

This Month's Topics: Safe Schools Act: Reporting Requirements and Funding



COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
focus on achievement

Charter School Safety Awareness Newsletter May 2017

The School Safety Awareness monthly newsletters are designed to provide charter leaders with the knowledge and resources necessary to continuously improve the safety of their school environments. By both federal and state law, charter public schools are required to perform specific safety duties and administer certain responsibilities.

Each issue features a specific topic to inform and guide readers along the ever-evolving journey of school safety compliance and practices. Read this publication to stay abreast of your obligations and implement the proven practices and procedures shared here by government agencies, safety experts and fellow charter school operators.

This month we focus on the **Colorado Safe Schools Act, C.R.S. 22-32-109.1**. [Click here to view the law.](#)

Colorado Safe Schools Act Requirements

Provided by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Consult your charter contract and talk with your district liaison as you consider how to implement these requirements at your individual school.

1.5 **Mission statement** to include making safety for all students and staff a priority in each public school (*per the League, either include a reference to safety in your main mission statement or craft a standalone safety mission statement to supplement your main statement*).

2. **Safe School Plan**

- a. Conduct and discipline code
 - i. Written Conduct and Discipline Code
 - a. General policies on student conduct, safety and welfare
 - b. General policies for dealing with disruptive students
 - c. Provisions for suspension or expulsion
 - d. Policies and procedures for the use of acts of reasonable and appropriate physical intervention
 - e. General policies and procedures for determining the circumstances under and the manner in which disciplinary actions shall be imposed
 - f. Specific policy concerning gang-related activities on school grounds, in school vehicles and at school activities

- g. Written prohibition of students from bringing or possessing dangerous weapons, drugs or other controlled substances on school grounds, vehicles, etc.
- h. Written prohibition of students from using or possessing tobacco products on school grounds, etc.
- i. Written policy concerning searches on school grounds, including lockers
- j. Dress code prohibits students from wearing apparel that is deemed disruptive or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school
- k. Specific policy concerning bullying prevention and education
- ii. Requirements
 - a. Impose proportionate disciplinary interventions and consequences
 - b. Include plans for the appropriate use of prevention, intervention, restorative justice, peer mediation, counseling or other approaches to address student misconduct
 - c. Ensure that the implementation of the code complies with all state and federal laws concerning the education of students with disabilities
 - d. Ensure that each school shows due consideration of the impact of certain violations of the code upon victims of such violation in accordance with title IX of United State Code
- b. Safe Schools Reporting Requirements
- c. Internet Safety Plan (recommended)
- 2.5 a. Child sexual abuse and assault prevention plan (encouraged)
- 3. **Agreements with state agencies** to keep the school environment safe
- 4. **School response framework (NIMS)** - [CSSRC School Response Framework Plan Outline](#)
- 5. **Safety and security policy** requiring annual school building inspections
- 6. **Sharing information** particularly on out of home placements (FERPA)
- 7. **Open school policy**
- 8. **Employee screenings**
- 9. **Immunity** - allows immunity from civil liability or criminal prosecution for a person who acts in good faith in carrying out the safe school plan mandated by 22.32.109.1(2)
- 9.5 Effective July 1, 2017, The Claire Davis School Safety Act (24.10.106.3)**
- 9.6 Imposes a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for schools under certain circumstances related to acts of school violence
- 10. **Compliance** with safe school reporting requirements & state funding
- 11. **Review** of reporting requirements

Required Reporting

Consult your charter contract and talk with your district liaison as you consider how to implement these requirements at your individual school.

Colorado Safe Schools Act reference C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2) (b) Safe school reporting requirements. A charter school's Board of Directors may be required to submit the [Safe Schools Act Accreditation Report](#) to its authorizer, as directed by its authorizer. The authorizer's board of education shall annually compile the reports from every school in the district and submit the compiled report to the department of education in a format specified by rule of the state board. The compiled report must be easily accessible by the general public through a link on the department of education's website homepage.

Colorado Safe Schools Act reference C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (4) School response framework: school safety, readiness, and incident management plan. Each board of education [and charter public school] shall establish a school

[emergency] response framework that shall consist of policies described in this subsection (4). By satisfying the requirements of this subsection (4), a school or school district shall be in compliance with the national incident management system, referred to in this subsection (4) as "NIMS", developed by the federal emergency management agency. [Click here for the CSSRC School Response Framework Plan Outline](#). Your plan must align with your authorizer's plan.

Finding School Safety Funding

[Charter School Capital Construction Fund](#)

Pursuant to C.R.S. 22-54-124, the purpose of this funding is to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all Colorado students. The funding can be used by the charter school to pay for school construction, renovation, maintaining, financing, or the purchasing or leasing of facilities. For the 2016-17 year \$25 million was appropriated, which equated to \$277.98 per eligible FTE.

[BEST Grant \(Building Excellent Schools Today\)](#)

The BEST Program is a competitive grant program available to all public school districts and charter schools in Colorado. The BEST program focuses on helping public schools with a multitude of capital construction needs, from new roofs and boilers to major renovations and new schools. The goal of the BEST program is to provide first class, high performing, 21st century facilities and **to help alleviate health and safety concerns throughout Colorado**. [Click here for the BEST FY2017-18 Grant Cycle](#).

[ESSA Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants Coming in 2017-18](#)

The focus of Title IV, Part A of ESSA will be to (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, (2) **improve school conditions for student learning**, and (3) improve the use of educational technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. [Click here](#) for a general overview of use of funds broken down by the three areas of focus. CDE will provide additional information on specific assurances and guidelines on how these funds can be spent. LEAs can expect to receive Title IV, Part A funds under ESSA beginning in July.

[Expelled and At Risk Student Services Grant Program \(EARSS\)](#)

This state grant program was established in 1997. It provides funds for educational and support services to expelled students, those at risk of eventual expulsion and truant students to prevent suspensions and expulsions. *Grant Cycle*: 4-year grants annually awarded.

[School Counselor Corps](#)

The purpose of this program is to increase the availability of effective school-based counseling within secondary schools. The 2018 Request for Proposals will be available in January 2018.

[COPS Hiring Program Grant](#)

This program provides funding to hire and re-hire entry level career law enforcement officers: 75 percent of the entry-level salary and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full-time officer, up to \$125,000 per officer. Up to \$137 million is available. Each grant is three years (36 months).

[Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants](#)

Each year, the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grants program contributes more than \$5 million to fund improvements at public schools in the United States, including safety improvements. Projects should address a critical need and align with Lowe's company purpose; to help people love where they live. Toolbox grant requests can

range from \$2,000 to \$100,000.

[State Farm Safety Grants](#)

State Farm values the importance of keeping our neighbors safe. Grant funding includes: disaster preparedness and disaster recovery. The 2018 grant applications will be available beginning Friday, September 1 through Tuesday, October 31. Grant amount requested must be \$5,000 or more.

[Video Insight School Video Surveillance System Grants](#)

Video Insight will give another \$1 million worth of video surveillance systems to 50 school campuses in need for 2017. Video Insight developed the School Security Grant to help schools that lack funds implement a video surveillance solution and to give back to these communities in need.

CONTEST: Charter School Board Safety Activity

WIN one FREE admission to the League's annual Fall Charter School Summit! (\$99 value)

If the 11 requirements of the Colorado Safe Schools Act were food, what types would they be? Create a list of 11 foods that humorously reminds readers of the actual requirements. For example, mission statement = a red delicious apple because it's the bright symbol of our commitment to a safe school environment.

Be sure to print it (the more visually appealing the better) and email it to Tiffany Kallevik at tkallevik@coloradoleague.org by June 12.

The submission that gets the biggest laugh from the School Safety Advisory Committee, the League staff, and visitors to our office will win! The winning school will be announced in a future SSA newsletter and receive a Certificate of Safety Awareness to display in their school's front office.

Free Resources

These links will provide you tools to begin your journey in creating a safer school environment in your community.

[Colorado School Safety Resource Center](#)

[CSSRC Update: Top Tips for School Safety Situational Awareness & Training](#)

[School Response Framework - Safety Plan Webinar Series](#)

[Colorado School Safety Resource Center May 2017 E-Update](#)

[Safe2Tell Colorado](#)

[CO Dept of Public Health & Environment: Emergency Planning & Preparedness](#)

[Colorado Division of Homeland Security](#)

[Charter Focus Journal Archive](#)

[Campus Safety Magazine](#)

Grants.gov

Upcoming Safety Events

Second Annual IHE Summer Safety Symposium

Sponsored by the Colorado School Safety Resource Center & Regis University

Date: Thursday, June 8

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: Regis University, 3333 Regis Boulevard, Denver

Cost: \$60 per person

Description: During this year's Symposium, several engaging speakers will present on Collaboration during Active Shooter Incidents, Behavioral Intervention Teams, Radicalization on Campus and one campus' response to an individual who would become a notorious criminal. [Click here to view flyer.](#)

Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

ASIST - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for School Staff

Date: Tuesday, June 13 and Wednesday June 14

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Jefferson County Courthouse, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden

Cost: \$80 per person - covers materials and lunch for both days

Description: This training provides practical training for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide and to help a person at risk stay safe and seek further help.

Registration: [Click here to register.](#)

This event is limited to 15 participants on a first come, first served basis. The training will be cancelled if less than 8 individuals are registered.

Save the Date for these Future Events:

Once again the Colorado School Safety Resource Center will sponsor a **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention & Intervention Symposium** on Thursday, September 28 at the Adams 12 Five Star Conference Center. The event will feature a plenary line-up of workshops presenters. Please view [this flyer](#) for more information and to register.

The **2017 Colorado Safe Schools Summit** is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, October 18 and 19 at the Adams 12 Five Star Conference Center in Thornton. Registration will open at the end of this month. The organizers already have a slate of wonderful keynote speakers lined up.

School Safety Advisory Committee Members

The overarching objective of the School Safety Advisory Committee (SSAC) is to advise the Colorado League of Charter Schools on how to build the capacity of Colorado charter public school leaders to provide safe and secure school environments.

2016-2017 Committee Goal: The SSAC and the League seek to instill a culture of safety amongst all Colorado charter school board members and administrative leaders by launching a monthly messaging campaign to prompt safety awareness and actions.

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Amber			

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Vendor Spotlights

SchoolSafe Communications



SchoolSAFE Communications is a web-enabled two-way radio based product that allows for communications interoperability between school radio systems and public safety radio systems.

School-based radio systems are generally less capable and lack the channel capacities, power, and digital signaling to interoperate directly with public safety professionals who may have more sophisticated and much more advanced radio systems. Once the SchoolSAFE Communications product is in place, then school security and public safety professionals including police, fire and EMS can easily initiate or receive communications with school personnel utilizing their existing two-way radios.

Contact:

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Building DNA



While we never want to think of emergency involving schools, unfortunately it happens. When an emergency occurs at a school, the first responders are often delayed in their response due to a lack of critical and accurate information. These delays can be tragic.

The BuildingDNA Platform provides an interactive visual overlay on existing emergency operations planning solutions. This is a powerful communications tool for all emergency stakeholders. Tabletop exercises are brought to life to more effectively train school staff. Risks and resources can be catalogued into a digital plan repository. During any emergency, we provide first responders with live, actionable, visual situation intelligence - all before they arrive on site.

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Next Month's Topic: Review & Refine Your School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

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