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.

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.
Hello School Safety Partners,

I hope you are getting a chance to enjoy this spring weather and some time off. There are few initiatives that I want to highlight:

- We are still waiting for the Department of Homeland Security to release the notice of funding opportunity for next year’s Targeted Violence Terrorism Prevention grant. However, we are putting together an application to pilot a program to use the swatting checklist and swatting guidance to help schools prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from swatting incidents. Please email me at bernhardta@wcsu.edu if you are interested in participating.

- There is still time to provide feedback into our Needs Assessment survey. Please share the survey link with your school community.

- Finally, we are looking into forming a working group around trauma-informed crisis drills. Please email me at bernhardta@wcsu.edu if you are interested in participating.

Your partner in school safety,

Amery

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

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GRANT Opportunities

**Grant - Opportunity-School Safety**

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects to fill knowledge gaps in two topical areas: 1) studies on the root causes and consequences of school violence and 2) examinations of the impact and effectiveness of awards made for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act.

The solicitation is available [here](#). The Grants.gov deadline is May 7, 2024 (at 11:59 pm Eastern).

**U.S. Department of Justice - Justice Grants Systems (JUSTgrants)**

The JustGrants deadline is May 21, 2024 (at 9:59 pm Eastern).

The JustGrants team facilitates informational webinars on funding opportunities. These weekly sessions providing an opportunity for users to receive topic-specific training, direct technical assistance and support on JustGrants system functionality.

See the 4 weekly session topics below:
- Post-Award Management Weekly Training Webinar
- Entity Management Weekly Training Webinar
- Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application Weekly Training Webinar
New school safety-related grants have been added to the Grants Finder Tool on SchoolSafety.gov

Community Programs for Outreach and Intervention with Youth and Young Adults at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis *(Deadline: April 8)*
This program provides trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions to youth and young adults (up to 25 years of age) who are at a clinical high risk for psychosis. Recipients will be expected to use evidence-based interventions to improve symptomatic and behavioral functioning; enable individuals to resume age-appropriate social, academic, and/or vocational activities; delay or prevent the onset of psychosis; and minimize the duration of untreated psychosis for those who develop psychotic symptoms.

Statewide Family Network Program *(Deadline: April 8)*
This program provides resources to enhance the capacity of statewide mental health family-controlled organizations to engage with family members/primary caregivers who are raising children, youth, and young adults with serious emotional disturbance and/or co-occurring disorders.

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program *(Anticipated Deadline: May 2)*
This program provides funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; nonprofits; and institutions of higher education with funds to establish or enhance capabilities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. It provides financial assistance to develop sustainable, multidisciplinary prevention capabilities in local communities, pilot innovative prevention approaches, and identify prevention best practices that can be replicated in communities across the country. Please note: This is a grants forecast as timing of the application window may be as little as 60 days when the program is announced. Prospective applicants are encouraged to use this forecast to identify necessary steps your organization(s) may need to take prior to the opening of the application window. Please see the access link for more information.

April Deadlines

- Community Programs for Outreach and Intervention with Youth and Young Adults at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis *(Deadline: April 8)*
- Statewide Family Network Program *(Deadline: April 8)*
- Drug-Free Communities Support Program *(Deadline: April 17)*
- School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program *(Deadline: April 30)*

May Deadlines

- Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program *(Forecasted / Deadline: May 2)*
- Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program *(Deadline: May 15)*

To access additional information on these grants as well as find a full list of funding opportunities with upcoming application deadlines, please click [here](#). You can also navigate the Grants Finder Tool's various features to search for additional grants related to school safety. If you have any questions, please contact our team at [SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov).
Resources from Safe and Sound Schools

Especially Safe: An Inclusive Approach to Safety Preparedness in Educational Settings

- April is World Autism Month, with World Autism Awareness Day recognized on April 2. We encourage all school safety leaders to learn how you can plan, prepare, teach, and train to meet the special needs of students, staff, and visitors in your school community. From developmental disabilities to communication challenges, medical needs to mobility challenges, and more, Safe and Sound Schools’ Especially Safe program can help you create a culture of safety and security for all.

- Download for free here.

School Safety Experts for Trainings, Workshops and More

- The Safe and Sound Schools Speakers Bureau features a panel of school safety experts who combine deep practical knowledge with engaging delivery to inspire and educate on topics related to safety, crisis prevention, response, recovery, and mental health. Explore topics and book an expert for your next event here.

Resources for Addressing Antisemitism in Schools (March 26, 2024) shared by the Westchester Jewish Council

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
The ADL has a variety of resources including anti-bias curricula that span all grades from elementary through high school. A link for their resources is here. The ADL offers a variety of services including professional development for teachers, guest speakers for events, and curricula for students. They have a real-time map that tracks antisemitic activity across the nation, as well as other resources at their website.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
The AFT is a well-known union for teachers. They are at the forefront of sharing information on threats, safety, and crisis preparation. They maintain a website with shared lessons to address Antisemitism in schools. That information is here.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center
The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center teaches lessons to promote understanding of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. Their website can be found here, and has a list of programs and a speakers bureau. Their programs include direct services to students as well as training for teachers. They are local to Westchester, NY and serve all of Fairfield County.

Stand With Us
Stand With US is an international, non-partisan education organization that supports Israel and fights antisemitism. They serve the entire US, and also several countries internationally. They have a variety of programs for both direct service to students and training of teaching staff. Their website can be found here.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC)
The AJC is an organization that supports Israel, confronts antisemitism, and upholds democratic values. The AJC has programs to combat antisemitism and appear to address secondary and higher education programs. Their resources online are here.

Hillel
Hillel is a national organization designed to support Jewish college students. Your Jewish high school seniors should be aware of Hillel. Here is a [link](#) to their website and here is a [link](#) to a video addressing college campus antisemitism.

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**School Climate Resources for the K-12 Community from SchoolSafety.gov**

SchoolSafety.gov released a new [infographic](#) that outlines the benefits of creating a positive school climate and strategies and resources for enhancing school safety, fostering school connectedness and relationships, and enabling a supportive environment. Learn more below and [download](#) and share this new resource with others in your school community.

**What is school climate?** It is a broad, multifaceted concept that involves many aspects of a student’s educational experience. It describes the conditions within a school that can impact student learning such as environment, safety, and engagement among members of the school community.

**Why does school climate matter?** Research shows that when schools and districts focus on promoting a positive school climate, students are more likely to develop trusting relationships, demonstrate positive behaviors, and achieve better outcomes. A positive school climate can also lead to a decrease in the likelihood of crime, aggression, and violent behavior.

**How can schools foster a positive school climate?** Three strategies that school leaders, educators, and staff may consider to proactively foster a positive school climate include:

- Creating a safe school community by establishing bullying and youth substance use prevention programs, implementing physical safety measures to deter or reduce violence, and promoting inclusive classrooms.
- Enabling a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment by encouraging achievement-oriented behavior, eliminating discrimination in the administration of student discipline, and keeping school facilities in good condition.
- Fostering strong school connections and relationships by showing students they are valued and respected and implementing positive behavior management strategies in the classroom.

**DOWNLOAD THE INFOGRAPHIC**

If you’d like to share information about school climate resources on your organization’s social media channels, sample posts are included below for your use or modification:

- A positive #SchoolClimate can have significant impacts on student success & well-being and the safety of the broader K-12 community. This new @SchoolSafetyGov infographic provides strategies & resources #K12 schools can use to foster a positive climate: go.dhs.gov/Jug

- Students experience academic, #MentalHealth, and physical benefits when schools focus on creating a positive #SchoolClimate. Explore free resources and tools available at @SchoolSafetyGov to evaluate and improve your #K12 school climate: schoolsafety.gov/school-climate

For additional school climate resources, visit SchoolSafety.gov’s school climate topic page. If you have any questions, please contact us at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.

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**Mental Health Resources from SchoolSafety.gov**

**Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention**

This resource provides a thorough plan for school districts to implement suicide prevention policies in their community. It includes specific, actionable steps to support school personnel; sample language for student handbooks; suggestions for involving parents and guardians in suicide prevention; and guidance for addressing in-school suicide attempts.

**Suite of Resources to Promote Student Mental Health**

This suite of resources can help state and local education agencies develop and sustain school mental health programs that improve the mental and behavioral well-being of all students. These resources include data on the prevalence of common behavioral health issues along with information and customizable tools to promote student mental health.

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**School Climate Resources from SchoolSafety.gov**

**Guiding Principles for Creating Safe, Inclusive, Supportive, and Fair School Climates**
This resource provides guidance on how to maintain safe, inclusive, supportive, and fair learning environments for students and school staff and includes specific recommendations for evidence-based practices to give students what they need to learn and grow.

**Introduction to Restorative Practices: An Equitable Approach**
This guide provides an overview of the restorative practices approach and offers recommendations and resources to help schools adopt equity-based restorative practices to build relationships and resolve conflict.

**Bomb Threat Resources**
This webpage provides information on products, training offerings, and resources that help with preparation and response options in the event of a bomb threat.

**Guiding Principles for School Resource Officer Programs**
This guide provides a set of guiding principles and considerations related to school resource officer (SRO) programs implementation and school-based policing. The principles in this document are offered as a guide to those jurisdictions that have opted to implement an SRO program to ensure that the presence of law enforcement in schools is as beneficial as possible and to avoid harmful impacts on students and the learning environment.

To Read More about the latest news from SchoolSafety.gov, please click [here](#).

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### School Resources from the National Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NPDC)

- **The Bullet Points Project**
- **Mass Shooter Database (The Violence Project)**
- **PsySTART: Psychological Simple Treatment and Rapid Triage**

### Early Intervention in School Security from ASISONLINE.ORG

- **Weighing Student Development in K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment** ([asisonline.org](http://asisonline.org))

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"**Digital Aid for Responder Mental Health**" provided by Emergency Management and Verizon. The well-being of first responders is a cornerstone of a safe and secure community as their ability to function effectively directly impacts public safety.

[Download eBook](#)

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### 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.
Threading Cyber Safety Into School Emergency Operations Plans: Building Cyber-Safe School Settings and Systems

Today’s digital world holds exciting possibilities for K-12 students. Virtual platforms, programs, and tools offer innovative learning experiences, greater accessibility to content, and opportunities for global and local connection. In commenting on the reality that 50 percent of teens report using the Internet “almost constantly,” Tamara Sobel, a REMS TA Center subject matter expert and media education specialist, indicates that “digital screen media isn’t just something kids use sometimes—it is basically their culture and life.”

While digital advancements have much to add to the lives of students, they come with increased threats and vulnerabilities. The K12 Security Information eXchange’s The State of K-12 Cybersecurity: Year in Review—2022 Annual Report shows the growing occurrence of cyberattacks against schools throughout the nation. Federal protections, such as the Children’s Internet Protection Act, exist to help shield young people from harmful online content but are usually not enough to keep students free from all forms of online harassment and abuse.

As cyberbullying, information sharing, sextortion, phishing schemes, hoax threats, and other online harms continue to evolve, schools, school districts, community partners, and families must remain vigilant. Spreading awareness about emerging threats and taking steps to implement cyber safety strategies into existing emergency operations plans (EOPs) will help K-12 schools maintain safe and supportive learning environments for all students.

Cyber Safety Measures and EOPs
Not to be confused with cybersecurity (which refers to protecting information and communication systems), the term “cyber safety” refers to the activities or processes taken to protect people and communities from cyber incidents or online harms. The consequences of cyber safety incidents carry the potential to produce other forms of harm and emergency. As Sobel explains, “When kids are affected negatively in their emotional lives, they can act out either in their digital worlds or in real life…. by cyberbullying, potentially violent threats or action towards other students or school staff, being destructive to school property, [or] even attack school information systems.”

One of the best ways to integrate cyber safety measures is to develop a Cyber Annex for your school’s EOP. Since cyber safety is a complex and evolving issue, creating and maintaining a Cyber Annex requires careful consideration from core planning teams.


To protect schools from digital and real-world threats, schools and school districts should consider implementing the following cyber safety measures into their practices and Cyber Annex:

- Provide digital citizenship instruction and spread cyber safety awareness. Students and faculty may not know how to protect themselves. Intentional, age-appropriate education can go a long way in protecting individuals and the school community.
- Encourage mental health awareness. Much of the complexity of cyber safety incidents involves their ability to affect student wellness. Teachers, staff, and faculty should know how to identify signs of bullying and abuse and should create a culture of safe sharing and reporting. Schools can use tools such as the Being Tech-Smart Facilitator’s Guide to instruct students in Internet safety and mental and emotional health awareness. As Sobel further explains, “If the mental health of all students is not a concern, the school climate can suffer, and all students and staff may be at risk. A mentally healthy student population is a safer environment for all.”
- Vet approved platforms and develop safe user procedures. School communities cannot control all digital interaction, but they can govern the platforms and procedures used at the school. Most cyberbullying, interactions with inappropriate content, sextortion, and ransomware incidents occur through social media, messaging services, and email. Administrators can research approved platforms, select ones that offer the most security, and establish rules to protect the privilege of safe virtual interactions.
- Establish multi-factor authentication (MFA) across campus. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency notes that “MFA increases security because even if one authenticator becomes compromised, unauthorized users will be unable to meet the second authentication requirement and will not be able to access” the targeted space. Although implementing MFA requires training the school community, MFA’s protective measures are worth the investment.

In short, the high stakes created by cyber safety incidents demand that K-12 schools consider virtual and emotional resilience strategies. You can find additional resources and information on this topic from the REMS TA Center below.
If you have created or used tools and resources to address cybersecurity and cyber safety at your campus, please submit them for inclusion in our REMS TA Center Tool Box.

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.

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:** 4/9/24 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 Region 2 Gambling Awareness Team focuses on raising awareness and promoting prevention, treatment, and recovery from problem gambling and gaming across the lifespan. All are welcome to attend our meetings and get involved. We meet bimonthly and host events, trainings, and attend regular outreach events. Our next meeting is:

**When:** 4/18/24 at 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
**Where:** Virtually via Zoom.
**Who Should Attend:** Meetings are open to all.
**RSVP at Zoom Link**
For additional info, contact Brailee Whan at bwhan@bhcare.org

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

**When:** 4/17/24 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.

Region 2/South Central Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare

Regional Suicide Advisory Board (RSAB) Meetings

**When:** 4/2/24 at 10:30 a.m.
**Where:** Virtually
Region 2 RSAB supports the overall vision of the statewide CT Suicide Advisory Board, the goals and objectives of
the CT Suicide Prevention Plan, and provides the local and regional infrastructure for activities.


For more information, please contact Taylor Gainey, MHA, at Tgainey@bhcare.org.

Please save the dates for future RSAB meetings. All meetings will be held on the first Tuesday, bi-monthly. Meetings: 6/4, 8/6, 10/1, 12/3

The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting

- **When:** Meetings will reconvene in September
- **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:** 4/3/24 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: 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:** 4/3/24 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: 5/1/24, 6/5/24.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- **When:** 4/25/24 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Virtually
- **Who:** 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. Please save the dates for future School Safety and Security Working Group Meetings: 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:** 4/23/24 from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Topic/Presenter:** At this meeting the Speaker will be Cadence Pentheny from the Triangle Community Center and she will be presenting on LGBTQ+ community and schools.
- **Where:** To be Announced
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: 5/14/24, 6/4/24 - Planning Meeting.

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting (covering the RESC South Central Region)
- **When:** Our April meeting is cancelled. Our next meeting is 5/16/24 from 9:30 -11:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Virtual
- **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.

The North Central Regional Crisis Team Meeting (covering the RESC Capitol Region Education Council)
- **When:** Our April meeting is cancelled. Our next meeting is 5/8/24 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- **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 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:** Our April meeting is cancelled. Our next meeting is May 8th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Topic/Presenter:** At this meeting the Speaker will be Angela Duhaime of SERAC to talk a little bit more about some of the recovery supports our team often loops SERAC in to provide following a crisis, including Post-Traumatic Stress Management and Psychological First Aid. Please bring any questions you have for Angela.
- **Where:** Virtually via Zoom
- **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. 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:** Our April meeting is cancelled. Our next meeting is May 8th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Topic/Presenter:** At this meeting the Speaker will be Angela Duhaime of SERAC to talk a little bit more about some of the recovery supports our team often loops SERAC in to provide following a crisis, including Post-Traumatic Stress Management and Psychological First Aid. Please bring any questions you have for Angela.
- **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. June planning meeting date TBD.

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**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.

May 2-3 | PREPaRE Workshop 2: Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools, 3rd ed. - Hosted by: PREPaRE Trainers, Dr. Kimberly Myers and Dr. Diana Perry. This 2-day workshop develops the knowledge and skill required to provide immediate mental health crisis interventions to the students, staff, and school community members who have been simultaneously exposed to an acute traumatic stressor. The knowledge and skill developed within this session also help to build a bridge to the psychotherapeutic and trauma informed mental health response sometimes required to address challenges associated with trauma exposure. PREPaRE Workshop 1 is **not** a prerequisite for taking PREPaRE Workshop 2. **Intended Audience:** Mental Health Professionals who provide mental...
health crisis intervention services. This workshop will be held at the Capitol Region Council Central Office (CREC) in Hartford from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Cost:** $55 and Pre-Work is Required. Please see [Flyer](#) for additional information.

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**MAY TRAINING**

**PREPaRE Workshop 2, Third Edition, Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools**

This 2-day workshop develops the knowledge and skill required to provide immediate mental health crisis interventions to the students, staff, and school community members who have been simultaneously exposed to an acute traumatic stressor. The knowledge and skill developed within this session also help to build a bridge to the psychotherapeutic and trauma-informed mental health response sometimes required to address challenges associated with trauma exposure. This workshop is an excellent course for all mental health professionals in your district who provide mental health crisis intervention services.

PREPaRE Workshop 2 is appropriate for any individual filling the role of crisis intervention specialist, including school mental health staff (school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses), administrators, and other individuals whom the team has identified as appropriate providers of psychological first aid. Additionally, this workshop can be very helpful for community-based mental health practitioners who may work with the school crisis team and/or may be brought into the school to assist in response to a crisis.

**Trainers:** Dr. Kimberly Myers, Ed.D & Dr. Diana Perry, PsyD

**Intended Audience:**

- Any School Staff serving on the Safety Team.

**You are not required to have already attended Workshop 1 in order to register for Workshop 2!**

To Register [Click Here](#)

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### DATES & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registrations must be completed by **4/12/2024** to allow for the ordering of PREPaRE materials.
- For more information, please contact Mary Pupazzoni - Pupazzonim@wcsu.edu or (203) 837-8915.

**Workshop 2:** May 02 & 03, 2024, 8am to 3pm at CREC Central Office – Room 202

- Check-in is between 7:30am and 8am.
- Per participant materials fee: $55 NASP fee

- Provides 13 hours of document NASP-Approved CPD.

VISIT WWW.NASPONLINE.ORG/PREPARE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WORKSHOPS & CURRICULUM

For more information on your trainers, visit the [Center for School Safety](#) and the [RESC Alliance UPLIFT](#) Landing page

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**May 8 | Digital Threat Assessment® (DTA) Virtual Training Session from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Presented by Safer Schools Together (SST). This Training is being brought to you at no
DTA® teaches participants to establish a Digital Behavioral Baseline through a School Safety/Threat Assessment (SS/TA) lens. By engaging with popular social media applications, you will learn how to find and document worrisome digital content originating from your school community. This training solidifies your understanding of how to effectively use DTA as a critical part of any modern-day Threat Assessment. You will learn how to find individuals who are the subject of your threat assessment and document your research findings. The CT Center for School Safety was awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to bring this training to districts in CT FREE of charge (DTA typically costs $229 per individual). This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, opportunity # DHS-23-TTP-132-00-01. **Intended Audience:** This training is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, IT directors, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, security, facility managers and school resource officers.

**MORE Trainings and Events**

- **May 29 & 30 | Southeast School Safety Summit 2024** - Hosted by: Safe and Sound Schools. Featuring nationally recognized speakers and a powerful agenda, attendees from across the US will walk away with established best practices, proven methods and essential strategies vital to keeping campuses safe.
  - More than 25 experts
  - 18 sessions, including topics like Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM), safety preparation for frontline personnel, SRO success...

**Registration Is Open!**

- **SAVE $50 WITH CODE CTSafety**
April 3 | The CT Seal of Biliteracy: Celebrating our Students and their Futures. Hosted by: Connecticut School Counselor Association (CSCA). Learn about The Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy graduation award that celebrates students who speak English and at least one other language. All 50 states now recognize this award, as do many colleges and employers. Come hear about the many benefits for students and how you can facilitate this award in your high school. Please register here. You’ll receive the Zoom link in your reminder email the day before the event.

April 4 | CABLE CIT-Youth Special Topics Training Social Media & Youth - Hosted by: The CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. No Cost Training Opportunity Now Open to All Agencies. This Training will be held at New Britain High School from 9:30 AM-1:30 PM. Topics will include: Local child sex trafficking and exploitation trends; the use of technology, including the internet, social media platforms and chatrooms to exploit youth; criminal elements, risk factors, and who to contact if you see the signs of a potential problem and more. For more information, please click Here (This training is limited to school districts personnel and police departments in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, West Hartford Public Schools, Lebanon Public Schools, Watertown Public Schools, Vinal Technical High School, A.I. Prince Technical High School or previous participants of CIT-Youth Training. Training will be opened to outside agencies as space allows).

April 6, May 3 | ATAP VTAC Virtual Threat Assessment Conference - Public Access Spaces: Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) - Through a Healthcare Lens. The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) is pleased to present the 2024 Virtual Threat Assessment Conference (VTAC), focusing on threat assessment and management in healthcare. This online, two half-day training is designed to address major issues surrounding public attacks, workplace violence, school/campus violence, domestic violence and other situations involving the prevention of targeted violence. Nationally recognized speakers will give presentations on current information, research, and techniques relating to the industry.

April 10 & May 8 | Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training - Hosted by: South Central Region Behavioral Health Action Organization (Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHCare). QPR Training gives you the skills and knowledge to intervene to possibly prevent suicide. Learn how to get help for yourself, learn more about preventing suicide, common causes of suicidal behavior, warning signs of suicide and how to get help for someone in crisis. If you need additional information, please email Taylor Gainey, MHA, at Tgainey@bhcare.org.

April 10-11 | ATAP VTAC Virtual Threat Assessment Conference - Public Access Spaces: Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) - Through a Healthcare Lens. The Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) is pleased to present the 2024 Virtual Threat Assessment Conference (VTAC), focusing on threat assessment and management in healthcare. This online, two half-day training is designed to address major issues surrounding public attacks, workplace violence, school/campus violence, domestic violence and other situations involving the prevention of targeted violence. Nationally recognized speakers will give presentations on current information, research, and techniques relating to the industry.

April 11-12 | Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for 911 Call Takers/Dispatch - Hosted by: The CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. This Training course provides an introduction to mental health and crisis intervention for 911 dispatchers/public safety telecommunication operators. Dispatchers are a crucial first point of contact for an effective CIT response and this training will prepare call takers to communicate key information to those responding to possible crisis scenes as well as considerations and to identify situations where mobile crisis teams and other resources can be integrated. For more information, please click Here. The course will be held at the Meriden Public Library & costs $49 per person.
April 9 | **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. Also see [Flyer](#).

April 9-10 | **Detecting Misleading Behaviors** - Sponsored by the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCT). This full-day training course is offered at no-cost and will take place at New England HIDTA, in Methuen, MA. It will teach officers how to reliably recognize and understand verbal and non-verbal cues of deception. Officers will also learn how to identify deception in written statements. Identifying verbal and non-verbal indicators of deception is a necessary talent for today’s law enforcement officers involved in investigating narcotic-related crimes. The instructor will illustrate various verbal and non-verbal indicators of deception using video-recorded interviews of actual

April 15-19 in Danbury and May 6-10 in Hartford | **CABLE Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - 40 Hour Training** - Hosted by: The CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. This course prepares law enforcement officers and other public safety personnel with the skills to assist others in crisis. The course is an intensive 40-hour, five-day curriculum that is comprised of both classroom instruction and practical exercise delivered by mental health professionals, other subject matter experts and CIT law enforcement instructors. POST credit is available. This course will be held at the Danbury Police Department. Cost: $189 per participant. Please see website for more information - [www.cablect.com](http://www.cablect.com). April 15-19 | **Danbury Police Department - Class Full. Please Email for Waitlist.** Please note: This training is limited to law enforcement officers, other public safety personnel within Connecticut, and members of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Mobile Crisis Teams only. Individuals not meeting this criteria must email training@cablect.com to inquire about eligibility before registering for training.

April 22 | **RI School Policing Summit** - Organized by the Rhode Island School Resource Officer Association (RISRO) in collaboration with the National Association of School Resource officers (NASRO). This **FREE** 1-Day Summit is designed to be a platform of networking and training for SROs and SRO Supervisors. The purpose of the training is to educate SROs on significant developments in school safety law and successful practices for implementation and communication emerging trends in school Policing. [Register no later than 4/12/24](#). (Note that the material covered in the presentations is not specific to RI). To register click [Here](#).

April 24 | **Connecting Right Here - Right Now - Explore the 2023 Regional Behavioral Health Priority Report Results & Hear From Subject Matter Experts** - Hosted by the Western CT Coalition. Come make connections, work on solutions, share ideas and walk away with resources from our statewide prevention partners funded through CT DMHAS, local prevention councils, mental health providers and others. Featuring A Peace of Mind - a multimedia arts project, created by award-winning photographer John Noltner, that uses portraits and personal stories to bridge divides and encourage dialogue around important issues. **Intended Audience:** Social Workers, Schools, Prevention Professionals, Local Officials, Coalition Members, Law Enforcement, Policymakers, Treatment Providers, Recovery Communities, Family Members. This Free event will take place at WCSU - Westside Campus / Danbury, CT. [Register by 4/10/24](#).
witnesses and suspects. Practical scenarios will be used to reinforce the lecture. For more information, please go to:  
https://www.counterdrug.org/  

April 25 | Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents (UPSBI) - FREE TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS. The UPSBI course is designed to provide emergency first responders and school staff with the skills to plan and respond to school bomb threats and bombing incidents through lectures and exercises. It is held from 8:00 AM-12 PM held at the CT State Police Academy, 285 Preston Ave., Meriden, CT. Course sign-ups will be via email at Jonathan.Seeger@CT.Gov, provide full name and organization. If you have any questions, please reach out via email to William Turley, Manager Training and Exercise, School Safety Program Lead, State of CT, at email William.turley@ct.gov. 

April 25 | Surviving Bomb Incidents for Educators (SBIE) - FREE TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS. THE SBIE course provides school personnel with the skills necessary to perform critical life-saving actions in the immediate aftermath of a bombing incident, a critical moment where those who wish to help can perform life-saving actions to sustain life prior to the arrival of medical personnel. It is held from 12:30 PM-4:30 PM held at the CT State Police Academy, 285 Preston Ave., Meriden, CT. Course sign-ups will be via email at Jonathan.Seeger@CT.Gov, provide full name and organization. If you have any questions, please reach out via email to William Turley, Manager Training and Exercise, School Safety Program Lead, State of CT, at email William.turley@ct.gov.
May 1 & 2 | WAVR-21 A Structured Guide for the Assessment of Workplace and Campus Violence Risk - Hosted by: Dr. Stephen White and Dr. Reid Meloy. The workshop will cover the foundations and proper use of the WAVR-21, and best practices in threat assessment and management in work and campus settings. This workshop will be held in Atlanta and is available in-person or virtually. For more information, please contact Dr. White or Sandy Ryan at Sryan@wavr21.com.

May 2 | CT Suicide Prevention Conference 2024 Inspiring Hope: Coming Together for Suicide Prevention - Hosted by: The CT Suicide Advisory Board (CSTAB). There is no fee to attend this conference. Space is limited. It will be held at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. The Keynote Presentation is: How Anti-Black Racism is Fueling the Youth Mental Health Crisis. For more information and to Register, please click Here.

May 2 | 2024 Connecticut School Counselor Awards Gala - Hosted by: CT School Counselor Association (CSCA). You are cordially invited to

May 14 | 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.

May 22 | 2024 Connecticut School Counselor Association (CSCA) Annual Conference. The annual CSCA Conference is back at Sacred Heart University - West Campus in Fairfield, CT. The theme is Thrive & Grow. This premier event brings together K-12 grade school counselors from across the state, representing urban, suburban, and rural school districts. Some of the goals are to share experiences, perspectives, insights and the latest trends in the counseling and educational related field. Our Keynote Speaker is Anne Zinn, the Connecticut 2023 School Counselor of the Year. Dr. Gabe Lomas and Dr. Amery Bernhardt will be presenting on "Why kids in Connecticut bring weapons to school and what school counselors can do about it".
May 6-10 in Hartford | **CABLE Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - 40 Hour Training** - Hosted by: The CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. This course prepares law enforcement officers and other public safety personnel with the skills to assist others in crisis. The course is an intensive 40-hour, five -day curriculum that is comprised of both classroom instruction and practical exercise delivered by mental health professionals, other subject matter experts and CIT law enforcement instructors. This course will be held at the Hartford Police Academy in Hartford. POST credit is available. Cost: $189 per participant. Please see website for more information - [www.cablect.com](http://www.cablect.com).

May 8 | **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training** - Hosted by: South Central Region Behavioral Health Action Organization (Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare). QPR Training gives you the skills and knowledge to intervene to possibly prevent suicide. Learn how to get help for yourself, learn more about preventing suicide, common causes of suicidal behavior, warning signs of suicide and how to get help for someone in crisis. For more information, please email Taylor Gainey, MHA, at Tgainey@bhcare.org.

May 8, July 11, September 12 | **Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment** - Hosted by: The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC). These virtual training events will cover important findings from NTAC's 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: school administrators, educators, and other school safety stakeholders.

May 10 | **CABLE Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator Training** - Hosted by: The CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement. This no cost training is generously subsidized by the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This course provides training and information for those currently acting as the CIT coordinator / liaison for their agency as well as those seeking to establish a more formal CIT program in their agency. Topics include CIT department policy development, CIT models and more.

There are 30+ amazing breakout sessions this year! There is something for everyone K-12 and at all experience levels! This year you will have the opportunity to attend 3 sessions. See the list of breakout sessions and their descriptions [Here](#) and in our NEW CONFERENCE APP you will be able to access after you register! Register [Here](#).

May 29 & 30 | **Southeast School Safety Summit** - Hosted by: Safe and Sound Schools. Featuring nationally recognized speakers and a powerful agenda, attendees from across the US will walk away with established best practices, proven methods and essential strategies vital to keeping campuses safe.

- More than 25 experts
- 18 sessions, including topics like Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM), safety preparation for frontline personnel, SRO success stories, crisis preparation and more!
- **Safe and Sound Schools is offering $50 off registration for our CT Center for School Safety members!** Use promo code **CSafety** when registering to take advantage of this special offer.
- See the Agenda and [Register Here](#).

June 3-7 | **NABITA’s 4th Annual Case Management Summit** - Sponsored by The National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Management (NABITA). Join us at this year’s Summit and acquire the skills and knowledge to implement case management services effectively. Gain a comprehensive understanding of case management standards, best practices, and techniques to serve diverse populations. Take advantage of this opportunity to elevate your expertise in the field. You’ll find a wealth of networking and collaboration opportunities. The Summit offers a platform to connect with like-minded professionals, exchange ideas, and share experiences that enrich your practice and broaden your professional network. Member Rate: $399 and Non-Member Rate: $499, 15% Discount for Bundle Pricing.

June 5 & 6 | **The WAVR-21 in Europe Amsterdam - A Workplace & Campus Threat Assessment & Management Workshop** Hosted by: Dr. Stephen White and Mr. Bram van der Meer. This first of-its-kind offering will provide a European-oriented WAVR-21 training, taking into account important cultural, legal, and risk scenario differences between North America and European countries. This training will take place in The Hague, Netherlands, with an option to attend either in person or virtually. Read more about the workshop content, especially valuable for security professionals working for USA organizations and assigned to European sites and regions. For more information and to register, email Mr. Bram van der Meer, at Vandermeer@dantespsychology.com

CABLE PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

OVERVIEW
This comprehensive 35-hour course led by local and national experts will provide guidelines, information and recommendations for developing and maintaining a Peer Support Team in an agency utilizing national standards. Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to begin or continue managing a peer support team, recognize common signs and symptoms of a colleague in need of support and provide that support, have an understanding of how to respond to critical incidents on a micro and macro level. Those attending will also receive training related to confidentiality, legal considerations, stress management, suicide prevention and early intervention, substance use and mental health issues, as well best practices for managing specific incidents that peer support personnel regularly face.

Attendees will be certified in Individual and Group Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc. (ICISF). Law enforcement attendees completing the course will receive 30 hours of review training credit in Human Relations (Area 400).

Open to active Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Dispatch

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Lt. Mike Fumiatti
Dr. Dara Rampersad, Ph.D. LPC, NCC
Vicki Hixson, M.Ed.

REGISTER
MAY 13-17, 2024 - 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY - HAMDEN, CT

CISM & Advanced Peer Support (5/13 - 5/17)
$319.00
Advanced Peer Support ONLY (5/15 - 5/17)
$169.00

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MARCH 25, 2024

New Haven Promise

8th GRADE STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Michael J. Adanti Student Center
Southern Connecticut State University
301 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515
9AM -1PM

You’re Never Too Young To Lead.

D.A.R.E. International, and The National Association of School and Campus Police Chiefs. The 20th Annual 2024 National School Safety Conference featuring the 36th Annual D.A.R.E. International Training Conference is the largest and most comprehensive conference focused on all aspects of school safety and security. Centered on national best practices and proven methods and programs, this conference brings the most knowledgeable and internationally renowned keynote presenters into a single forum to provide the highest quality professional development possible in one conference. In addition to our unmatched keynote presenters, you will be able to take advantage of a choice of two complimentary pre-conference sessions as well as almost 50 breakout sessions by current professional in the fields of education, law enforcement, and school safety.

New Haven Public School Student Leadership Conference

March 25, 2024, New Haven
CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
School Reunification Workshop & Tabletop Exercise
Training Provided by Dr. Daniel Rector
March 7, 2024, Fairfield (191 attended!)

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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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