West Valley High school is an alternative high school program supported by the Pikes Peak BOCES located in Colorado Springs. West Valley may be viewed as a “second chance” opportunity for high school students at risk of expulsion or who have been unsuccessful in a traditional school setting. This year, 75 students have been referred to West Valley from 11 school districts in the Pikes Peak region. Student referrals to West Valley are based on a number of criteria: history of substance use, truancy, poor academic performance, credit deficits, history of school discipline issues or being at risk of dropping out of school.

West Valley is an implementation site for the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative, and has begun extensive safe school planning. A complete Planning Team has been established, involving members from all aspects of the community and school. To date, student and faculty surveys have been administered and completed, and community surveys are in preparation for administration. A Social Support team is in place and is made up of various faculty members from West Valley: teachers, administrators, school counselor, and judicial liaison.

West Valley collaborates with various community agencies to offer services designed to meet the specific needs of its students. If you wish to learn more about West Valley please call 719-635-1371.

Emerging Lessons of the Colorado Statewide Forums

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV), the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, and The Colorado Trust wish to announce the results of the statewide forums to promote community awareness about Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools. The forums began in April and involved a stop at each of the 63 counties in the state of Colorado during the Spring and Fall of 2000.

Attorney General Ken Salazar and CSPV Director Del Elliott met with students and school districts about what schools and communities can do to provide safe and nurturing school climates. They also talked to communities about the resources available through CSPV.

The following are some emerging lessons from the tour:

**Scope of Youth Violence:**
Youth violence knows no boundaries - rural, urban, suburban.

**Bullying:**
Bullying is a major problem in Colorado schools. It is estimated that more than 10,000 students, grades 9-12, stay home at least once every 30 days because they are afraid to go to school.

**Drugs:**
Drug use is prevalent in communities among high school and middle school-aged youth.

**Gangs:**
Gang activity is present in many areas of Colorado, and is not confined to the Denver Metro area.

**Youth Responsibility:**
Youth recognize their own important role in addressing the issues of violence.

**Parental Responsibility:**
Youth want adults, especially their parents, to demonstrate how much they care about them and to be involved in their lives, despite contrary signals they may sometimes give.

**Character Education:**
Character education teaches respect for others and for oneself. There is a need in our schools for us to teach respect for one another. Character education is one approach to accomplish that objective.

The staff at Vivian Elementary applied for the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative because they wanted to become involved in developing a safe school that could be a model for other Jefferson County schools. Vivian’s SCSS Coordinators formed a Planning Team to focus on the following agendas: general understanding of the initiative, creating a vision of school climate, group norms, decision making, and developing a mission statement. They are presently beginning to review Vivian’s emergency plan. The team will soon set up a Student Study Team that will look at specific referrals of students at Vivian who require special interventions. A School Climate Committee has been formed to examine the school discipline policy. They will meet regularly to review options.

The staff and community members of Vivian are enthusiastic about and committed to the success of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative. For more information call 303-982-7670.
In This Issue...

Profile of West Valley Alternative School, Colorado Springs
Profile of Vivian Elementary School, Lakewood
Emerging Lessons on Youth Violence

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following organizations have contributed their support, expertise and/or financial assistance to this initiative...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS
COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES
COLORADO FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
COLORADO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
METRO-DEVER & FRONT RANGE SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS
COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL
COORS BREWING COMPANY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER
THE COLORADO TRUST

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCSS INITIATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSPV developed the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools (SCSS) Initiative in response to requests from the Colorado education community. The goal of the Initiative is to help schools and communities create and maintain a positive and welcoming school climate free of drugs, violence, intimidation and fear - an environment which is strongly supported by the community, and in which teachers can teach and students can learn. To achieve this goal, CSPV is assisting schools in Colorado in designing individualized safe school plans based on the five components of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Model:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCSS Planning Team
Site Assessments
Prevention Programming
Social Support Team
Crisis Planning.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado at Boulder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
439 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0439
303-492-1032

Delbert S. Elliott, Director
Jane M. Grady, Assistant Director
Landa Heys, Communications Coordinator
Tonya Aultman-Bettridge, Technical Assistance Coordinator
Mary Beth Abella
Holly Bell
Jennifer Carroll
Michelle Beaulieu Cooke
Beverly Kingston
Rhonda Ntepp
Judith Vanderryn
Dorian Wilson
Darci Card