

October 2022 Newsletter



The Center is funded through an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University.



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The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation formed in 2021 from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of school safety planning, and it conducts research on prevention, crisis, safety, and trauma related to students and schools. The Center also establishes relationships among area school districts and community stakeholders to create both formal and informal networks. Moreover, the Center provides consultation and on-site support to school districts. This newsletter provides a venue for the Center to

The Director's Corner



Dear School Safety Partners,
I hope your school year is off to a great start. It is great to be able to provide you with Center updates.



- We have made some adjustments to the October newsletter based on the feedback we received. Please let us know how we can make this newsletter the most beneficial for you and your district/organization.
- I had the opportunity to share the goals of the Center in an [Interview](#) by John Henry Smith from NPR for All Things Considered.
- We continue to review applications and conduct interviews for the other four Regional School Safety Coordinator positions. These positions will give the Center statewide coverage.
- The Center launched the Beyond Compliance Workshop series in collaboration with the CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. You can see archived sessions on our [website](#) and attend live sessions in the upcoming months.
- In the coming months, I will be collaborating with many individuals from several agencies to form a working group tasked with the vision of preventing targeted violence in Connecticut schools.
- As per PA 22-114, the Center was tasked with conducting research on the efficacy of SROs. During the month of October, we will be collecting data to complete the report for the CT General Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Please know that you are not alone when it comes to safety and security. Please reach out to us so we can work together to make Connecticut schools as safe as possible.

Your partner in school safety,
Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



Grand Opening of the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation August 2022
(Left to right) Joan Palladino, Ed.D., RN, Dean-School of Professional Studies & Dean-Ancell School of Business at WCSU, Paul B. Beran, Ph.D., President-WCSU, Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D., Founder-CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation, Terrence Cheng, President-The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, Julie Kushner, U.S. Senator for CT, Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator for CT, Dr. Missy Alexander, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs at WCSU, Paula Gill Lopez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director-School Psychology Program at Fairfield University, Katherine Roe, Ph.D., Chair, Assistant Professor-Educational & Educational Psychology at WCSU, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation, Michael Fallon, Director-Outreach for Christopher Murphy, U.S. Senator for CT

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security



Dear School Safety Partners,
Thank you for signing up to get this important newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact me with any school plan questions.

Your partner in school safety,

Bill Turley

Region 3 Coordinator

School Safety Program Lead for the State of Connecticut

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

DEMHS School Plan Points

- All School plans are due to DEMHS by November 1.
- Who must submit their plan:
 - Municipal
 - Regional
 - Magnet
 - Charter
 - CT Tech schools
 - RESCs
- Please submit the entire plan including the signatory page(s)
- Ensure the signatures are dated and the plan has been revised to the current school year.
- Each school must have a Safety Committee and a Safe School Climate Committee. They may be combined but ensure all members and their position/title are listed.
- Every school must have a safety and security assessment every two years. Ensure the most recent assessment is included in the plan with the date it was conducted and who conducted the assessment.
- Drill logs for each school are due to DEMHS by July 1 each year. If you have not submitted last years log, do so as soon as possible.
- The school safety committee should be reviewing and revising the plan regularly. Using the Self-assessment checklist, the committee can ensure the plan meets the 14 standards set by the state.
- A 14th standard was added this year due to legislation. PA-21-92 requires all schools, public and private, to have "Emergency Action Plans for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events" Annex N was added this year to place those plans into the overall school plan. If your school does not participate in these activities, keep annex as placeholder and document that fact.
- [K-12 School Emergency Plan Self-Review Checklist](#)

We are currently revising the school Emergency Operations Planning class we presented in prior years and bringing on new trainers, to bring that class back to the road.

Thank you everyone for your commitment to school safety. I'll provide more school safety plan information next month.

Your partner in school safety,

Bill Turley

School Safety Program Lead for the State of Connecticut

Resources and Information

[Training Video on School Emergency Response Terminology](#) The Center partnered with DEMHS, Bethel Public Schools, and Bethel Police to create a brief basic overview of school emergency response terminology.

Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) Trauma Informed Coordinators: The CT General Assembly recently passed legislation requiring Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) to develop a statewide training program to assist public school educators in dealing with trauma. Each of Connecticut's six RESCs will appoint a "Trauma Coordinator" to facilitate the training development and implementation and serve as a resource for schools across their

region. The legislation can be found [here](#) (it begins on page 25). Please contact your local RESC for more information.

9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number on student IDs: The CT General Assembly recently passed legislation for the school year commencing July 1, 2023, that students in grades 6-12 (and higher education) will have the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number on students' IDs. The legislation can be found [here](#) (it begins on page 36).

New Addition to Annexes for 2022-2023 school plan templates. Added this year is a new standard, #14, Emergency Action Plans for Intramural and Interscholastic Sports. This requirement applies to both public and private schools. A new annex, Annex N, was added for the schools to use for these action plans. For questions or to request more information, please contact the DEMHS School Security Group at SchoolSecurityPlanStandards@ct.gov.

[Tobacco Treatment Specialist \(TTS\) Core Training](#) is an intensive 3-day, virtual, evidence-based training program to be held 6/20/23-6/24/23. It is designed for persons to deliver tobacco treatment services within a health care or community setting. **Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)** is offering this \$1,300 training at **no cost** to participants, through a grant funded by the CT Dept. of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please complete an [Application](#) to become a TTS. Email completed Applications to: **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University, email: Adamsv2@southernct.edu

[Free Vaping Prevention Resources](#), provided by **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University.

[Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems PowerPoint Presentation](#) covering General Information & Trends, ENDS Health Risks, Secondhand Aerosol, Cessation, and Youth Prevention Strategies - provided by **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University.

[Invent2Prevent \(I2P\)](#) is an experiential project that challenges high school students to create and activate their own peer-developed initiatives, products and tools to prevent targeted violence and help create safe schools and communities. Invent2Prevent is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). All participation is free of cost.

[Fostering Family Engagement in School](#) (On-Demand) – This on-demand webinar from the National Center for School Safety addresses how schools can foster family involvement and engagement to increase student feelings of belonging and academic success.

[National Preparedness Month Activities and Resources](#)

This Ready.gov webpage shares information on National Preparedness Month and resources to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies.

[Emergency Preparedness & School Safety for K-12 Schools Infographic](#)

This infographic highlights the five mission areas of emergency preparedness and how schools can use them to take a comprehensive approach to school safety and emergency planning.

[CISA School Safety Resources for Back to School](#)

This blog post outlines CISA resources, tools, and community-wide stakeholder events to help K-12 schools and districts enhance and strengthen their safety and security.

Assailant Drills in Schools (AADS) Guidelines by Sadie Witherspoon

BEST PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS FOR ARMED ASSAILANT DRILLS IN SCHOOLS (AADS) GUIDELINES

The National Association of School Psychologists, the National Association of School Resource Officers, and Safe and Sound Schools have partnered to provide this guidance on armed assailant training. This document provides guidance on factors schools must consider when conducting armed assailant drills. Here are 9 key points:

1. It is imperative that safety drills of any kind do not unintentionally trigger or exacerbate students' or staff's sense of risk or trauma.
2. The emphasis is on nonsensorial, no role-play lockdown approach. Nonsensorial lockdown drills (i.e., drill done by calmly walking and talking through the procedures, with no simulation of a real-life event).
3. Schools should not use simulation techniques with students, and exercises should be appropriate to the participants' developmental level and physical abilities. ***Appendix 3: Developmental Levels of Safety Awareness.**
4. School-employed mental health professionals should be involved in every stage of preparation, before, during and after to provide support.
5. Create a multidisciplinary school safety team (including an administrator, school mental health professional, school nurse, school resource officer [SRO], security personnel, teachers, parents, and students where appropriate) that coordinates with law enforcement and emergency responders.
6. Please refer to Figure 1, on pg. 8 of the document to view hierarchy of education & training activities as well as ***Appendix 1 provides additional information on the hierarchy of training and education.** It provides examples of several models, beginning with the most basic and progressing to the most advanced. *** Appendix 2 provides additional information on students with disabilities.**
7. All forms of armed assailant drills should require parent consent.
8. It is imperative that schools have a clearly defined evaluation process that identifies areas of strength and areas in need of improvement as the school community continues to refine ongoing comprehensive crisis preparedness and response plans.
9. It is critical that schools recognize that this type of drill is just one specific component of comprehensive crisis preparedness and response that includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. ***Appendix 4 offers a list of questions to guide decision making when considering armed assailant drills.**

*Appendix 1, 2, 3, 4 and Figure 1, page 8 can be found [here](#)

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your region.

Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meetings (RSAB)

- *When:* 2nd Friday of month, Quarterly; from 12-2pm (December 9, March 10, June 9)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* Open to all; from Southwestern CT, interested in working to address suicide. Focus on strategically planning, coordinating and supporting suicide awareness and safety efforts across the continuum of prevention, intervention, postvention and grief support, and recovery.
- *For more information:* please see [The Hub CT](#)

Catchment Area Council Meetings

- *When:* Every other 3rd Thursday of month; from 2:30-4pm (November 17, January 19, March 16, May 18)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* (Open to anyone interested): Open to all; 51%-65% of participants must be individuals with lived experience with mental illness and/or substance misuse; other participants include providers, family members, and advocates.
- Focus on sharing resources, identifying needs, and advocating to improve the behavioral health treatment and recovery system.
- **CAC 1-4** (covering Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, Wilton, Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, Trumbull)
- *For more information:* please contact: Kaitlin@ryasap.org.

TBA - DEMHS Region 1 School Safety and Security Meeting

- *For more information,* please contact **Robert Kenny** at robert.kenny@ct.gov.

Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team Meetings

- *When:* 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30-4pm (October 11, January 10, April 11, June 13)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* (open to anyone interested): Open to anyone from Southwestern CT interested in raising awareness about problem gambling and gaming. Focus on raising awareness and developing prevention and treatment capacity in the region.
- *RSVP to* ingrid.gillespie@liberationprograms.org for meeting link.

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

- *When:* November 16 from 2-3pm
- *Where:* Virtually
- *For more information:* please contact **Jeff Nielsen** at jnielsen@milforded.org.

The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting

- *When:* December 15 from 1-2:30pm
- *Where:* In-Person
- *Who should Attend:* This meeting is for Administrators, Facility Directors, Business Officials, SRO's, Security Personnel, Emergency Management Personnel, Mental Health Professionals, Technology Leaders, etc.
- *If you are interested in attending:* please email **Linda Powell** at powell@granbyschools.org or call (860) 844-5259.

The DEMHS Region 4 School Safety and Security Working Group is coming soon!

- *If you are interested in joining,* please email **Mike Caplet** at mike.caplet@ct.gov.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* Thursdays from 11am-12pm (10/27/22, 11/24/22, 12/22/22, 01/26/23, 02/23/23, 03/23/23, 04/27/23, 05/23/23, & 06/22/23)
- *Where:* Virtually
- The mission of this group is to provide a school safety and security network consisting of school resources who can share lessons learned and quality information pertaining to maintaining a safe and secure environment for our schools.
- *If you are interested in attending:* please email **John Field** at john.field@ct.gov.

The Western Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering RESC regions of EdAdvance & CES)

- *When:* Tuesdays from 8:30-10:30am (10/25/22, 11/29/22, 12/20/22, 01/31/23, 02/28/23, 03/28/23, 04/25/23, 05/23/23, & 06/06/23)
- *Where:* Virtually (Possibly Hybrid)
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals

servicing our K-12 students.

- For more information or to join the Team: please email **Gabe Lomas** at lomasg@wcsu.edu.

CT School Safety and Crisis Response Committee / ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting

Presentation of the State Mandated Safety Documents and Common Gaps in Safety Plans will be provided by **William Turley**, School Safety Program Lead for the State of Connecticut.

- *When:* October 12, from 9-11:00am
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals servicing our K-12 students.
- *Where:* Zoom
- For more information or to join the Team: please email **Sadie Witherspoon** at [witherspoons@wcsu.edu](mailto:witerspoons@wcsu.edu).

Research

Connecticut Research

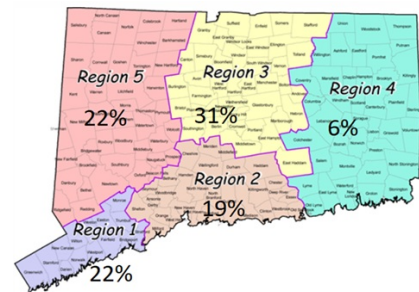
In the spring of 2022, the Center worked with key partners to conduct a needs assessment of K-12 schools throughout the state of CT. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Purpose: The main objective of this assessment was to examine the perspectives of a variety of school employees to determine the needs related to safety, security, and mental health issues in Connecticut schools.

Methods: A survey was developed and deployed to school professionals servicing the Connecticut schools with a variety of roles. The survey, comprised of 22 questions and covering 8 sections, was conducted over the internet.

Key Findings:

- The most prevalent safety concerns in schools were mental health (76%), bullying (57%), culture and climate (43%), and cyberbullying (41%).
- In the category of physical safety training needs, 55% of respondents identified school behavioral threat assessment, 37% identified safety and security assessments, and 31% identified digital threat assessment.
- The most prevalent request for emergency operations training was for active shooter response training at 39%, followed by emergency operation plan development at 26%, parent reunification at 21%, exercise design at 19%, and the National Association for School Psychologists PREP_aRE training at 18%.
- The requested law enforcement trainings include the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Basic School Resource Officer (SRO) course with 25% of the responses, NASRO Advanced SRO course with 12% of the responses, SRO Supervisors and Management training with 15% of the responses, and other trainings with 3% of the responses.
- Regarding the frequency of school climate surveys, 55% indicated they are done at least once per year and 37% did not know how often they were done.
- Regarding which school climate instrument was used to measure climate in their school buildings, a large percentage (48%) indicated unknown.
- When asked which threat assessment model was used in their district, most (75%) indicated unknown.
- When asked about threat reporting, a large percentage (48%) reported not knowing which method is used.



Trainings

- 10/27/22: **Bevond Compliance Workshop Series- Cybersecurity** offered by the CT Center for School Safety. Free-Virtual Training: This workshop is for members of the School Security and Safety Committee. The focus of the workshop will be on working through a Cybersecurity Threat / Attack. There will be a review of the state requirements, best practices, and a tabletop exercise. During the tabletop exercise, your school/district will be in a breakout room to discuss the scenario and test your plan.
- 10/05: **Advanced Digital Threat Assessment Training** - Safer Schools Together (SST)
- 10/05: **U.S. Secret Service Training - Prevention of Targeted School Violence** - Maine School Safety Center (MSSC). For more information, please contact: **Dr. Karen Barnes** at karen.a.barnes@maine.gov.
- 10/06: **Community Awareness Briefing (CAB): Preventing Targeted Violence and Terrorism in Your Community** - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3), [Register here](#)
- 10/12 & 11/9: **Free QPR Suicide Prevention Webinar Training and Certification** - Western CT Coalition (WCTC). Trainings are on Zoom, and held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Registration is required.
- 10/13-10/14: **The Virtual 2022 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health** - National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH; funded in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration). If you have any questions, please contact the NCSMH team at 410-706-0980 or ncsmh@som.umaryland.edu.
- 10/18-10/20: **2022 Virtual National Summit on School Safety** - Safe and Sound Schools. **Safe and Sounds Schools is proud to offer guests of the Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation Complimentary registration** to this year's virtual summit. Use code CTCENTER_GUEST when registering (*code for CT Schools only*).
- 10/19-10/21: **SRO 2.0 Protector. Leader. Influencer** - Don Shomette, nationally recognized violence prevention expert. See [flyer](#) for more information.
- 10/19: **Recognizing Signs of Substance Abuse** - Drug Free Schools Committee and Western CT Coalition (WCTC)
- 10/19: **Introduction to Child Trafficking in Connecticut** - Connecting to Care Western Network of Care hosted in partnership with Region 5 Regional Advisory Council, [Register](#) in advance for this training.
- 10/20: **Protecting Children in a Digital Age** – National Criminal Justice Training Center and Fox Valley Technical College
- 10/20-22: **New York Association of School Psychologists 2022 National Conference**
Keynote Speakers: **Byron M. McClure, D.Ed., NCSP & Celeste M. Malone, PHD, MS, Legends in School Psychology Address: Jack A. Naglieri, Ph.D. and NYASP**
- 10/25 & 11/22: **Overdose Prevention Training Webinar** - Western CT Coalition (WCTC) Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that reverses an opioid overdose. This training is on Zoom. Trainings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

- 11/1-11/3: [2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#) - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Register by 11/2: [AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems](#) - CT DEMHS Region 5, also see [flyer](#)
- 11/10: [Ethics in Prevention: A Guide for Substance Misuse Prevention Practitioners](#) (HHS Region 1) - New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network (PTTC) Training & Outreach. Save the Date! Registration Coming Soon!

***Save the Dates - 8/07/23 thru 8/11/23' for the 2023 CT Center for School Safety Summer Conference - (Topics and Presenters to be announced).**

Contacts



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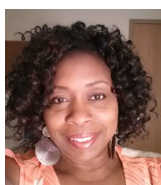
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CONTRIBUTE to our NEWSLETTER

If you have content such as meetings, trainings, resources, and/or research to include in the next issue of our newsletter, please email Mary Pupazzoni at pupazzonim@wcsu.edu no later than the 15th of the month prior.

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