

Suggestions for School-Community Pledge

Colorado Safe Schools Month

October

You may use these ideas to outline important next steps for your school or community, or pledge to continue your collaboration efforts already begun. Please use the pledge to highlight your own efforts.

1. **Use specific and accurate information gathering for decision-making:** Each school and school district has their own specific strengths and issues. Therefore, schools and school districts are encouraged to survey students, staff and parents to obtain accurate and current information that is specific to schools and communities. We commit to complete a school climate survey by _____. (Survey assistance is available at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, CU-Boulder; SafeSchools@colorado.edu, 303-492-1032.)
2. **Ensure Information Sharing:** In addition, we recognize the need to share information to have the early and appropriate information to prevent violence. We commit to implement a written information sharing agreement among agencies and schools in our community to share information about public safety concerns (HB 00-1119). (Information sharing agreement assistance available from the Colorado Office of the Attorney General: http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/youth_violence_prevention/interagency_cooperation.)
3. **Promote Anonymous Reporting:** We commit to implement and promote Safe2Tell in our school and community to give kids and community members a safe and anonymous way to provide information about concerns. (For more information about Safe2Tell: 720-508-6800, <http://safe2tell.org/>.)
4. **Create Plans and Promote Effective Practices to Prevent Violence in Schools and Our Community:** Information specific to a school or community gained through climate surveys, incident data and vulnerability and risk assessment of sites can be used to create a plan to address the identified priority issues. Preventing violence is the best strategy to keep kids safe. Effective safe school plans are comprehensive and coordinated and have common components in the areas of prevention, mitigation, protection, response, and recovery. We commit to creating a comprehensive safe schools plan. (Sample safe school plans or consultation is available from the Colorado School Safety Resource Center www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC.)
5. **Create and Practice Our Crises Response Plan:** Preventing violence is the most effective school safety strategy. However, each school still needs to be prepared to respond to acts of violence and other emergencies with a crisis response plan. If a school intruder or other emergency or crises occurs, schools, law enforcement officers, and other first responders need to know their roles and coordinate their responses. A coordinated school crisis response plan, which incorporates the National Incident Management System (NIMS), is a key component to protecting our students and school staff when danger occurs (SB 08-181). (Consultation for NIMS Crisis Response Planning and Practice is available at www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC.)

