



Communities and Schools in Action



A publication of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative

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Rose Hill Elementary School

Rose Hill Elementary School is located in the southern most section of Commerce City, Colorado. The school has a student population of about 510 students, in a pre-school to fifth-grade setting. Out of the student population, 125 students are Spanish-speaking. Rose Hill is identified as a Schoolwide Title I School, which means it serves a variety of needs. The school is completely inclusive, with about 50 students with a wide range of physical, emotional, or learning disabilities. The demographics of Rose Hill include populations of 45% Hispanic, 48% Caucasian, 5% African American, and 2% who identify themselves as "other".

The improvement of school safety is a top priority at Rose Hill. All SCSS surveys - students, staff, parents, and community - have been completed. The Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Planning Team is in the process of utilizing the SCSS Pre-planning checklists to evaluate the school discipline policy, crisis policy, parent involvement and numerous other policies. The data from these checklists and surveys will assist the school in identifying strengths and weaknesses and improving policies. Rose Hill also has plans to begin an after-school enrichment program. Numerous school and community members have taken an active and collaborative role in Rose Hill's SCSS Initiative. For information call Marie Romero or Sharon Kirkman (303) 452-2870.

Ranum High School

Ranum High School is located in Adams County 50 near downtown Denver, Colorado. There are over 1300 students at Ranum High. Approximately half of the student body population is made up of minority groups, predominately Hispanic. Ranum's diverse student population is one of its defining attributes.

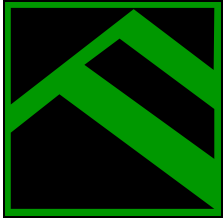
Ranum High School is excited about participating in the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative. Its Planning Team consists of community members, teachers, school administration, resource officers and students. The Planning Team has begun working on a crisis management plan, as well as is actively seeking to involve local businesses in a collaboration to help strengthen the school's resources. The assessment process has given the Planning Team the information it needed to proceed with addressing the issues facing Ranum's students and staff. The Planning Team is currently looking at programs to address school needs, as well as seeking funding to implement needed programs. Ranum has formed a "Concern Action Response Team", which will function as the Social Support team prescribed in the Initiative. This team is excited about forming collaborative relationships to provide services

to at risk students. Through the SCSS Initiative, Ranum has obtained technical assistance needed to successfully create a model process to achieve its goal for a safe school. Although establishing the needed collaborative groups was and continues to be a challenging endeavor, Ranum is happy to share its successes and challenges with others, so please feel free to contact the Coordinator, Officer Lou Dixon at (303)428-9577.

Information Sharing in Colorado

A crucial component of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative is the Social Support Team. The purpose of the Social Support Team is to address the needs of students at risk by identifying and managing individual student cases. The team is to be composed of both school and community professionals who possess the training and experience necessary for identifying and evaluating warning signs, exploring the likelihood of possible dangerous situations, and then making collective recommendations for treatment or intervention programming. The team should include some, or all, of the following representatives: school administrator, school counselor, social worker, local law enforcement, school resource officer, community-based mental health representative, a legal advisor, or others. However, the team needs to remain small enough to function well and make collaborative decisions.

The functioning of the Social Support Team relies heavily upon the ability to share information between agencies. During the year 2000, Colorado's Legislature took important steps toward facilitating the process. Senate Bill 133 and House Bill 1119 both authorize and require a greater exchange of information between schools and law enforcement agencies. As a result of these new enactments, CSPV initiated an Interagency Agreement Task Force made up of State Agencies that would be represented on the Social Support Team at the local level. This Task Force spent many hours and attended many collaborative meetings in order to put the legislative mandates into a practical action plan, as outlined in an Interagency Agreement. Because information sharing is mandated by Colorado law, this model will be a useful tool as schools and law enforcement attempt to put the laws into practice. The involvement of the state-level agencies also lends assurance to Social Support Team members that they have approval to begin the information sharing process. The Interagency Agreement will be available to all of Colorado's schools, school districts, and law enforcement agencies during Spring/Summer of 2001.



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THE COLORADO TRUST
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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 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:

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

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Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools and The Colorado Trust

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is excited to announce that The Colorado Trust has provided an additional \$1 million grant to the Center to further enhance the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative. This grant will be used to provide additional technical assistance to schools and school districts throughout the State, as well as continue to fully implement the Initiative within the 16 sites who are piloting the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools model. The Center is available to assist schools and communities in areas of crisis planning, information sharing, prevention programming, or even assistance in implementation of the complete SCSS model. For more information on receiving technical assistance, please call (303) 492-1032.

The Colorado Trust has a long history with CSPV and has been a key collaborator in many projects. The Colorado Trust provided the initial \$1 million grant which kicked off the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative in the Fall of 1999. They have supported the Initiative and CSPV in many ways in the past, and continue to show their support through this additional funding. CSPV extends the warmest thanks to The Colorado Trust and looks forward to future collaboration. For information about The Colorado Trust, please call (303) 837-1200.