



The Center for  
**Safe and Secure Schools**  
Harris County Department of Education

Safety Always First in Education

## A Message from the Director



Welcome to September! In Texas, September means wild weather, Labor Day and, of course, the start of football season!

The Center for Safe and Secure Schools took time to plan our upcoming year of training, audit schedule and new ventures. Stay tuned for our new *Counselor's Corner* with training specifically targeted to address the needs of our school counselors.

Save the date! Our [School Safety Forum](#) (virtual) is slated for Friday, Nov. 5.

Lastly, the Center wants to highlight the phenomenal work our districts are doing. If you would like to be highlighted in our newsletter, send us a short description and photos.

Visit the [CSSS](#) website for more information or call 713-696-1771.

Be safe,

*Julia Y. Andrews*

Director, HCDE Center for Safe and Secure Schools

# Safety Tip of the Month



## Make A Plan

Hurricane season starts on May 15 in the north Pacific, June 1 in the Atlantic and the Caribbean and ends on Nov. 30. Before hurricane season each year, make sure you and your family are prepared by [planning ahead](#).

- Write down emergency phone numbers and keep them on the refrigerator or near every phone in your house. Program them into your cell phone too.
- Prepare an [emergency supply kit](#).
- Locate the nearest shelter and different routes you can take to get there from your home. If shelter locations in your area have not been identified, [learn how to find them in the event of a storm](#).
- Pet owners: Pre-identify shelters, a pet-friendly hotel, or an out-of-town friend or relative where you can take your pets in an evacuation. Local animal shelters may be able to offer advice on what to do with your pets if you are asked to evacuate your home.

*Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)*

## CSSS Emergency Management

### CSSS encourages bus safety rules

Despite nationwide bus driver shortages and pandemic-related complications, the school bus remains the safest choice for student transportation. According to the National Safety Council, students are 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a school bus instead of traveling by car.

Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools (CSSS) says parents can



ensure a smooth ride by talking to their children about bus safety rules and protocols.

[READ MORE](#)

## Climate and Culture

### CSSS engage Fortis Academy students in *Restorative Practices*

This week, new Fortis Academy Principal Travita Godfrey, in partnership with the Center for Safe and Secure School's (CSSS) Climate and Culture Specialist Cierra Nickerson, introduced students to restorative circles.

[READ MORE](#)



## Take Care Tuesday Podcast

The Center for Safe and Secure Schools' *Take Care Tuesday* podcast debuted in June 2020 and has reached listeners throughout the United States as well as abroad in Ireland, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Germany and Singapore.

**Available now:**

**Foundation Of Safety:  
Building Relationships**  
Jane Devine,  
Lamar Consolidated ISD

[Listen Now](#)

**Take Care Tuesday** PODCAST EPISODE  
**FOUNDATION OF SAFETY:  
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**  
GUEST SPEAKER, JANE DEVINE  
TITLE I SPECIAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
LAMAR CONSOLIDATED ISD

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# BJA STOP School Violence Grant

## Grant-Supported Professional Development Training

### Digital Threat Assessment Training

In 2021, the BJA STOP School Violence grant will focus heavily on providing social media and online threat assessment trainings during the first half of the year.

### Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a five-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

### Adult Mental Health First Aid

Adult Mental Health First Aid supports school staff by creating a shared language around mental health and how to respond to mental health crisis. The course introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns and builds understanding of their impact.

### Walk It Like You Talk It: Building and Restoring Connections Before Content

This hour and a half training engages participants in building strategies to establish community in the classroom (virtual or face-to-face).

### Mindfulness for Teachers: How to Incorporate Mindfulness in the Classroom

This one-hour workshop will provide participants with the fundamentals of mindfulness, meditation, self-awareness and various active mindfulness exercises to promote healthy well-being.

### Intro to Restorative Practices

This training allows participants to experience the impact of a virtual *Restorative Circle*. Participants will have an opportunity to experience a community building circle process and develop the skills to plan and facilitate a virtual *Restorative Circle*.



## Upcoming Training and Events

### Virtual Workshops:

- [Oct. 13](#) - Basic ICS for Campus Administrators
- [Oct. 14](#) - Basic National Incident Management System (NIMS) for Campus Administration
- [Nov. 5](#) - School Safety Forum - From Surviving to Thriving



# DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER PLANNING WORKSHOP

## WORKSHOP DETAILS



### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Planners, Emergency Managers, Public Health Professionals, Nonprofit and Community-Based Organizations



### WHEN

November 3, 2021, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
*Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. There will be a working lunch with a group order from Jason's Deli.*



### WHERE

Harris County Department of Education  
6300 Irvington Blvd., Rooms 501/502/503  
Houston, TX 77022



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Brittany Rickard, Harris County OHSEM  
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(713) 881-3100



### REGISTER

<https://bit.ly/3ryXDGv>



SCAN ME

Save the date for the upcoming Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Peer Planning Workshop. During the workshop, subject matter experts and planners will come together to talk about:

- How aspects of DBH can be incorporated into various plans and annexes.
- Lessons learned about DBH planning following the Santa Fe active shooter incident.
- How DBH is addressed in long-term recovery activities and as those activities transition into blue skies.

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions to a panel of local subject matter experts, including government and community representatives.

Finally, there will be an open forum where participants will be able to share and learn from the experiences of their peers in the room.

Covid precautions: There will be enough space for social distancing. HCDE has asked that visitors wear masks.

## ABOUT PEER PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The Houston UASI Planners Workgroup develops and hosts peer planning workshops to give stakeholders in the region an opportunity to learn about planning for a variety of topics from the perspectives of different local subject matter experts who represent agencies and organizations from different communities. It is interactive, so participants have opportunities to ask questions and share their own experiences. These workshops focus on planning and are not meant to be a training on the chosen topic. Visit the Houston UASI website for information about past workshops: <https://houstouasi.com/planners-work-group/peer-planning-workshops>.



# SAVE THE DATE

Virtual School Safety Forum 2021

#STOPschoolviolence #ImpactSafety

Friday, Nov. 5 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Center for Safe and Secure Schools | A Division of Harris County Department of Education  
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