



# Communities and Schools in Action

A publication of the Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Initiative



Volume 3, Issue 1

February, 2002

## Gunnison School District

Gunnison High School continues to make progress on their safe school planning efforts. After spending many months gathering information about the school's climate and problem areas, the Planning Team has finally narrowed their focus to reducing harassment among students. While this is a daunting task, the team and school are committed. We have conducted numerous focus groups with students around this issue. Many of the proposed strategies are being further developed by subcommittees. While the action plan is still in the early stages, the Planning Team is enthusiastic and remains completely involved with the Initiative.

We are also making efforts to continually involve the students and draw from the many community resources that are currently available. For more information regarding our planning and progress, please contact Steve Coleman at 970-641-7700.

SCSS Conference - April 25-26, 2002

◆ Omni Interlocken Resort ◆

*See back for details*

## Hayden School District

Hayden School District is located approximately 30 miles west of Steamboat Springs in rural Routt County. The district serves 500 students between Kindergarten and the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The SCSS planning team in Hayden doubles as the Community Action Network (CAN), a committee comprised of students, staff, and community members. The Community Action Network exists to address the health and safety concerns of the Hayden community by promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing risky behaviors.

The assessment component of the initiative has been an integral part of the strategic planning process at Hayden School District. Based on assessment results, the CAN committee decided to create goals related to bullying prevention at the elementary and middle schools and alcohol reduction at the high school. By using effective programs, this committee believes it can make a lasting difference in the lives of Hayden students. For more information, please contact coordinator Mari Mahanna at (970) 276-3761.

## Conducting School Site Assessments

Shootings in schools, the workplace, and places of worship have created a heightened awareness regarding violence in places we traditionally felt were safe. As part of the Safe Communities~Safe Schools Initiative, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence is available to help Colorado schools and communities develop safe school plans.

An initial assessment of school safety issues is crucial to this planning process. The assessment highlights the unique strengths and weaknesses of an individual school, offering guidance for a planning team in their efforts to develop a specific safe school plan. The site assessment covers three areas: planning, outcomes and process.

The planning assessment evaluates existing resources for school safety and violence prevention, including:

- Security resources and building safety
- Crisis management plan
- School and district policies
- Student resources, such as after-school programs
- School-community partnerships

The outcomes assessment provides a benchmark for measuring effects of the plan and should address:

- School climate
- Violence and victimization
- Problem behaviors, such as drugs and alcohol
- Student mental health issues
- Protective factors, such as self esteem and social competence
- Student achievement
- Student opportunities

The process assessment addresses the degree to which various stakeholders are involved in determining school policies and developing the safe school plan. The following is crucial in understanding the effects of the safe school plan on school climate and safety.

- Collaboration and community involvement
- Training
- Assessment
- Implementation of violence prevention programs

Thorough assessments identify valuable resources already in place, help prioritize areas of concern, and provide a baseline to measure progress.



Safe Communities ~  
Safe Schools

Center for the Study and  
Prevention of Violence  
University of Colorado  
439 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309-0439

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BOULDER, CO  
PERMIT # 257



## 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 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  
William Woodward, Training and Technical Assistance Director  
Grace Taylor, SCSS Project Director  
Susan Williams, Communications Coordinator  
Holly Bell  
Sheryl Cardozo  
Jennifer Carroll  
Miriam Jebe  
Beverly Kingston  
Rhonda Ntepp  
Gretta St. Martin  
Dorian Wilson  
Darci Card

# Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Annual Training

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, with support from The Colorado Trust and the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, is pleased to announce its second training seminar - a great opportunity for meeting other Colorado practitioners and sharing valuable insight.

**April 25-26, 2002**  
**Omni Interlocken Resort**  
No registration fee  
Hotel rooms available at Omni Interlocken Resort  
Registration forms available by calling 303-492-0404 or at [www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools](http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/safeschools).

Workshop Topics Include:

- Effective Violence Prevention Programs
- School Safety and the Law
- FBI Threat Assessment
- Bullying Prevention
- Information Sharing
- Crisis Planning
- Funding Resources
- Mental Health and Schools