

# September 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 become a clearinghouse for school safety related trainings, meetings, research, and resources.

## The Director's Corner

Dear School Safety Partners,  
I am excited to be able to report on the progress of the Center and the partnerships that have grown since I was hired in January of 2022.



- These monthly Newsletters will include information about upcoming trainings provided by the Center and other partner agencies (see below). If you are a partner with a related training, please contact us with information for our Newsletter.
- The Center trained over 250 professionals from 75 different schools, organizations, and law enforcement agencies on the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG).

- The Connecticut school safety and security needs assessment was completed and published this past August (see the Research section of this newsletter for more details on our partners and the results).
- There were sessions offered for Digital Threat Assessment this past July and August. The feedback was excellent, so more to come in this area.
- We hired an administrative assistant, **Mary Pupazzoni**, in June of 2022. Mary brings an incredible work ethic and service-oriented mindset that greatly enriches our Center.
- The Center hired **Sadie Witherspoon** as a Regional School Safety Coordinator this past July. Sadie will be our ambassador in the ACES RESC region. Sadie has extensive experience working collaboratively with numerous councils, committees, and boards in New Haven dedicated to improving education, well-being, and the safety of students. We are so excited to have her as part of our team.
- The Center just finished a weeklong school safety summer conference. We offered NASP PREPaRE Workshops 1 and 2. We also partnered with the DEMHS, DHS, the FBI, and the I Love U Guys Foundation to provide training on School Safety and Security Assessments, Preventing Targeted Violence, Parent Reunification, Emergency Operation Plan Development, Hostile Intruders, and the Pathway to Violence.
- Our Grand Opening received tremendous support from the university, school districts, community partners, and federal and state leadership. Here is a [link](#) to News12Connecticut coverage of our Grand Opening event.
- Finally, we are currently reviewing applications for the other four Regional School Safety Coordinator positions. These positions will give the Center statewide coverage.

My hope is that this newsletter can provide a valuable resource to share information and effectively network across the entire state of Connecticut.

Your partner in school safety,

Amery

**Amery Bernhardt, D.M.**

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



"Presentation at the 2022 Annual Conference of the National Association of School Psychologists" held on February 16th in Boston, MA. Our team presented on the development of the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at this important conference.

Left to Right: Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D., Founder-CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation. Allison Fulton, Executive Director-Western CT Coalition, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation, Paula Gill Lopez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director-School Psychology Program at Fairfield University

**Date Time Description**

**09/06/22 12:00PM-1:00PM The Role of Public Health Officials in Supporting School Safety Efforts**

- This webinar from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools and its Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center will highlight the role of public health officials in supporting school safety efforts at the local level. For more information, [click here](#)

**09/06/22 & 09/20/22 9:00AM-10:30AM Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)**

- sponsored by The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwest CT. This is a certified suicide gatekeeping training to help you recognize when someone is in a mental health crisis, take positive action, and refer individuals to needed resources. Online training every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Please RSVP: [click here](#)

**09/07/22 & 09/21/22 3:00PM-4:00PM Naloxone Training**

- sponsored by The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwest CT. This training will teach you how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and resuscitative efforts with the opioid antagonist, naloxone. Other topics covered include the opioid epidemic, addiction, relevant CT legislation, and more. Online training every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please RSVP: [click here](#)

**09/07/22 & 09/14/22 & 09/21/22 2:00PM-4:00PM K-12 Data Security & Cybersecurity Summit**

- This 3-day virtual summit hosted by SPPO's PTAC will cover how K-12 agencies and institutions can protect sensitive data, reduce the risk of disclosure, lower the impact to privacy, and ensure compliance with the law while navigating cyber changes in the wake of the pandemic. For more information, [click here](#)

**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. For more information, [click here](#)

**09/08/22 9:00AM-11:00AM Comprehensive Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention**

- Presented by The Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board - Virtual Zoom Meeting; Meeting ID: 845 8622 4783; Passcode: 404692. For more information or to join the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, [click here](#)

**09/09/22 8:00AM-12:00PM IS-201-ICS Forms Course - CT Fire Academy** - Course # 23058  
**OR**

**09/10/22 8:00AM-12:00PM IS-201-ICS Forms Course - CT Fire Academy** - Course # 23059

Both Courses will be held at the CT Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. For more information, contact **Jeffrey J. Morrisette**, State Fire Administrator, at [jeff.morrisette@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.morrisette@ct.gov)

ICS-201- Course - ICS Forms Course Objectives:

- The participant will be able to describe the goals and objectives of the IS-201 course.
- The participant will be able to identify and describe how an IAP is developed and implemented following the primary phases of the planning process.
- The participant will be able to identify and describe the standard ICS forms that are used to support the development of an IAP and their importance for effective information management.
- The participant will be able to identify and describe sources of information that provide input for composing ICS tactical and safety worksheet forms, and how those forms are used to develop information needed for key elements of the IAP consistent with the Planning "P".
- The participant will be able to identify and describe the various ICS forms used for the development of the IAP, and the ICS staff positions responsible for gathering the information needed.
- The participant will be able to identify and describe the purpose of supplemental ICS forms and documents needed to assist with the information collection and dissemination needed during an incident.
- The participant will be able to summarize the IS-201 course, citing key components of the course.

**Primary Audience**

The Target Audience for this course are the emergency management and emergency response personnel who may be called upon to function in a Command, General Staff, or Unit Leader position during a significant incident or event, and who may be called upon to help prepare some portion of the Incident Action Plan. Also, participants in the annual State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Exercise are encouraged to participate.

Prerequisites: ICS 100, 200, & 700. Recommended Courses ICS 300

*Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration Agency, Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Program Grant.*

\*Class is limited to 35 registrants per date. To register, please visit: [here](#)

**09/09/22 8:30AM-12:30PM Youth Suicide Prevention World Suicide Prevention Day Conference** -Clinical conference. Attend in person or virtually. Hartford Hospital Education Resource Center (ERC), 510 Hudson Street, Hartford. Contact: [kelsey.socha@hhhealth.org](mailto:kelsey.socha@hhhealth.org)

**09/12/22 & 09/19/22 & 09/26/22 Suicidal Awareness, Response, Safety Planning, and Postvention Learning Series** – This three-part series from the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network will address suicide prevention awareness; school-appropriate response and screening referral practices for youth experiencing suicidal ideation and/or intent; postvention as well as supports and safety planning after the child returns to school. Events include: 9/12- Session 1: Suicidal Awareness in the School Setting, 9/19 - Session 2: School-Appropriate Response and Screening Processes, and 9/26 - Session 3: School Supports, Safety Planning. Scheduled in Mountain time, for more information, [click here](#)

**09/14/22 12:00PM-1:00PM Comorbidity Between Suicide & Eating Disorders** presented by the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders. Open to all. Please RSVP: [click here](#)

**09/14/22 & 10/12/22 & 11/9/22 11:00AM-12:30PM Free QPR Suicide Prevention Webinar Training and Certification** - QPR - Question, Persuade, Refer is an evidence based suicide prevention program that teaches three steps anyone can take to save a life. This training is sponsored by the Western CT Coalition (WCTC). Trainings are on Zoom, and held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Registration is required. For more information, [click here](#)

**09/16/22 11:30AM-6:00PM Trauma-Informed Safe and Caring School Communities** -Online Training. Provided by Safer Schools Together. Individual ticket price: \$199. Trauma-informed practices help create environments where the brain is able to learn rather than exist in a state of hyperarousal. By understanding trauma and its effects, school staff can respond to challenging behavior in a way that supports the students, families, and staff alike. [Register here](#)

**09/20/22 5:00PM-6:30PM Opioid Overdose and Narcan Training** - offered by the Alliance for Prevention & Wellness A Program of BHcare. [Register here](#)

**09/20/22 11:00AM-5:30PM Digital Threat Assessment® Online Training** - Provided by Safer Schools Together. Individual ticket price: \$199. By engaging with popular social media applications, you will learn how to find and document worrisome digital media content originating from your school community. This training will solidify your understanding of how to effectively use DTA® as a critical part of any modern-day Threat Assessment. [Register here](#)

**09/21/22 8:30AM-10:30AM LGBTQ+ and Sensitivity (webinar)** - Hosted by the Western CT Coalition (WCTC), with speakers **Vernon House**, NYPD Supervisor of School Safety, and **River Ramos**, Prevention and Harm Reduction Director at Apex Community Care. Registration will open soon, for more information, [click here](#)

**09/23/22 12:00PM-2:00PM The Modern-Day Predator** - Provided by Safer Schools Together. Individual ticket price: \$29. "The Modern-Day Predator" was designed to provide education to School Safety / Threat Assessment teams and community partners as a means for the prevention of sexual exploitation. This session provides tools to address issues like consent, creating healthy boundaries and grooming both online and in person. [Register here](#)

**09/27/22 & 10/25/22 & 11/22/22 10:00AM-11:15AM Overdose Prevention Training Webinar** - 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. This event is hosted by the Western CT Coalition (WCTC), for more information, [click here](#)

**09/27/22 5:00PM-6:30PM QPR Suicide Prevention Training** - offered by the Alliance for Prevention and Wellness A Program of BHcare. [Register here](#)

**09/29/22 10:00AM-12:00PM Beyond Compliance Workshop Series- Mental Health Crisis** 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 your school's Mental Health Annex in your All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan. 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. For more information and to register: [click here](#)

**09/29/22 12:00PM-2:00PM Current Online Behavioral Trends and Updates** - Provided by Safer Schools Together. Individual ticket price \$39. Monthly Current Online Behavioral Trends and Updates complement SST's Digital Threat Assessment® (DTA) training. These sessions enhance School Safety/Threat Assessment teams' understanding of the ever-changing digital landscape and include a live Q&A with SST Threat Analysts. [Register here](#)

**10/05/22 11:00AM-5:30PM Advanced Digital Threat Assessment® Training** - Provided by Safer Schools Together. Individual ticket price: \$299. Non-negotiable prerequisite: SST Digital Threat Assessment® training (completed within the past 2 years). Advanced DTA builds and expands significantly on the content covered during the prerequisite DTA training. Participants

will gain a concrete understanding of how to select relevant digital information found in real-life School Safety / Threat Assessment data gathering scenarios. Working collaboratively through case scenarios based on real-life situations, teams navigate the social media world using familiar and new techniques. [Register here](#)

**10/18-10/20/22 2022 Virtual National Summit on School Safety** - hosted by Safe and Sound Schools. For more information, [click here](#)

**10/19/22 8:30AM-10:30AM Recognizing Signs of Substance Abuse** - sponsored by the Drug Free Schools Committee. With Drug Recognition Expert, **Mike Terzigni**, of the Middlebury Police Department (Location TBD). This event is hosted by the Western CT Coalition (WCTC), registration will open soon, for more information, [click here](#)

**10/20/22 Protecting Children in a Digital Age** – This Virtual seminar hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center is designed to educate a broad range of disciplines responsible for conducting investigations and safeguarding youth. Among other topics, the training will help attendees understand the different types of technology used by children and teens, recognize the most common online issues that youth are likely to face, and focus on a proactive approach to digital safety. For more information, [click here](#)

**10/21/22 Annual New School Psychologist Orientation at the University of Connecticut** hosted by the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP). More information posted to CASP Website after 9/1/2022 [click here](#)

**11/01-11/03/22 The 2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security**, is free and hosted by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and will convene school safety experts, practitioners, and leaders from across the country to discuss current threats in school safety and explore research-informed strategies for addressing security risks in K-12 schools. It will be presented in a Virtual format, for information and to register: [click here](#)

**New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP)** will be hosting their 2022 Annual Conference at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, NY. For more information, [click here](#)

**11/14/22 Xan Lopez Annual School Psychologists In-Service featuring Dr. Charles Barrett** hosted by the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP). It will be held at Fairfield University. Registration posted to CASP Website after 9/1/2022 [click here](#)

**11/16/22 8:00AM-4:00PM AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems** - sponsored by the CT DEMHS Region 5. Location: Watertown Fire Department. **Registration Deadline: 11/02/22 /5:00 PM.** Register no later than 2 weeks before the course date. For more information, please contact **Susan Bloomfield** at [susan.bloomfield@findlay.edu](mailto:susan.bloomfield@findlay.edu). To speak with someone from the sponsoring agency, please contact, **John Field** at [john.field@ct.gov](mailto:john.field@ct.gov). [Register here](#), also see [flyer](#)

**\*Save the Dates - 08/07/23 thru 08/11/23\* for the 2023 CT Center for School Safety Summer Conference** - (Topics and Presenters to be announced).

## Meetings - Please look for meetings in your region.

**Date Time Description**

**09/09/22 12:00PM-2:00PM Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meetings** (open to anyone interested): 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. Meets quarterly on the 2nd Friday starting September 9th, from 12-2pm: December 9th, March 10th, June 9th. RSVP: [click here](#)

**09/15/22, 11/17/22, 01/19/23, 03/16/23, & 05/18/23 2:30PM-4:00PM Catchment Area Council Meetings** (open to anyone interested): Open to all; 51%-65% of participants must be individuals with lived experience with mental illness and/or substance use; 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) meets every other 3rd Thursday of month starting in September 2022, for more information, [click here](#)

**09/21/22 2:30PM-3:30PM The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting** will be held Virtually. Please contact **Jeff Nielsen** at [jnielsen@milforded.org](mailto:jnielsen@milforded.org).

**Thursdays - 09/22/22, 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 11:00AM-12:00PM - The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group** will meet 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](mailto:john.field@ct.gov).

**09/22/22 1:00PM-2:30PM The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting** will be held Virtually. This meeting is for Administrators, Facility Directors, Business Officials, SRO's, Security Personnel, Emergency Management Personnel, Mental Health Professionals, Technology Leaders, etc. If you would like to attend, please contact **Linda Powell** at [powelll@granbyschools.org](mailto:powelll@granbyschools.org) or 860-844-5259.

**The DEMHS Region 4 School Safety and Security Working Group** is coming soon! Please contact **Mike Caplet** at [mike.caplet@ct.gov](mailto:mike.caplet@ct.gov) if you are interested in joining.

**Tuesdays - 09/27/22, 10/25/22, 11/29/22, 12/20/22, 01/31/23, 02/28/23, 03/28/23, 04/25/23, 05/23/2023, & 06/06/2023 8:30AM-10:30AM - The Western Regional Crisis Team** (covering the RESC regions of EdAdvance and CES) will meet via Zoom. These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals servicing our K-12 students. For info, or to join the team, please email the Center's Director, **Amery Bernhardt** at [bernhardta@wcsu.edu](mailto:bernhardta@wcsu.edu)

**09/28/22 9:00 AM-10:30AM CT Zero Suicide Learning Community (CT ZSLC) Meeting - AAP Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention.** Our meeting will include a presentation on the new Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention - [click here](#), followed by a discussion. Presenters are **Lisa M. Horowitz, PhD, MPH**, Senior Associate Scientist / Pediatric Psychologist, Director of Patient Safety & Quality, of the National Institute of Mental Health, NIMH, and **Julie Gorzkowski Hamilton, MSW, LSW**, Director, Adolescent Health Promotion, Center Administrator-AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence, of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), in collaboration with experts from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), created this Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention as an educational resource to support pediatric health clinicians and other health professionals in identifying strategies and key partnerships to support youth at risk for suicide. For more information about the CT ZSLC, [click here](#) or please email **Andrea Duarte** at [andrea.duarte@ct.gov](mailto:andrea.duarte@ct.gov)

**The ACES Regional Crisis Team** (covering schools in the RESC ACES region) is coming soon! These meetings will be geared towards mental health professionals servicing K-12 students. If you are interested in participating, please email **Sadie Witherspoon** at [witherspoons@wcsu.edu](mailto:witherspoons@wcsu.edu)

**10/11/22 2:30PM-4:00PM Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team Meetings** (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. Meets quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday starting 10/11/22 from 2:30 pm- 4pm. Following meetings scheduled on 01/10/23, 04/11/23 and 06/13/23. RSVP to [ingrid.gillespie@liberationprograms.org](mailto:ingrid.gillespie@liberationprograms.org) for meeting link.

**TBA - DEMHS Region 1 School Safety and Security Meetings**  
For more information, please contact **Robert Kenny** at [robert.kenny@ct.gov](mailto:robert.kenny@ct.gov)

## Research

### Connecticut Research

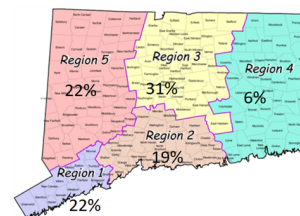
In the spring of 2022, the Center worked with key partners to conduct a needs assessment of K-12 schools throughout the state of CT. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

**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 PREPaRE 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.

### **National Research**

This annual State of School Safety Report was conducted by Safe and Sound Schools, and it measures perceptions of safety among four key stakeholder groups: students, parents, public safety, and educators. The complete report can be found [here](#).

Summary of 2022 Findings (pp. 6-7):

- Most groups, in general, feel schools are safe. However, for reports on general feelings of safety, the personal importance of safety, and prioritization of safety, students fall behind in comparison to all other groups. This indicates a general lack of confidence and/or knowledge of safety preparedness efforts among the most important stakeholders of safety, a trend which has persisted year over year in this annual study. Re-education on safety procedures and reporting systems may be necessary to combat the decline in safety perceptions.
- All groups indicate a rise in substance abuse, depression, and anxiety levels among students in this given school year. However, there were significant perceptual differences reported among parents who reported the lowest perceptions of increase in all categories compared to the other groups. This suggests that there may not be enough open discussion within families and communities about the realities of substance abuse.
- There appears to be a trend throughout the data where educators were among those that felt the most confident in their school's preparedness to handle a variety of crises and emergencies, while students were amongst those that felt the most unsure or unprepared. These differences in responses reveal a need for community-wide conversations and outreach in order to increase knowledge, engagement, and confidence for all members of the school community.
- The survey data also suggests that all groups generally feel that either their schools are unprepared or that they are unsure about their school's ability to address digital threats/cyber attacks, gang activity/recruitment, and youth trafficking.
- In addition, there appears to be a trend throughout the data indicating that educators feel prepared for a wide variety of situations, but students and parents don't feel as prepared.
- The survey data shows that there are many concerns in schools overall, but the top school safety concern is an active shooter/attack, as reported across all stakeholders: students, parents, educators, and public safety.
- Students report lower rates of positive culture and climate, and feeling that their school/district takes feedback about safety seriously, showing a growing disconnect in how students feel schools/districts value their feedback.

## **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. For more information, [click here](#)

**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](mailto:SchoolSecurityPlanStandards@ct.gov).

**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 - see [flyer](#)

## Meet Sadie Witherspoon

### Meet Sadie Witherspoon, MS

**Sadie Witherspoon** is our Regional School Safety Coordinator for the South Central Region of CT, in Partnership with ACES. Sadie is located at 261 Skiff St. in Hamden, CT. Sadie joined the center in 2022 due to her increased concern for students to thrive in a healthy and safe school environment. She has served and continues to serve on numerous councils, committees, and boards in New Haven dedicated to improving education, well-being, and safety of students. Sadie received her master's degree in Human Services with a concentration in clinical mental health counseling. She received trainings in Restorative Practices, and Digital Threat Assessment, FEMA Incident Command System and is a trained Tobacco Treatment Specialist.

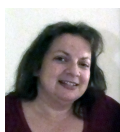
(203) 733-9439  
[wITHERSPoons@wCSU.edu](mailto:wITHERSPoons@wCSU.edu)

## Contacts



### Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation  
(203) 837-3210  
[bernhardt@wcsu.edu](mailto:bernhardt@wcsu.edu)



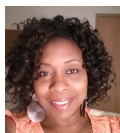
### Mary Pupazzoni

Secretary, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation  
(203) 837-8915  
[pupazzoni@wcsu.edu](mailto:pupazzoni@wcsu.edu)



### Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D.

Founder and Faculty Sponsor, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation  
(203) 837-8512  
[lomas@wcsu.edu](mailto:lomas@wcsu.edu)



### Sadie Witherspoon, MS

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the South Central Region of CT, in Partnership with ACES.  
(203) 733-9439  
[wITHERSPoons@wCSU.edu](mailto:wITHERSPoons@wCSU.edu)

### 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 [pupazzoni@wcsu.edu](mailto:pupazzoni@wcsu.edu) no later than the 15th of the month prior.



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