Why have students failed to come forward with their information in advance of the many instances of school violence before and after Columbine? Often, that reluctance may stem from a student culture that fosters and enforces a code of silence (The Report of Gov. Bill Owens’ Columbine Review Commission, 2001).

safe2tell, an initiative of The Colorado Trust, enhances Safe Communities~Safe Schools by facilitating efforts to break the code of silence. Students, teachers and others can anonymously report important information about violent or troubling events that are current or planned.

safe2tell is a Colorado Student Crime Stopper program, 501 [C][3], governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The focus of this initiative is to establish local programs in communities throughout Colorado and establish a statewide hotline. The statewide hotline will operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and tips will be answered and dispersed by the Colorado State Patrol. Individual anonymity is guaranteed through a Colorado Legislative Act.

Students and others may call safe2tell at 1-877-542-SAFE or call their local Student Crime Stopper program if one is available. The caller will tell the call taker about the threat, crime or suspect and be given a code number—the caller doesn’t have to give a name or any other identifying information.

Violence prevention experts have long agreed that sharing information and acting upon suspicious behavior helps avert tragedy. “The findings of the Safe School Initiative suggest that silence is far from golden. In fact, ...silence may be downright dangerous. The study found that most school shooters shared their potentially lethal plans with other students, but that students who knew of planned attacks rarely told adults.” (U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, 2002)

“The Commission recommends that each school district establish a mechanism like an anonymous telephone line, through which students and others may anonymously report statements or conduct that worries or concerns them.” (The Report of Gov. Bill Owens’ Columbine Review Commission, 2001)

“Kids often have the best information of what is happening in their schools and in their community. safe2tell provides a safe way for kids to pass on this information to adults who can make a difference.” (Ken Salazar, Colorado Attorney General, 2004)

“Early intervention is critical in the life of a child who is exhibiting behaviors identified as precursors to violence... safe2tell provides a tool to intervene in a proactive way.” (Delbert Elliott, Director Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, 2004)

“Student Crime Stoppers has been a great tool for me, as an SRO, as well as for the students and faculty of Adams County School District #50... It’s resulted in the prosecution of cases and the recovery and return of stolen property.” (Tim Guthrie, Senior Police Officer Westminster Police Dept./SRO Westminster High School, 2004)

“It’s important that children learn to ‘tell’ when it is about their safety or the safety of others. safe2tell provides an anonymous means of communication and breaks the code of silence.” (Susan Payne, Director safe2tell, 2004)

safe2tell is designed to answer the need for a safe, anonymous outlet to report concerns.
**Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools**

**PARTNERS**
The following organizations have contributed their support, expertise and/or financial assistance to this initiative...

- **THE COLORADO TRUST**
- **COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS**
- **COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES**
- **COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL**
- **COLORADO CRIME STOPPERS**
- **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**

**SCSS INITIATIVE**
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 where 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:

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

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE**
University of Colorado at Boulder
439 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0439
303-492-1032

- Delbert S. Elliott, Director
- Jane M. Grady, Assistant Director
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**SCSS Staff**
- Grace Taylor, Program Director
- Darci Card, Resources Coordinator
- Miriam Jebe, Field Representative
- Susan Lineberry, Communications Coordinator
- Gretta St. Martin, Training and Evaluation Coordinator
- Dorian Wilson, Research

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**Safe Communities~Safe Schools Part 2**

**“Make It Happen”**

Regional trainings are scheduled this fall to give school districts hands-on instruction for developing an Interagency Agreement. These trainings are a follow-up to last year’s sessions and are again offered at no cost to participants. Sessions run from 9:00-3:10 and continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To register please visit [www.colorado.edu/cspv](http://www.colorado.edu/cspv)

Contact Susan Lineberry at 303-492-0404 for more information.

**Register in Teams:**
- School Principal
- School social worker, psychologist, or counselor
- Local Law Enforcement
- School District Official
- Mental Health, Social Services, and District Attorneys

**October 5—Denver**
Radisson Graysone Castle

**October 7—Pueblo**
Sangre De Cristo Arts & Conf. Center

**October 13—Grand Junction**
Two Rivers Convention Center

**Topics include:**
- School/Personal Liability
- Social Support Teams
- Information Sharing Agreements
- Threat Assessments
- Student Crime Stoppers Programs