



*Safe Communities ~
Safe Schools*

FACT SHEET

FS-SC01

2000

Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative

In an effort to address the immediate concerns of the Colorado education community, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) of the University of Colorado, introduced the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative in the fall of 1999. This Initiative has been made possible by the support of several key Colorado educational and political agencies that serve as Partners of the Initiative. The Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Partnership includes: The Colorado Trust, Colorado Attorney General, Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), Colorado Education Association (CEA), Colorado Federation of Teachers (CFT), Coors Brewing Company, Front Range and Metro Denver Safe and Drug-Free School Coordinators, and the University of Colorado. This project will consist of the following strategies that will be available to all school communities in Colorado:

Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model

CSPV staff has introduced the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools to educators, law enforcement officers, politicians and community members throughout Colorado. CSPV developed the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model to assist each school in designing an individualized safe school plan. The goal of this model is to create and maintain a positive and welcoming school climate, free of drugs, violence, intimidation and fear—an environment strongly supported by the community in which teachers can teach and students can learn. (Details available in the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model fact sheet.)

Technical Assistance

CSPV staff is available to schools and school districts for technical assistance concerning the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model by telephone, email, listserv or through a limited number of school site visits. Technical assistance can be provided regarding the components of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model including, the strategic planning process, creating a safe school planning team, conducting a school site assessment, establishing a social support team, and identifying effective strategies for implementation. Site visits will be determined based on the number of requests received.

Publications

The CSPV Information House will develop, publish, and disseminate the following publications to all Colorado school communities:

- **Planning Guide**—specific components of a safe school plan will be discussed in this guidebook, including the safe school planning team, community and school assessments, social support team, effective strategies for implementation, crisis response plan, etc.

- **School-Based Programs for Violence Prevention**—descriptions and effectiveness of school-based violence and drug prevention programs that have been implemented around the country as well as promising Colorado school-based programs will be included.
- **Youth Violence: Causes and Dynamics**—a tool for educators to use in understanding youth violence, developing safe school plans and selecting suitable violence prevention programming that meet the need of their school communities.
- **Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Assessment Instruments**—actual instruments and surveys that can be used in completing a annual school site assessment.
- **School Violence Prevention Fact Sheets**—a variety of topics will be covered, such as safe school planning, youth violence, after-school activities, juvenile aggression, etc.
Web Site
- **A Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools** interactive web site is available to provide school violence prevention information including fact sheets, database searches for school violence prevention literature, programs and resources, online surveys, online magazine, and school violence statistics.

Information House

CSPV is available daily by phone, fax, mail and in person, to provide information, publications, database searches, and resources to community members and educators interested in safe school planning.

Media Campaign

CSPV launched the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools media campaign in conjunction with the University of Colorado Public Relations Office. Public Service Announcements were aired by local television and radio networks, and a press release was disseminated. CSPV has also worked closely with the Colorado Attorney General's Office to provide the citizens of the state of Colorado with information about the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative.

Long-Term Response Plan

More in-depth training and technical assistance regarding the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools model is being provided to a select group of 16 Colorado schools and districts. These sites were selected based on an application process that reviewed the location, need, and overall commitment on behalf of the community and its school(s).