

Communities and Schools in Action

A publication of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative

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Bully-Proofing Your School

Five sites from the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative (SCSS) are implementing *Bully-Proofing Your School* (BPYS) this fall, each with a promising start. The schools, Underwood Elementary, Vivian Elementary, Mountain Valley Elementary, Mountain Valley Middle and Del Norte Middle School had their entire staffs trained on the Bully-Proofing program over the summer, and all five are well into implementation.

Bully-Proofing Your School is a program designed to empower the "caring majority" of students who are neither bullies nor victims. Staff training, classroom curriculum, student instruction and activities are used to help maintain a safe school environment where kindness and decency are highly valued, and bullying is regarded as unacceptable behavior.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is providing funding and observation of implementation at these five schools in order to evaluate the effectiveness of BPYS over the next three years; therefore, sites will continue to be surveyed every year through the spring of 2004. The survey reports will be extremely useful for these schools to gauge if their goals and objectives from the SCSS Initiative are being met, as well as whether or not *Bully-Proofing* is truly affecting their school climate.

Thus far, observation by SCSS staff indicates a positive response to the program. For instance, the staff at Vivian Elementary, in Lakewood, are

Between 1993 and 2001, there was a decline in the percentage of students who carried a weapon at school - from 12% in 1993 to 6% in 2001.
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excited about having the BPYS program as part of their curriculum and have found ways to incorporate the elements into a variety of classes, such as art. The coordinator at Vivian has indicated that the students have been enthusiastic about the program and look forward to each session with anticipation.

Colorado School Violence Prevention and Student Discipline Manual

The Colorado Attorney General's office recently published a revised edition of their manual entitled "Colorado School Violence Prevention and Student Discipline Manual". This booklet, which some of you may have received, offers information for teachers

In 2000, students were more than twice as likely to be victims of serious violent crime away from school, than at school.

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and administrators regarding the best ways to keep schools safe. Due to recent Colorado legislation, this manual has been updated since its first publication in 1999. Changes in laws regarding schools' responsibilities have been included, as well as expanded information regarding how criminal law applies to schools.

Furthermore, this new edition also includes guides for schools to use when drafting policies related to gang violence.

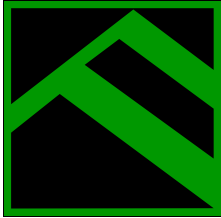
One expanded section focuses on new requirements for schools regarding safe school plans. Each school district in Colorado is required to adopt a mission statement, which places violence prevention and student safety at the forefront. Additionally, every school is required to create a safe school plan. This plan should involve not only administrators and teachers, but also parents, law enforcement and members of the community as well as students, if appropriate.

There are a variety of components that are required for a safe school plan. These include a written code of conduct and discipline code as well as details of how each principal will submit required annual reports outlining the violations of the codes. A memorandum of understanding between the school and local law enforcement, as well as the juvenile justice system and social services, is also required as part of the safe school plan. Crisis management procedures, clearly outlined, are considered a requisite piece of safe school planning as well. Finally, annual evaluations of each school's physical plant, to assess its safety features, are now mandatory to help ensure the safety of Colorado's school children.

In 2001, 8 percent of students reported that they had been bullied at school in the last 6 months, up from 5 percent in 1999.

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The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence has technical assistance available for schools that want help or information on any aspect of their safe school plan. Copies of the Attorney General's discipline manual are available from CSPV by calling 303-492-1032. You may also download the manual from the Colorado Attorney General's website, www.ago.state.co.us.



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<p style="text-align: center;">PARTNERS</p> <p>The following organizations have contributed their support, expertise and/or financial assistance to this initiative...</p> <p>THE COLORADO TRUST COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLORADO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COLORADO FEDERATION OF TEACHERS COORS BREWING COMPANY METRO-DENVER & FRONT RANGE SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCSS INITIATIVE</p> <p>CSPV, in partnership with The Colorado Trust, 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCSS Planning Team Site Assessments Prevention Programming Social Support Team Crisis Planning. 	<p style="text-align: center;">CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE</p> <p>University of Colorado at Boulder 439 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0439 303-492-1032</p> <p>Delbert S. Elliott, Director Jane M. Grady, Assistant Director Bill Woodward, Training and Technical Assistance Director Grace Taylor, SCSS Program Director Susan Williams, Communications Coordinator Sheryl Cardozo, Field Representative Miriam Jebe, Field Representative Beverly Kingston, Graduate Data Coordinator Gretta St. Martin, Field Representative Justin Rosenthal, Research Assistant Dorian Wilson, Graduate Data Analyst</p>
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SCSS Sites Receive Additional Funding

Thirteen SCSS sites received funding as part of The Colorado Trust's SCSS Initiative to implement safety measures identified during the three-year planning phase. Funds were made available through an RFP released in late August specifically designed to help SCSS sites maintain a positive and welcoming school climate. Sites were encouraged to respond with a detailed proposal describing their individual needs and goals. Proposals were due in early October, and The Colorado Trust notified schools of their awards on October 25.

We would like to congratulate the following schools: **Central High School, Columbine Middle School, Gunnison High School, Hayden School District, West Park Elementary School, Mesa County School District, Mt. Valley School District, Del Norte School District, West Valley High School, Vivian Elementary School, Summit School District, Sheridan School District, and Ranum High School.**

Funds will meet such needs as: crisis response training, safety gates, bilingual community liaison, communications systems, fire blankets and smoke alarms, web page design, parent incentives, staff participation in conferences, playground upgrades, and drug/alcohol intervention counseling services.