abuse   School Safety Resource Center

CSSRC staff continually create tip sheets, templates, and other informational documents to assist schools in their safety work. These can be found on the Center's website under CSSRC Tools and Templates. New additions in 2018 included a one-page document on the Center's five Resource Guides (listed below), as well as information for students on tip and emergency lines.

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

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

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

Figure 15. Top Five Countries Outside of the United States Visiting the CSSRC Website

Top Countries	
Canada	Germany
India	Australia
United Kingdom	

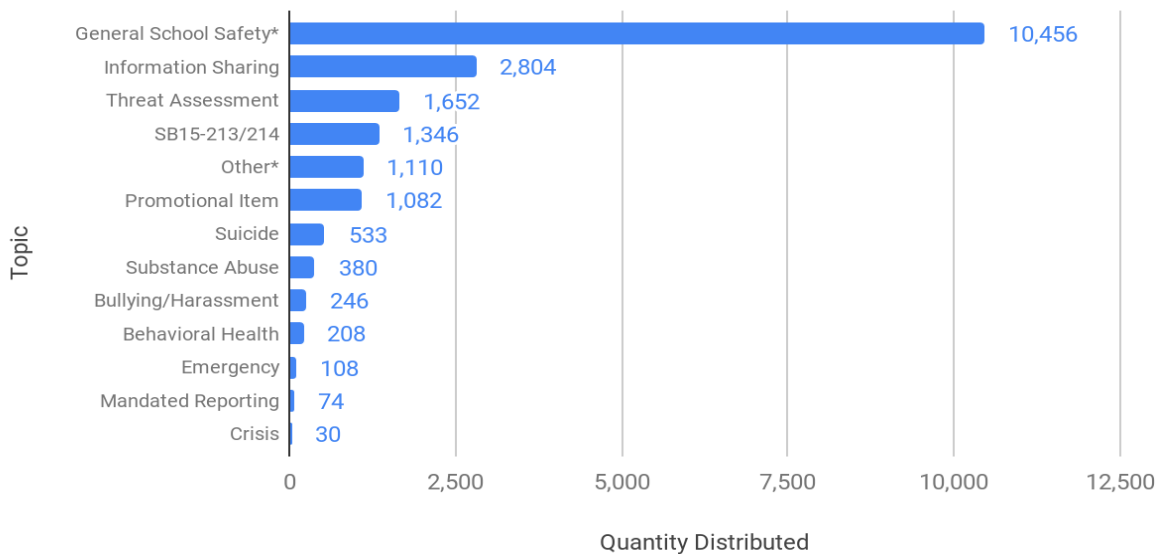
## Resource Acquisition and Distribution Highlights

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

During 2018, the CSSRC researched, acquired, and distributed to partners and training participants **20,029** hard copies of **398** school safety-related resources covering a variety of topics. This is an intentional decrease from the number of hard copies distributed last year as the Center is making an effort to encourage electronic copies of resources. The expectation is for this number to continue to decrease.

These materials were either created by the Center or obtained from different state and national agencies or organizations. Materials are distributed through the E-Update, display tables at conferences, or at trainings. They are also shared at meetings across the state and, occasionally, mailed directly to a school in response to a specific need. Figure 16 summarizes the distribution of hard copies of resources by topic.

**Figure 16. Quantity of Resources Distributed by Topic in 2018**



\*Other resources include information on mandated reporting, sexting, and additional subjects new to the Center in 2018.

## Work Groups

One responsibility the Center has adopted since its inception is to facilitate work groups on topics of identified need in order to develop and distribute resources to be used by Colorado schools. Previously, the Center has facilitated working groups on Emergency Planning for K-12 Schools, Interagency Information Sharing, Threat Assessment, School Security Personnel, Bullying/Harassment Prevention, and Businesses Assisting Schools in Communities Prepare (BASIC Prep). 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 was presented to the SB15-214 Interim Committee, School Safety and Youth Mental Health in Crisis, in September 2016.

In 2018, three working groups were still active from 2017, one new group was added, and one group was resurrected. These included:

### Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Networking Group

When the Center staff was increased in 2014, more resources began being provided to institutions of higher education (IHE), as mandated in the Center's founding legislation. The Center convened a meeting of safety and security personnel from Colorado IHEs. This group was organized to allow IHE personnel a chance to network and discuss safety issues with which they are dealing in an effort to improve their schools' safety and security. The group has met 12 times since 2014, and has participated in three one-day IHE Summer Safety Symposia, held each of the last three summers.

The participants value the networking, sharing of challenges and successes, and opportunity to tour other campuses to review their safety and security measures. The fourth IHE Summer Safety Symposium is being planned for June 13, 2019.

### Youth Advisory Council, Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES<sup>2</sup>)

In 2013, the Center created its first youth advisory council to support its mission of promoting safe and positive school climates across the state with a sounding board for the youth voice. The mission of YES<sup>2</sup> is to gather feedback and recommendations for the Colorado School Safety Resource Center's Advisory Board, staff, and other partner agencies about school safety issues that are on the minds of students.

In the spring of 2018, the Center conducted a statewide call for applicants, receiving applications from students in Front Range metro and rural areas. The Center will continue to evaluate how to generate interest more broadly in communities around the state so that a robust youth voice will be represented.

The Center decided to take a different approach to engaging youth in the mission of school safety for the 2018-2019 school year. Whereas past YES<sup>2</sup> participants have worked throughout the year to create a final project focused on a school safety-related topic, this year's participants were engaged in a new way. The Center chose to host three regional Student/Staff Safety Summits to provide opportunities for students and staff to come together and discuss their perspectives on a number of school safety topics, as well as hear from national speakers and Center staff. The YES<sup>2</sup> applicants from the spring of 2018 were invited to share the topics that were of greatest interest to them to be included in these events. They were also invited to attend and help facilitate the group discussions. Center staff invited students in attendance at each event who stood out as potential peer leaders in school safety topics to apply for next year's YES<sup>2</sup> cohort.

Students offered a great deal of feedback and suggestions for how adults can better address school safety issues during the safety summits' focus groups. A summary of the focus group responses from the student/staff safety summits can be found on the [CSSRC website](#).



## Parental Notification Recommendations (PNR) for Districts Regarding Staff Investigations, Arrests, and/or Convictions

In the fall of 2017, the Center recognized a need to facilitate a working group to create recommendations for districts when a staff member is the subject of an investigation, arrest, and/or conviction of sexual exploitation of a child. Without taking a position on these issues, it was deemed appropriate for the Center to organize this working group. A multi-disciplinary group of experts was convened to create suggestions and a toolkit for the benefit of all Colorado districts. Invited to participate were superintendents of large urban and small rural schools; school mental health professionals; representatives of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Education Association, the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, and the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB); a sheriff; legislative and public information personnel from the Department of Public Safety; the Colorado PTA; a district attorney; victim advocates; Center staff; and others. The group met and shared proposals, culminating with a Parental Notification Toolkit in March of 2018. That [document](#) resides on the Center's website for download by the public.

Legislation addressing the issue was passed in August of 2018. HB 18-1269, codified at C.R.S. § 22-1-130, requires districts, BOCES, and charter schools to notify parents of students within two school days after an employee has had or waived a preliminary hearing after being charged with certain crimes. Although the law is more broad than the working group's focus on sexual crimes, the toolkit provides districts with sample communications, memoranda of understanding, and other helpful resources and considerations when staff are implicated in criminal conduct. Although the CSSRC-facilitated working group is no longer meeting, the Center's role in helping schools comply with this law is ongoing, as CDE, CASB, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and districts navigate existing notification systems across departments.

## Suicide Prevention Working Group

For a number of years, the Cherry Creek School District Director of Psychological Services, Ron Lee, Psy. D., had been organizing periodic meetings of school mental health professionals from the Front Range to discuss practices in schools. The Center's director volunteered to coordinate these meetings in 2017 and, with Dr. Lee's blessing, the meetings have continued and expanded with participants beyond the Front Range. This year, mental health professionals spent an entire day in January creating a list of recommendations for all schools to utilize in creating a suicide strategy for their districts. These recommendations can be found on the [CSSRC website](#).

Additionally, the work of this group continued in November with a meeting to debrief the rash of suicides that had recently occurred among Colorado youth. A list of suggestions for districts was compiled and included in the [December E-Update](#) beginning on page 2. Until the suicide rates decrease, this group will continue to meet and share strategies and resources.

## Threat Assessment Working Group

It was decided to revive the threat assessment working group to review policies, procedures, and protocols in light of 2018 updates from the United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Homeland Security on this topic. A general call was made to any school professionals for this effort and over 30 individuals, including the national expert, John Nicholetti, Ph.D., who is a Colorado resident and has been a friend to Colorado schools, answered the call. First, a survey was conducted to discover the state of threat assessments in Colorado schools. A review of the components of the survey led to a consensus on best practices. The work continues as a scan of other state and national tools is being conducted that will likely lead to an updated protocol available for any Colorado schools trained by the Center in 2019.

## Collaboration

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

### Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

The ADL has been a co-presenter with the Center, the Colorado Education Initiative, Colorado Department of Education, and One Colorado since the start of the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes in 2011. In 2017, their counsel was helpful in deciding to conduct student/staff summits with the remaining Gill Foundation funding that the Center has continued. In 2018, they provided excellent materials, which the Center shared in the E-Update, to educate schools as to how to speak with students about hate activities which have been occurring nationally.

### Colorado Association for School-Based Health Centers (CASBHC)

Established in 1996, CASBHC is a non-profit membership organization that promotes the development and growth of school-based health centers throughout the state. CASBHC provides information to individuals and communities interested in learning more about school-based health centers. Currently, there are 59 School-Based Health Centers in the state. This year, Center staff members presented at the annual CASBHC Conference on Secondary Traumatic Stress.

### Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)

The CSSRC has worked with CASB on a number of initiatives and working groups. This year, the CSSRC Director participated on a school safety panel at the CASB Winter Conference, and presented an additional workshop on district preparedness. Kathy Plomer (Adams 12 School Board) is one of the newest members to the CSSRC Advisory Board.

### Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)

The Center staff members attended both annual CASE conferences. The Director presented with school professionals and students at the Winter CASE Conference on suicide prevention in January, as well as at the Rural Educators workshop at the Summer CASE Leadership Conference in July. CASE also consults with the Colorado Department of Education on recommendations for the superintendent representatives on the CSSRC Advisory Board. Superintendent George Welsh represents the rural district of Cañon City on the Advisory Board and Carolena Steen, Ph.D., the Assistant Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain School District, represents the Front Range districts on the CSSRC Advisory Board.

### Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO)

The CASRO membership consists of school resource officers, other law enforcement personnel, and affiliated partners. The Center is a member of this Association and had the opportunity to present at their annual conference in July on “hot topic” discussions of Sexting and Threat Assessment.

Detective Stacey Collis is a Past President of CASRO and completed his term as a member of the CSSRC’s Advisory Board in 2018. His replacement on the CSSRC’s Advisory Board is Kelly Jacobsen from the Westminster Police Department, who is also serving as the Secretary on CASRO’s board.

### 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, and Center staff attend and report on statewide initiatives.

### Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

The Colorado CSI is a statewide charter school authorizer committed to creating and sustaining a portfolio of high-quality public school options that meet the needs of all students. Center staff were invited to three training events around the state to speak about Threat Assessment Warning Signs and Suicide Prevention Strategies.

### Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)

CCASA, an association promoting safety, justice, and healing for survivors while working toward the elimination of sexual violence, and Center staff consult frequently regarding safety matters of statewide concern. Recently, the focus was largely on HB17-1302, the juvenile sexting bill, in addition to CCASA's annual advocacy and campus safety conferences over the summer. Now that the Center's mandate on the sexting bill has been fulfilled, the Center will work with CCASA to track metrics on affected juveniles and prepare for the post-enactment review in 2020. The collaboration will be enhanced, as the Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist now serves on CCASA's Policy Committee.

### Colorado Crisis Education and Response Network (CoCERN)

CoCERN is a statewide, asset-based community partnership formed to deliver effective, efficient, and professional disaster behavioral health services. The Center has been involved with this group since its inception and currently the School Outreach Consultant represents the Center at these meetings, which are held quarterly.

### Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

The CSSRC continues to deepen its partnership with CDE. Beginning in 2015, Center staff worked closely with CDE as the subject matter experts on the School Emergency Management grant from the United States Department of Education awarded to CDE. The sustaining component of that grant, the Training Engagement Committee, is an ongoing effort co-chaired by CDE and the CSSRC.

In 2018, the Director of the CSSRC was invited twice to participate in the Commissioner's Rural Alliance as school safety has been an ongoing focus of districts across the state.

The Expelled and At-Risk Services (EAARS) grant manager, Janelle Krueger, has created the School Justice Partnership Training Project to enhance the education of school resource officers and administrators around issues that could contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline. CSSRC staff have been instrumental participants on this project since its inception and the Emergency Response & School Outreach Consultants are trainers for the work.

The CDE also has a staff member assigned to the CSSRC Advisory Board and the Commissioner of Education appoints three other board members from the school community. Currently, Lynne DeSousa is the CDE staff member serving on the Advisory Board.

The CSSRC Director also serves on the Healthy Schools Collective Impact (HSCI) project of CDE. HSCI's effort is striving to improve the systems and processes that support and empower schools to reach the goal that all Colorado K-12 public schools provide an environment and culture that integrates health, to include safety, and wellness equitably for all students and staff by 2025. She also serves on the Professional Development and Behavioral Health Advisory Committees for this initiative.

CDE has continued to support the Center's efforts with respect to campus safety and Title IX obligations. The state Title IX Coordinator, Rebekah Ottenbreit, is a frequent and valued guest at the Center's training conferences. In

2018, she trained at both the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium and the Safe Schools Summit. She and the CDE website have proven to be valuable resources to Center stakeholders.

## Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

### Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

The CSSRC continues to have a strong relationship with the OBH, which is the state authority for mental health and substance abuse services. In academic year 2017-2018, the Director served on the Statewide Needs Assessment of Primary Prevention for Substance Abuse (SNAPS) advisory group, identifying gaps in substance abuse prevention program funding. This work was conducted on behalf of the OBH.

During 2018, the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium was a joint effort of the OBH and the CSSRC, with the help of Chanel Freeman, a CSSRC Advisory Board member who has since resigned from OBH and the CSSRC board. Shortly, a new board member from the OBH will be assigned to the CSSRC Advisory Board.

### Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

The Center works with the OEC on standing committees such as the Child Abuse Prevention Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board, to enhance efforts to prevent Colorado families from entering the child welfare system. The OEC has been a great partner with the Center in providing resources, consultation for trainings, and technical assistance to ensure Colorado's children are valued, healthy, safe, and thriving. While the Steering Committee was disbanded in mid-2018, the partnership continues as the OEC provides resources to many of the preschools and early childhood centers that are also served by the Center. The Strengthening Families Conference and ongoing work of the OEC help inform the Center staff to guide schools and families to needed resources within their local communities when children are victimized.

### Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)

A key factor in child abuse prevention is awareness. Center staff work closely with the Public Awareness Campaign in the OCYF to support one another's child welfare work and promote the prevention work of OCYF partners. The OCYF also houses the Human Trafficking Task Group (HTTG), which is a valuable resource to the Center for trainings and networking. The HTTG has collaborated with the Department of Public Safety in training on anti-trafficking efforts at Center conferences.

## Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

### Office of Violence and Injury Prevention

The Center has worked collaboratively with CDPHE to systematically prevent suicide and sexual violence. Since 2010, the Center, CDE, and CDPHE's Office of Suicide Prevention have joined forces to present ten Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposia for interested school professionals. The Director represents the Colorado Department of Public Safety on the Statewide Suicide Commission facilitated by the Office of Suicide Prevention. The School Outreach Consultant for the Center participates in one of the working committees of the Suicide Commission.

In 2018, CDPHE was awarded \$400,000 for a suicide prevention grant program for schools. The CSSRC was tasked in the legislation with a role in the planning and selection of the grant recipients. Awards for this grant will be made at the end of 2018 for work in the coming calendar year.

Staff from the Center rely on data collected by CDPHE as well as best practice recommendations to CSSRC working groups. Partners in both the Office of Suicide Prevention and Sexual Violence Prevention Program have trained at regional conferences for the Center.

Jarrold Hindman, Deputy Chief of the Office of Violence & Injury Prevention, Mental Health Promotion Branch of CDPHE, is the current chair of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

### Children, Youth, and Families Branch

In 2017, the Director joined the steering committee for the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. CDPHE staff facilitate this work. This survey is conducted by the University of Colorado - Denver and collects youth health and risk-related data around the state from a random sample of middle school and high school students in the Fall of odd years. It is supported by CDPHE, the Colorado Department of Human Services and CDE.

### Colorado Department of Public Safety

#### Colorado State Patrol (CSP)

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

CSP has continued to generously provide voiceover talent for the CSSRC online offerings, and to allow the Center to utilize several of its vehicles for travel across the state, which helps the Center to reduce travel expenses and provide more services to schools.

### Division of Criminal Justice

#### Office for Victims Programs

Since human trafficking was added to the definition of child abuse in Colorado statute in 2016, the Center and the Colorado Human Trafficking Council professionals have worked together regularly to increase awareness of the problem in our schools and local communities. Staff from the Division of Criminal Justice trained at the April Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium and the Safe Schools Summit in October. The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist testified with the Human Trafficking Program Manager before the legislature in 2018 in support of human trafficking training bills. The Center meets regularly with the staff from the Human Trafficking Council and Front Range Anti-Trafficking Council to share resources and get updates on trends and concerns.

#### Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB)

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

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist and the Juvenile Standards Coordinator collaborated on a training on cyber safety and the new juvenile sexting legislation for this year's SOMB Conference. She also assisted in the creation of a training with some of the state Diversion Directors on sexting prevention for the same conference. The association with DCJ has provided opportunities for both groups to expand messaging regarding child sexual abuse and awareness to new audiences.

#### Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)

The CSSRC maintains a professional relationship with this agency, particularly as issues related to schools arise that offer opportunities for education regarding building safety and emergency preparedness. In recent years, there have been further collaboration efforts as schools struggle with emergency preparedness for active shooter situations that do not interfere with fire safety.

To further this work of assisting schools with active shooter situations and foster their collaboration with local emergency responders, DFPC, the Center, the Colorado Information Analysis Center, DHSEM and Colorado State Patrol have organized, and are currently delivering, a workshop on this topic around Colorado. The first two were held in Loveland and Pueblo in November and December. These three-hour seminars will continue in 2019 at other locations across the state.

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing assistance of DFPC as a partner for the Center's October Safe Schools Summit in Thornton.

## Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

### Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC)

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

During the 2018 legislative session, seven additional employees were added to the CIAC to support the Safe2Tell program. This program is an anonymous tip line open to any Colorado citizens, but focused on students to provide a tool for them to report concerns to school officials and law enforcement. Establishing the Watch Center at the CIAC, where the Safe2Tell professionals will accept and analyze calls, has deepened the relationship between the CIAC and the CSSRC and will help CDPS further support school safety.

### Office of School Emergency Response

When the 2018 Colorado Legislature proposed two school safety bills for over sixty million dollars, the Department of Public Safety realized that the CSSRC did not have the capacity to manage such funding. However, the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management oversees millions of dollars for the Federal Office of Emergency Management, and they agreed to handle the school safety grants. The CSSRC has been the main conduit of grant notifications to the school districts and the Director of the Center is serving on both grant selection committees.

### Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)

The CEI is an independent 501(c)(3) that serves as a partner to the Colorado Department of Education in the effective implementation of programs and public policy related to education. Center staff attended CEI's Positive Youth Development conference in 2018 to enhance work on YES<sup>2</sup>. CEI was a consulting partner on the positive school climate work the Center had been able to conduct with grant funds from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado and assisted with the concept for the Student/Staff Summits.

### Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA)

CEMA is an association of public and private emergency management professionals working throughout the state. In 2018, staff presented on connecting schools to their community-based emergency management programming at the CEMA Annual Conference.

### Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP)

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

## Colorado Implementation Collaborative (CIC)

“The Colorado Implementation Collaborative is a multidisciplinary group of professionals in Colorado dedicated to advancing implementation science, practice, and policy within health and human services.” (From their website) Founded in 2011, this group meets monthly to provide educational opportunities with national and international experts to increase knowledge about implementation best practices and application. The Director of the Center attends these meetings when possible.

## 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. This year, the Center has trained with CSDSIP staff and they were platinum supporters of the 2018 Colorado Safe Schools Summit. At the Summit, they also staffed a table of resources and facilitated a workshop on threat assessment vs. discipline in schools. Steve Fast, Executive Director of CSDSIP, is a member of the CSSRC Advisory Board.

## Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA)

The Colorado School Counselor Association represents school counselors at all levels in Colorado. Its purpose is to serve its members and the public through programs that advance guidance and counseling in all school work settings: elementary, middle/junior high, high school, and postsecondary schools. Center staff did not have the opportunity to present at their 2018 annual conference, but attended and will continue to work with CSCA.

## Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP)

The mission of CSSP is to strengthen the effectiveness of school psychologists in addressing academic, social, and emotional needs of children and youth in Colorado. CSSRC staff have repeatedly been invited to address participants of their annual conference. This year, the Center staff presented on juvenile sexting guidelines and threat assessment and management.

## Community Preparedness Advisory Council (CPAC)

CPAC brings together government and non-government entities to participate in community preparedness planning and program development, facilitated by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety. More than 20 state, regional, and local government and non-governmental organizations make up CPAC. The CSSRC is a member of this group and contributes feedback related to school emergency planning across Colorado.

## 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 investigating domestic and international terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, and many others.

Two analysts from the FBI’s Denver field office assigned to the Crimes Against Children unit presented at the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium in the spring. The analysts presented a case study of a sextortion offense and offered tips to school personnel as to how they can help investigators of such crimes protect students. The analysts have continued to provide contacts for potential presenters and experts in other fields of investigation.

A special agent from the Behavioral Analysis Unit also presented on threat assessment at the 2018 Safe Schools Summit.

## Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC)

The FRAC is an interdisciplinary group of law enforcement, non-profit and state agency professionals that meets to share resources, training events, and updates on human trafficking in Colorado. Center staff began attending meetings in 2014.

This relationship enables Center staff to stay current on trends in prosecution, patterns in human trafficking in schools and the community at large, and to foster contact with partners at DCJ, the FBI, and elsewhere.

## Illuminate Colorado

Illuminate Colorado is a cohort of agencies whose mission is to create brighter futures for Colorado's children. They are the Colorado branch of Prevent Child Abuse America. The Center has partnered with Illuminate staff for expertise in regional trainings, as well as working groups to prevent child abuse. Together with the Office of Early Childhood, referenced above, they sponsor the Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Biennial Conference. Center staff participates in that effort.

## One Colorado

One Colorado is a non-profit organization with a mission to secure and protect equality and opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans and their families. They have been co-presenters with the Center, ADL, CDE, CEI, and Facing History throughout the state in the Positive School Climate: Bullying Prevention Institutes since 2011. One Colorado staff presented a plenary at the first round of Student/Staff Summits in 2017 and presented a workshop at the 2018 Safe Schools Summit.

## Partners for Children's Mental Health (PCMH)

PCMH is a newly developing Children's Mental Health Center of Excellence supported by the Children's Hospital of Colorado. PCMH is designed to serve as a statewide resource to increase the capacity, access, and quality of mental health services for children, youth, and families. In November 2018, the CSSRC's Director was asked to be a member of the steering committee for this new entity whose work will first focus on youth suicide in Colorado.

## Stand Up Colorado

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

## Think Tank for Emergency Management in CO

Originally known as the Colorado State All-Hazards Advisory Committee, or SAHAC, it was formed in 2004 to provide advice to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Public Safety, and other public safety agencies on matters related to all-hazards emergency management. In 2018 the Think tank developed a white paper on educating policymakers about emergency management and creating sustainable emergency management programs in Colorado. Center staff members continue to attend meetings and offer input related to school all-hazard emergency planning across Colorado.



## Summary and Conclusion

Again, 2018 saw school safety in the headlines nationally with the tragedies at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, as well as Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas. However, for schools in Colorado, safety is always at the forefront and legislators are supporting these efforts. The Colorado General Assembly this year created two grant programs designed to enhance both interoperability between school districts and community responders with the SAFER grant program (SB18-158), as well as to increase security measures with the School Security Disbursement grant authorized by SB18-269.

Recognizing the continuing tragedy of youth suicide, Colorado legislators also earmarked grant funding to provide training with SB18-272. The School Safety Resource Center made suicide prevention and intervention a priority in 2018 with a new online course, a working group to create best practices for district suicide strategies, and two regional trainings on the subject with colleagues from the state Office of Suicide Prevention, the Colorado Department of Education, and the Office of the Colorado Attorney General. As the numbers continue to rise, this will remain a focus of the Center's efforts.

Eleven regional trainings addressing topics in all five preparedness missions engaged close to 2,000 participants including three Student/Staff Summits. However, individual district and school consultations and trainings made up the bulk of the activities of CSSRC staff with outreach far beyond the Front Range. Districts remain incentivized by the Claire Davis School Safety Act to have staff trained on threat assessment protocols as well as preventing adult sexual misconduct.

While CSSRC staff reached 8,192 attendees with in-person trainings, the success of the fifteen online courses training an additional 3,580 participants this year is extremely gratifying. Plans are already in the making for two more online course creations in 2019.

The Center will continue facilitating the working groups on suicide prevention and threat assessment best practices and share the outcomes of these groups with all Colorado schools. The Student/Staff Summits held in November and December yielded excellent suggestions from students on how schools can tackle a number of safety issues. These suggestions will be shared in the January 2019 E-Update and posted on the CSSRC website.

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

School safety is important for so many reasons. Providing a safe environment that is welcoming to all students creates an atmosphere where academic success is possible. Research also informs schools that a positive school environment is one of the best ways to provide a safe school environment. However, chiefly, our youth are the most precious resource we have and we must protect them. The Center appreciates everyone who works with us in this effort. We will all continue to strive for excellence in Colorado school safety in 2019.



For additional information, please view the CSSRC website at [www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter](http://www.Colorado.gov/SchoolSafetyResourceCenter) or [www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC](http://www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC)

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

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