

January 2024 Newsletter



The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at Western Connecticut State University is funded from appropriations through the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Office of Higher Education.



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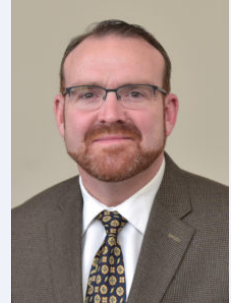


The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation formed in 2021 from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of school safety 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.

Director's Corner

Dear School Safety Partners,

As we return from our Winter recess, I want to highlight a few initiatives that may be of interest to your schools:



- We started delivery of both [PREPaRE Workshop 1](#) and [PREPaRE Workshop 2](#) regionally throughout the state. Workshop 1 focuses on Comprehensive School Safety Planning and Workshop 2 focuses on Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools. Please reach out to your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) for more information or to schedule a training for your district.
- The Center is excited to bring Comprehensive [School Threat Assessment Training \(CSTAG\)](#) directly to your district **free of charge**. This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, opportunity number DHS-23-TTP-132-00-01. Please reach out to your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) for more information or to schedule a training for your district.
- Our Swatting Working Group has met several times, and we will soon be finalizing a companion checklist to be integrated into the [Swatting Guidance document](#) that was released last Spring. Please be on the lookout for our checklist and webinars on swatting over the next few months.

The Center has officially been here for two years, and I want to express my gratitude for all of the collaboration from our federal, state, and local partners. We are stronger together!

Happy New Year!
Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.
Director
CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



Resources

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(DEMHS)

Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) aims at preparing families for multiple hazards by education and energizing students in school who go home and act as leaders in implementing key preparedness strategies with their families. **DEMHS** has **Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) Kits** available for your schools. Consider this program for your 4th and 5th grade students. This program is a great way for School Resource Officers to interact with their school and students.

To learn more about the **STEP program**, please click [Here](#). Also see information below:

Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) aims at preparing families for multiple hazards by educating and energizing students in school who go home and act as leaders in implementing key preparedness strategies with their families.

Although there are many successful, comprehensive safety curricula in the US, STEP is different because it was designed by teachers, with the challenges and obstacles facing schools in mind. Learn how it all began.

- ✓ Over 500 instructors, including classroom teachers, health teachers, physical education instructors, CERT volunteers, and local emergency responders, instructed STEP over the last two years. Instructors, principals, and superintendents noted the following reasons for adding STEP to their school year.
- ✓ STEP provides potentially lifesaving skills to students and families.
- ✓ STEP is offered at zero cost to schools.
- ✓ STEP requires only 1 hour of instructional time during the school year.
- ✓ STEP supplies up to 15 hours of optional materials that can cover a variety of subject areas and align with **national and state standards**.
- ✓ STEP provides teachers with all the instructional materials needed, including copies of student handouts, instructional booklets with lesson plans, and CD's.

In most cases, STEP provides all students with "starter" kits: yellow backpacks with basic emergency supply items. Led Flashlight with AA battery, Mylar blanket, Emergency whistle and Yellow Backpack for items.

STEP's ready-to-teach format requires very little teacher prep time.

State and National Standards

In the Development of the STEP program, teachers and FEMA staff with previous teaching experience made a cross section of common content standards between all New England states as well as national standards for 5th grade. **STEP lessons** were designed to cover various standards with malleability to fit into various different subject areas, including:

• **Math** • **Science** • **Social Studies** • **Language Arts** • **Arts** • **Health**

Teachers' Questions?

Teachers have found that their original concerns when approaching disaster education with their students were unfounded:



Will my students be too afraid to hear about disasters?
30,000 students have gone through the program throughout 8 states and 2 years with no issues of students being overly anxious after going through the program. In fact, teachers found that students were already hearing about disasters (on the news etc) and had anxieties that weren't addressed. *Having the opportunity to learn and discuss disasters in a safe and structured environment actually decreases*

children's stress and anxiety.

- **Will I have the time to do this curriculum?**

Most STEP schools have classroom teachers, health teachers, or physical education teacher instruct STEP lessons because the 1 hour classroom requirement is manageable. Many teachers have found that because the students respond so well to STEP and the materials fit so well with their required curricula, they find more time to dedicate throughout the school year.

If you are still concerned, there is also the opportunity for an outside instructor to give the faculty a break and teach these lessons. The benefit is that an instructor with emergency response or management background has personal knowledge to offer students in addition to the lessons. Please [contact Robert.Scata@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.Scata@ct.gov) for more information.

- **Will the emergency kit be affordable for my students?**

Most emergency supply items already exist in your students homes. Gathering these items into one place is a big step to becoming prepared for emergencies! Instructors are also encouraged to explain that every family is different and will have different sized kits with different types of items. There is no need for each family to get every item on the list in the kits. Finally, we have been pleased with how creative teachers and students can be in finding ways to acquire items for their emergency kits. Teachers have partnered with PTO's to solicit local businesses to donate items. Students themselves have presented to local business leaders to ask for assistance.

Why is this important?

- The goal of arming students and their families with an emergency kit and a communications plan is important and can save lives.
- The learning goals result in strategies that prepare students and their families for large scale disasters (hurricanes, blizzards, floods) as well as small emergencies (house fires, electricity going out, etc)
- Students can be agents of action in tough situations- helping adults deal with a situation as opposed to being afraid. If students have the knowledge to take some control in emergency situations, it can significantly decrease anxiety levels.



Curriculum for 4th
and 5th Grade



Disaster Dodgers
video set



Check out this video
on YouTube



www.ct.gov/demhs

More Resources

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

CISA recently released two new resources related to K-12 school safety and security. Please find below information on these new products, and feel free to share with your members, networks, and other interested individuals in the school safety community as you see fit.

- **[Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic](#)**: This product highlights social media threats affecting school districts in the United States, provides mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connects school safety stakeholders to a suite of tools and resources provided by CISA and its partners to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness. In addition to reviewing the Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic, CISA also encourages school community personnel to visit the School Safety website at schoolsafety.gov. Please click [here](#) for the PDF file.
- **[Bombing Prevention Assistance for K-12 Schools](#)**: This product provides K-12 schools and districts with products, tools, and Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) strategies to protect, prevent, mitigate, and respond to bombing threats. Please click [here](#) for the PDF file.

To find additional CISA school safety resources and tools, please visit cisa.gov/topics/physical-security/school-safety.

National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security, held by CISA November 1-2, 2023

We wanted to let you know that **recordings from the Summit are now available on [CISA's YouTube channel](#)**. Recordings can be accessed under the “2023 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security” [playlist](#) and include the various master class sessions, keynote addresses, and panel discussions held during the event.

Please feel free to view the recordings if you missed all or part of the Summit or would like to re-watch a specific session. You are also welcome to share the videos with your school, district, or others in the school safety community. To learn more about and access the agenda from the 2023 event, please visit [CISA.gov](https://cisa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security. For information on future Summits and other school safety-related news and events, please [sign up](#) for email notifications. If you have any questions, please contact the CISA School Safety Task Force at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.



Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

Listed below are resources provided by the REMS TA Center. Please check out their [interactive brochure](#) on the **FREE** services and products that they offer. Review and share it with your colleagues as you engage in emergency preparedness activities all year long. The REMS TA Center added to many of these resources in 2023, including synchronous and asynchronous trainings, EOP interactive tools, publications and guidance documents, and more.



The REMS TA Center released eight NEW trainings in 2023. These range in modality: synchronous and asynchronous, in person and online, and training materials.

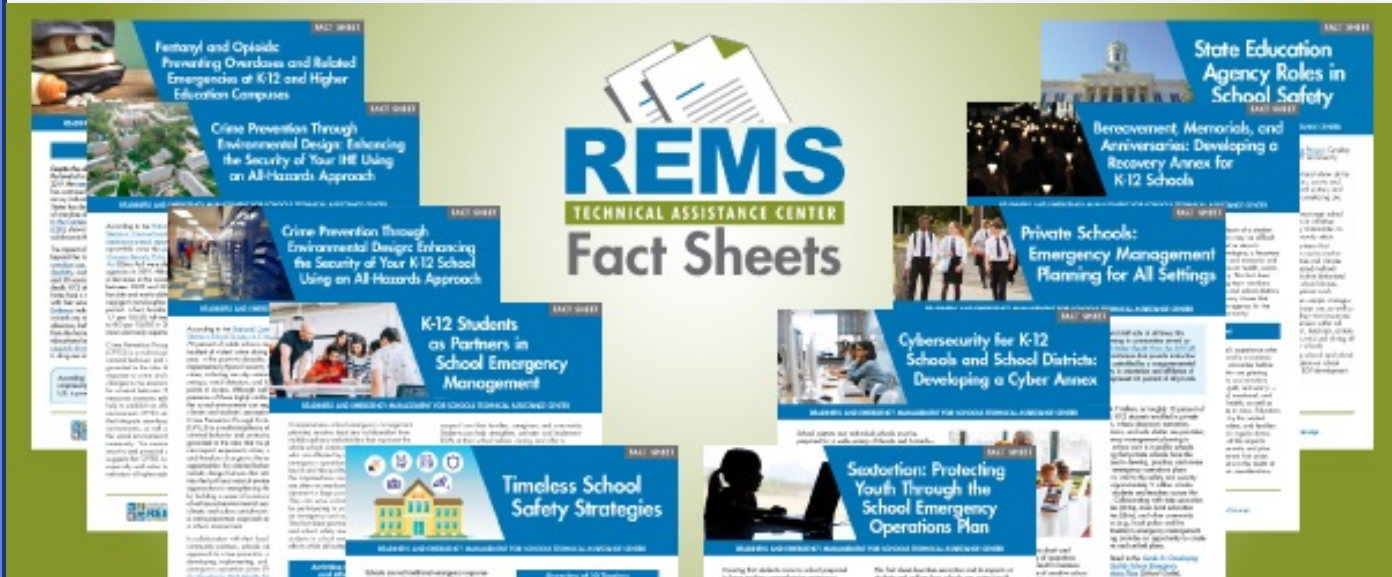
- [K-12 Cybersecurity 101 Risk Management Live and Virtual Trainings by Request](#)
- [Resilience Strategies for Institutions of Higher Education: Techniques for Self-Care and Compassion Fatigue Prevention Live and Virtual Trainings by Request](#)
- [Building Multi-Disciplinary Core Planning Teams Materials](#)
- [Developing a Communications and Warning Annex Materials](#)
- [The Role of Athletic Directors in School Safety Efforts Webinar](#)
- [The Role of Students in School Safety Efforts Webinar](#)
- [The Role of Special Educators in School Safety Efforts Webinar](#)
- [Providing Emergency Preparedness Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness Webinar](#)

The REMS TA Center released 10 NEW fact sheets in 2023. These documents offer planning considerations for a range of hazards, threats, emergency management functions, and other important concepts like collaboration.

- [Fentanyl and Opioids: Preventing Overdoses and Related Emergencies at K-12 and Higher Education Campuses](#)
- [Cybersecurity for K-12 Schools and School Districts: Developing a Cyber Annex](#)
- [Sextortion: Protecting Youth Through the School Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: Enhancing the Security of](#)

Your K-12 School Using an All-Hazards Approach

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: Enhancing the Security of Your IHE Using an All-Hazards Approach
- Bereavement, Memorials, and Anniversaries: Developing a Recovery Annex for K-12 Schools
- Timeless School Safety Strategies
- K-12 Students as Partners in School Emergency Management
- State Education Agency Roles in School Safety
- Private Schools: Emergency Management Planning for All Settings



Our sample annexes contain examples of goals, objectives, and courses of action that address before, during, and after an emergency. They are intended only to serve as a sample of the structure and format of an annex and should not be used as a template or copied. In 2023, the REMS TA Center released nine NEW sample annexes and other publications.

- Evacuation Sample Annex: A Fictional Example for Schools Before, During, and After an Evacuation
- Family Reunification Sample Annex: A Fictional Example for Family Reunification Before, During, and After an Emergency
- Lockdown Sample Annex: A Fictional Example for Schools Before, During, and After a Lockdown
- Shelter-in-Place Sample Annex: A Fictional Example for Schools Before, During, and After an Emergency
- Earthquake Sample Annex: A Fictional Example for Schools Before, During, and After an Earthquake
- Training for Local Education Agencies: Best Practices for Providing School Safety Training
- LEA School-Based Emergency Management Contact List
- State-Level Partnerships for School Safety
- Chemical Management: Planning for Toxic Materials in School Laboratories and the Accidental Release of Hazardous Materials From Within the School

The REMSontheAir Podcast expanded by eight NEW episodes in 2023. You may currently listen to them on our website, but they will be available on podcast streaming services in 2024.

- Emergency Management Structures, Systems, and Frameworks for

Institutions: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#)

- [Preventing the Aiding and Abetting of Adult Sexual Misconduct in K-12 Schools and School Districts](#)
- [Timeless School Safety Strategies](#)
- [Analyzing the Purpose of After-Action Reviews and Reports](#)
- [Conducting Assessments to Enhance Emergency Management Planning: Part 2](#)
- [A Look at State School Safety Models: Part 5](#)

Finally, the REMS TA Center created three NEW web pages that contain information and resources on important topics in emergency management. The REMS TA Center also updated two interactive tools that may be used to assess your knowledge of emergency management planning principles or conduct a site assessment of your education agency's buildings and grounds.

- [Adult Sexual Misconduct in Schools](#)
- [Cybersecurity Preparedness for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- [National Preparedness Month](#)
- [EOP ASSESS Web Application](#)
- [SITE ASSESS Mobile Application](#)

Thank you for your engagement and feedback in 2023. We look forward to continuing to support you in 2024. If you have a question or need a resource, please don't hesitate to send the REMS TA Center an email at info@remstacenter.org.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact the REMS TA CENTER at 1-855-781-REMS [7367] or via email at info@remstacenter.org

SCSU'S Tobacco Program

Southern Connecticut State University's Tobacco Program Coordinator, **Victoria Adams, M.Ed, NCTTP**, provides free trainings, technical assistance, and materials on tobacco (vaping) prevention and cessation.

These resources and trainings are provided at no cost to employees in CT from a grant from the CT DPH.

- Tobacco Treatment Specialist training for those interested in supporting youth and adults quit tobacco (including nicotine vaping)
- Trainings on the risks of nicotine vaping, youth vaping cessation, alternative to suspension programs, and other tobacco related training
- Print materials on tobacco prevention and cessation (posters, brochures, etc.)

For more information, please contact **Victoria Adams, M.Ed, NCTTP**, at email Adamsv2@southernct.edu.

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your Region.



Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team consists of community stakeholders working toward raising awareness and developing prevention and treatment capacity in the region. We host gambling awareness trainings and webinars. The team meets quarterly to review gambling trends, needs, gaps, and access to treatment.

- *When:* 1/9/24 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- *Where:* Virtually via Teams
- *Who Should Attend:* Meetings are open to all.
- *RSVP to Dena Miccinello* by emailing Dmiccinello@ryasap.org for the meeting link and with any questions or comments.
- *Please save the dates for future Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team meetings:*
Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
March - no meeting to celebrate PGAM, 4/9/24 - Virtual Teams Meeting, 6/11/24
- In-Person at The Burroughs Community Center.

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

- *When:* 2/21/24 from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- *Where:* Virtually
- *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.
- As always, we ask others to share this great networking opportunity with all of their school safety partners. Please share my contact information as well.
- Those who are interested in being part of our group are encouraged to email their contact information to **Jeff Nielsen** at Jnielsen@milforded.org. Group membership includes receiving correspondence related to meeting announcements and information related to school safety/security.

The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting

- *When:* 3/28/24 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- *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.
- *RSVP to Claudia Nardi* at Cnardi@cantonschools.org or call 860-693-7704 if you plan on attending or sending a representative.

The DEMHS Region 4 ESF-5 School Safety Sub-Committee

- *When:* 1/3/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- *Where:* Hybrid (Both Zoom and In-Person) In-Person held at East Lyme Public Safety Complex located at 277 West Main Street, Niantic, CT.
- *Who Should Attend:* For those organizations within Region 4's territory: Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham, Woodstock. Attendance/membership for this group could include, but not be limited to: Any school staff who are responsible for school safety planning in their districts; SROs; Emergency Managers; Public Safety Chiefs/Department Heads; Public Health Officials; any others with vested interest.
- *If you are interested in attending:* Please send an email with your interest to **Julie C. Wilson** at jwilson@eastlymepolice.org in order to be added to the meeting email distribution list, and to receive the Zoom Link.
- *Please save the dates for future School Safety Subcommittee meetings.* All meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and will be Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person. Meetings: 2/7/24, 3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24, 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24.

Newly formed - DEMHS School Reunification Planning Committee (Note: meets (Hybrid) immediately after the Region 4 ESF-5 School Safety Sub-Committee Meeting)

- *When:* 1/3/24 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- *Where:* Hybrid (Both Zoom and In-Person) In-Person held at East Lyme Public Safety Complex located at 277 West Main Street, Niantic, CT.
- *Who Should Attend:* For those organizations within Region 4's territory: Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham, Woodstock. Attendance/membership for this group could include, but not be limited to: Any school staff who are responsible for school safety planning in their districts; SROs; Emergency Managers; Public Safety Chiefs/Department Heads; Public Health Officials; any others with vested interest.
- *If you are interested in attending:* Please send an email with your interest to **Julie C. Wilson** at jwilson@eastlymepolice.org in order to be added to the meeting email distribution list, and to receive the Zoom Link.
- *Please save the dates for future School Reunification Planning Committee Meetings.* All meetings will be held 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and will be Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person. Meetings: 2/7/24, 3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* 1/25/24 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 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.
- *Where:* Virtually

- *If you are interested in attending:* please email **John Field** at John.field@ct.gov.
- *Please save the dates for future School Safety and Security Working Group Meetings:* 2/22/24, 3/28/24, 4/25/24, 5/23/24, 6/27/24, 7/25/24, 8/22/24, 9/26/24, 10/24/24, 11/28/24, 12/28/24.

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

- *When:* 1/23/24 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- *Topic/Presenter:* At this Virtual meeting, our guest speaker will be **Amanda Pickett, MSW (bio)** from CT State Department of Education, who will be conducting a Discussion of the Restorative Practices Response Policy for the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year thereafter, Section 74 of Public Act 23-167 requires each board of education to adopt a restorative practices response policy to be implemented by school employees for incidents of challenging behavior or student conflict that is nonviolent and does not constitute a crime. In addition, she will also be talking about addressing challenging behaviors and crisis response.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *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 **Tanya Iacono** at Iaconot@wcsu.edu.
- *Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings:* 2/13/24, 3/12/24, 4/23/24, 5/14/24, 6/4/24 - Planning Meeting.

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting (covering the RESC South Central Region)

- *When:* 1/18/24 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- *Topics/Presenters:* We will have two exciting speakers at this meeting, one from Southern Connecticut State University's Marriage and Family Therapy program regarding the services that they offer; and the other from Vita Health and the services that they offer to individuals and families. We will have a short discussion the results of the Thought Exchange Survey in order to help plan for future presentations and engagement at our monthly RCT meetings.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *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 **Sadie Witherspoon** at Witherspoons@wcsu.edu.
- *Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings:* 2/15/24, 3/21/24, 4/18/24, 5/16/24, June planning meeting date TBD.

The North Central Regional Crisis Team Meeting (covering the RESC Capitol Region Education Council)

- *When:* 1/10/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- *Topic:* At this Virtual meeting, we will have an overview of our recent deployment, listen to feedback from the RCT members who provided their support and participate in a roundtable discussion.
- *Where:* [Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 870 9664 2732, Passcode: 856200
- *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 **Kimberly Myers** at Myersk@wcsu.edu.

The Northeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering the EASTCONN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Southeastern Regional Crisis team.*
- *When:* 1/10/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- *Topic/Presenter:* At this Virtual meeting, our guest speaker will be **Amanda Pickett, MSW (bio)** from CT State Department of Education, who will be conducting a Discussion of the Restorative Practices Response Policy for the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year thereafter, Section 74 of Public Act 23-167 requires each board of education to adopt a restorative practices response policy to be implemented by school employees for incidents of challenging behavior or student conflict that is nonviolent and does not constitute a crime. In addition, she will also be talking about addressing challenging behaviors and crisis response.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *Towns:* Andover, Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Hampton, Hebron, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Marlborough, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Stafford, Sterling, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock, Willington, Windham
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals supporting our K-12 students.
- *For more information or to join the Team:* please email **Kiley Young** at Youngki@wcsu.edu.
- *Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings:* 2/14/24, 3/13/24, 4/17/24, 5/8/24, June planning meeting date TBD.

The Southeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering the LEARN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Northeastern Regional Crisis team.*
- *When:* 1/10/24 from 9:00 a.m. -10:30am
- *Topic/Presenter:* At this Virtual meeting, our guest speaker will be **Amanda Pickett, MSW (bio)** from CT State Department of Education, who will be conducting a Discussion of the Restorative Practices Response Policy for the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year thereafter, Section 74 of Public Act 23-167 requires each board of education to adopt a restorative practices response policy to be implemented by school employees for incidents of challenging behavior or student conflict that is nonviolent and does not constitute a crime. In addition, she will also be talking about addressing challenging behaviors and crisis response.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *Towns:* Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme, Essex, Groton, Guilford, Haddam, Killingworth, Ledyard, Lyme, Madison, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Preston, Salem, Stonington, Waterford, Westbrook
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals supporting our K-12 students.
- *For more information or to join the Team:* please email **Kiley Young** at Youngki@wcsu.edu.
- *Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings:* 2/14/24, 3/13/24, 4/17/24, 5/8/24, June planning meeting date TBD.

CT Center for School Safety Training

Our goal is to make trainings accessible to all Connecticut schools, so our trainings are low cost. However, because we do not want cost to be a barrier, we offer scholarships for individuals and districts who are unable to afford training costs.

- **March 14, 2024** | [Digital and Social Media - Navigating Fake Social Media Accounts](#) Virtual Training from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *Presented by TFC James White, CT State Police and CT Statewide D.A.R.E. Coordinator (bio)* This is the third of our **Free** quarterly training sessions and it will focus on navigating fake social media accounts and other trends. There will also be an opportunity for networking with federal, state, and local partners to help build the digital / social media knowledge base and plan for information sharing across the state of CT. **Intended Audience:** This training is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, security, facility managers and school resource officers.

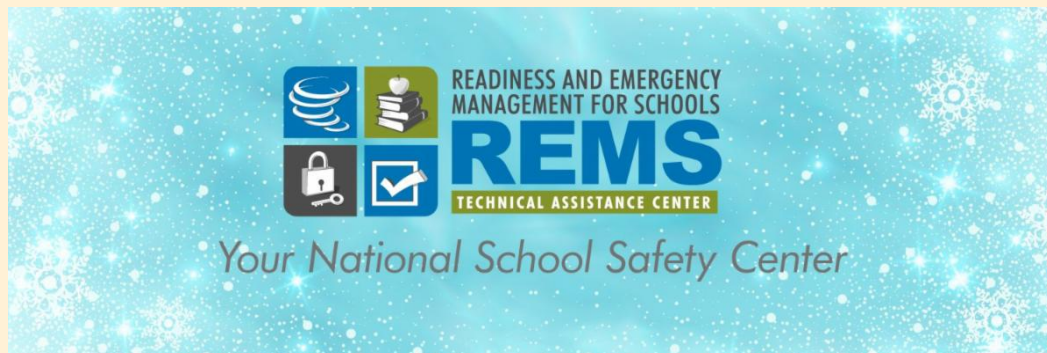
Additional Trainings and Events

- **January 9, 2024** | [Foundations of Trauma-Informed Care](#) - *Hosted by: the CREC RESC Alliance.* This foundational module is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. This **Free In-Person** training module is designed to offer all school-based personnel a basic understanding of the prevalence of trauma and trauma-informed care practices at all tiers, from universal practices to individualized supports. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **January 9, 2024** | [Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment](#) - *Hosted by: The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC).* In this Virtual training event, NTAC researchers highlight the key findings and implications from our research on school violence prevention. In this training, you will learn about the background, thinking, and behavior of school attackers and how some schools discovered and stopped plots before violence occurred. This training will provide guidance on how schools may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model. **Intended Audience:** School teachers, administrators, counselors, mental health professionals, school resource officers (SROs), law enforcement officers, and other school safety stakeholders.
- **January 11, 2024** | [Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes Virtual Training](#) - *Presented and Hosted by: the FBI Boston and the Massachusetts State Police.* This **one-hour Virtual training** provides attendees an overview of the realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes and includes a detailed review of statistics and current trends seen across the country. The training will also cover the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place. **Where:** Virtually through Microsoft Teams. A link will be e-mailed the morning of the training. **Intended Audience:** Public Safety Dispatchers, Law Enforcement Personnel, School Administrators and

Decision Makers. **To Register**, please click on one of the desired times following: [9:00 AM](#) (EST), [11:00 AM](#) (EST), [2:00 PM](#) (EST) and [4:00 PM](#) (EST).

- **January 29-February 9, 2024** | [CT D.A.R.E. Officer Training](#) - Hosted by: The Connecticut State Police D.A.R.E. Unit. Applications are now being accepted for the CT D.A.R.E. Officer Training. Classes will begin January 29, 2024, and end on February 9, 2024 (*Monday-Friday only*) Candidates must be available to attend all ten days of training. *Spots are Limited*. Interested applicants should submit an application through their Chief Executive Training Officer, to the CT State Police D.A.R.E. Unit. See [Flyer](#) and [Application](#). If you have any questions, please contact **TFC James White #1343** (ctdare@ct.gov). **Applications should be sent in no later than 12/29/23**. Applicants must be a Certified Police Officer, have at least two years of Police experience, and a strong desire to work with school aged children. Upon completion of the course each candidate will be certified to teach the K-12 curricula.
- **February 5, 2024** | [Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities](#) - Sponsored by The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC). In this Virtual training event, NTAC researchers discuss important findings from our research on mass attacks perpetrated in public and semi-public spaces, including businesses, restaurants, bars, retail outlets, houses of worship, schools, open spaces, and more. This training will provide guidance on how communities may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model. **Intended Audience:** Law enforcement, corporate security, mental health professionals, faith-based community leaders, university faculty, threat assessment team members, and other community safety stakeholders.
- **February 13, 2024** | [Harnessing Resilience Through Peer Support](#) - Hosted by: the CREC RESC Alliance. This module is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. This **Free Virtual Training** focuses on steps for building trauma-informed peer support programs that build on shared experiences and foster mutually supportive relationships amongst students, staff, and caregivers. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **March 12, 2024** | [TIC in Practice Combo Workshop #1: Fostering a Sense of Safety & Prioritizing Trustworthiness & Transparency](#) - Hosted by: the CREC RESC Alliance. This workshop is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. This **Free In-Person** Training is held at CREC Central. Participants will learn about the key components of physical and psychological safety as well as ways to strengthen these critical domains of well-being. Participants also explore how effective communication and a commitment to transparent decision-making are essential in establishing a school climate that supports all individuals (students, staff, and families). To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **April 9, 2024** | [TIC in Practice Combo Workshop #2: Cultural Humility: Unpacking & Addressing Cultural, Historical, & Gender Issues; & Empowerment, Voice & Choice for All](#) - Hosted by: the CREC RESC Alliance. This workshop is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. This **Free and In-Person** training is held at CREC Central. Participants will explore the impacts of educational and social inequities on students. Also included is an explanation of cultural humility and a review of Cultural Responsive Teaching strategies that foster inclusivity. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).

- **May 14, 2024 | [Taking Steps Toward Collaboration & Mutuality](#)** - Hosted by: *the CREC RESC Alliance*. This **Free and Virtual module** is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. In this Virtual training, participants will explore the nuances and many variables that exist when implementing collaboration strategies aimed at students, staff, caregivers, or community members. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **[Recognizing Gang Activity in Schools](#) | National Gang Center (OJP.gov)** - Hosted by *the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*. This webinar presents formal and informal techniques to recognize signs of gang activity in a school setting. The insights shared in this session are integral to our responsibilities as School Resource Officers.
- **[Incident Command System \(ICS\) in Schools - An Overview of ICS for Connecticut School Systems](#)** - Sponsored by *the State of CT Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security*. This program is designed to introduce you or re-introduce the concepts of ICS and how they apply to school systems in Connecticut. The program will also cover several resources available to schools. The course is generally delivered as a **2-hour in-person program**. Please see [Flyer](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact DEMHS Training Points of Contact: **Michael Paradis**, Trainer, email: Michael.Paradis@CT.Gov.



NEW K-12 Cybersecurity Risk Management 101 Train-the-Trainer (TtT) Hybrid Training

The [REMS TA Center](#) is excited to announce our **NEW [K-12 Cybersecurity Risk Management 101 Train-the-Trainer \(TtT\) Hybrid Training](#)**. Available through the [Live Trainings by Request](#) (TBRs) and [Virtual Trainings by Request](#) (VTBRs) programs, this synchronous training provides basic strategies that enhance cybersecurity planning in a K-12 school setting and can be delivered in person or virtually. This training will also cover how to develop a cyber incident response plan and how it can be integrated into [school emergency operations plans](#) (EOPs) via a Cyber Annex. The class size for the in-person training should be 25 attendees at a minimum and 100 attendees at a maximum, while the class size for the virtual training should be 25 attendees at a minimum and 475 attendees at a maximum.

Training Objectives:

During this course, you will:

- Understand common cyber threats facing K-12 schools and school districts;
- Discuss case studies that explain the steps educational leaders must take to support cyber resilience;
- Review tested prevention, response, and recovery strategies that can be used by their agency to help ensure cybersecurity; and
- Identify key cyber partners for developing policies and procedures.

By the end of the training, you will be equipped to enact K-12 Cybersecurity Risk Management within the five defined mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery) before, during, and after an incident.

Intended Audience:

This training is intended for school district and school administrators, educators, and staff; information technology staff; and members of an EOP planning team. It is also applicable for regional and state-level entities who support schools with technology management and other community partners.

Applying to Request and Schedule This Training:

Interested in hosting this training? Check our requirements below to review your agency's eligibility:

- Be a public or nonpublic K-12 school, school district, local education agency, regional education agency, state education agency, or partner with an education agency that will serve as the lead requestor.
- Designate a local point of contact who will coordinate with REMS TA Center staff members and trainers regarding the logistics of the event.
- Market the training to the appropriately targeted audience(s) and ensure that the attendance requirements are met.

Complete and submit the [TBR Host Site Application Form](#) or [VTBR Host Site Application Form](#) to info@remstacenter.org. REMS TA Center staff will confirm the receipt of your application within 1 day. A REMS TA Center team member will contact you to discuss your training needs and to answer any questions you may have. Training dates will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact the [REMS TA CENTER](#) at 1-855-781-REMS [7367] or via email at info@remstacenter.org

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

from the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



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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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