**Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative**

The recent series of highly publicized suburban school shootings, particularly Columbine High School, bring a powerful message to the American public. School communities, whether suburban or urban, are no longer safe havens.

In order to restore a sense of security in Colorado schools, a partnership was formed to foster the kind of environment in which communities and schools can thrive. The partnership, represented by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV), will introduce the Initiative at regional and local community and school meetings during the Fall of 1999.

CSPV will provide technical assistance to school communities at scheduled meetings, and by telephone, email, listserv, as well as during site visits. Technical assistance will be provided regarding the components of the Safe Communities~Safe Schools Model, the strategic planning process, creating a safe school planning team, conducting a 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 will be developed and disseminated to schools, parent organizations and community groups regarding the safe school planning process. A web site will be available at:

www.colorado.edu/csvp/safeschools

Applications are being accepted through December 1999 for school sites to receive training and technical assistance in developing a safe school plan. Twenty sites will be selected statewide to receive this assistance.

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**Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model**

The goal of safe school planning 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.

Each community/school planning team will develop an individualized safe school plan to be used as a guide today and a planning tool for the future.

Establishing a safe school plan is a long-term, systematic, and comprehensive process that involves the entire community.

CSPV will help school communities develop the following components of a safe school plan:

- Establish a safe school planning team from community members and school staff
- Conduct a site assessment
- Develop strategies to address school safety needs
- Establish a Social Support Team
- Develop a Crisis Response Plan

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**Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Partnership**

- Colorado Association of School Boards
- Colorado Association of School Executives
- Colorado Federation of Teachers
- Colorado Education Association
- Colorado Department of Education
- Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- The Colorado Trust
- The Colorado Trust, a private grantmaking foundation, has provided the primary funding for this three year project to assist all Colorado communities with safe school planning, violence prevention publications and technical assistance. The goal of this initiative is to effectively reduce school/community violence.

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**Highlights**

- Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative and Model 1
- Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Partnership 1
- Training Available for Safe School Planning 2
Receive Training and Technical Assistance for Safe Schools

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is available to assist any Colorado school, school district or community group interested in learning more about the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative. CSPV staff is available to provide presentations, resources and assistance with the safe school planning process. Please contact 303-492-1032 for further information.

Additional resources are available on our web site:

www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools

In-depth training and technical assistance will be provided to 20 sites through an application process. Assistance will be provided in all aspects of safe school planning.

An evaluation will be conducted to determine school safety effectiveness. Applications will be accepted through December 1999—The 20 sites will be selected during Spring 2000.

For information or application contact:

CSPV
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 442
Boulder, CO 80309-0442
303-492-1032