

October 2021



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

Safety Always First in Education

A Message from the Director



October is here, which means fall is arriving for everyone but those of us in Texas!

On a serious note, with the recent active shooter situations at YES Prep Charter School here in Houston and Timberview High School in Mansfield ISD, it's been a fearful time for communities. In [2021](#), there were at least 82 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 21 deaths and 47 injuries nationally. The Center for Safe and Secure Schools (The Center) would like to extend our sincere thoughts, prayers and support to the schools, districts and communities involved.

With the uncertainty of when an incident, like an active shooter situation, will happen, it is essential that we remain vigilant and prepared. The Center is committed to ensuring all partner districts are prepared. We stand ready to support you in your training, planning, and recovery needs.

Visit the Center's [website](#) or call 713-696-1771 for contact information and our training calendar.

Be safe,

Julia Y. Andrews

Director, HCDE Center for Safe and Secure Schools

Safety Tip of the Month

Preventing bullying at school



Bullying can threaten students' physical and emotional safety at school and negatively impact their ability to learn. The best way to address bullying is to stop it before it starts.

There are several things schools can do to prevent bullying and make school safer. Training staff and students to prevent and address bullying can help sustain bullying prevention efforts over time. Although there are no federal mandates for bullying curricula or staff training, there are options schools can consider.

Activities to Teach Students About Bullying

Schools don't always need formal programs to help students learn about bullying prevention, but they can incorporate the topic in lessons and activities. Examples of activities to teach about bullying include:

- Internet or library research on bullying (i.e., different types of bullying, how to prevent bullying and how kids should respond);
- Presentations (i.e., a speech or role-play on how to stop bullying);
- Discussions on bullying-related topics like reporting;
- Creative writing (i.e., a poem speaking out against bullying or a story or skit teaching bystanders how to help);
- Artistic works (i.e., a collage about respect or the effects of bullying); and
- [Classroom meetings](#) to talk about peer relations.

Source: www.stopbullying.gov

Grant Opportunities

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation First Responder Grants

Grant Application Available: Oct. 13, 2021
Application Due: Nov. 10, 2021

Lifesaving Equipment: Programs that provide first responders with lifesaving equipment, including vehicle extrication tools, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), bunker gear, thermal imaging cameras, automated chest compression systems, vehicle stabilization struts, bulletproof vests, all-terrain vehicles, fire hoses and other lifesaving equipment.

Prevention Education: Programs that educate the public about the importance of public safety to prevent disasters in the home and community. Examples include fire extinguisher training systems, prevention education materials, programming initiatives focused on issues such as DUI education, carbon monoxide poisoning, CPR training and accessibility and other relevant safety issues.

Scholarships and Continued Education: Programs that provide financial resources or continued education to individuals pursuing a career in public safety. Examples include partnerships with schools on scholarship programs for individuals pursuing/advancing a career in the public safety sector.

Disaster Relief: Programs that provide assistance and resources during and after natural and man-made disasters such as fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. Examples include programs to feed first responders and survivors and provide lifesaving equipment to help first responders better prepare for any future disasters.

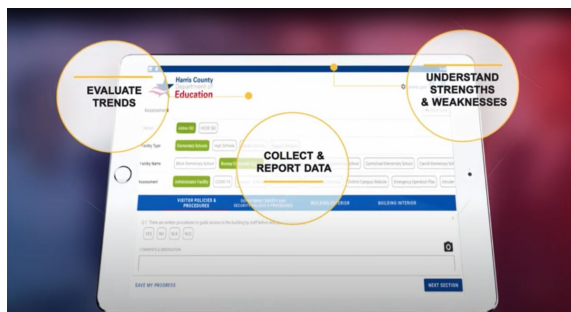
Support for Members of the Military: Programs that benefit men and women of the military who have served their country in any of the branches of the United States uniformed services.

Eligibility: Fire Departments, law enforcement, EMS, municipal & state organizations, public safety organizations, non-profits and schools are encouraged to apply for lifesaving equipment.

Award: \$15,000 - \$25,000

CSSS Emergency Management

The Center offers audit solutions through application



Since 2005, the Center has provided safety and security audits for hundreds of facilities throughout southwest Texas. Our team brings expertise and experience and utilizes former campus administrators, safety directors, and first responder personnel to perform the services. The newly developed HCDE Safety Audit application features capabilities to collect assessment data

and provide data reporting and analysis.

For information on how to schedule a [safety audit](#) contact School Safety and Security Specialist Janice Owolabi at jowolabi@hcde-texas.org or call 713-696-3142.

The Center joins in celebrating Safe Schools Week

The Center joins other national safety organizations in celebrating America's [Safe Schools Week](#), Oct. 17 - Oct. 23, sponsored by The National School Safety Center.

Safe Schools Week aims to motivate essential education and law enforcement policymakers as well as students, parents and residents of the community to vigorously advocate for school safety.

Celebrate this week by engaging in campus activities around the school district that can

improve campus climate, discipline and enlist participation from various groups to create partnerships in this important effort. Educators who take active roles and initiate positive programs help create successful schools.

One of our national partners, [Sandy Hook Promise](#), has provided an excellent activity list for a full week of engagement. Hump day offers a wonderful opportunity to participate in National S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Day developed by student leaders from the [SAVE Promise Club](#).



The following daily anchor activities are from the Sandy Hook Promise website. [Learn more about the activities listed below:](#)

- Monday – Start with Hello
- Tuesday – Say Something Review
- Wednesday – SAVE Day
- Thursday – Talk it Up Thursday
- Friday – Stars for a Cause

The SAVE Promise club also has an [activity book](#) full of great ways to connect and engage in school safety.

Climate and Culture

The Center provides mindfulness technique to help educators

As educators across the nation give their best to teach students every day, many find themselves fatigued and exhausted at the end of the workday.



**CONNECTION
MATTERS**

By applying resilience strategies such as mindfulness-based practices, we can help relieve stress and elevate awareness.

In an effort to help, we've provided an example of a mindfulness-based breathing technique guided by Climate and Culture Specialist Cierra Nickerson.

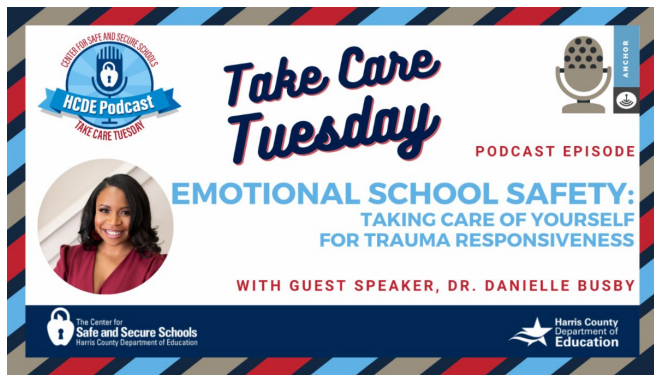
[MINDFULNESS-BASED BREATHING TECHNIQUE](#)

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:

**Taking Care of Yourself for
Trauma Responsiveness**
Dr. Danielle Busby,



Clinical Psychologist

[Listen Now](#)

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

In-Person Workshops:



[Nov. 3](#) - Peer Planning Workshop: Disaster Behavioral Health

[Jan. 19 - 20](#) - Basic and Advanced Digital Threat Assessment (DTA) Training

Virtual Workshops:

[Nov. 5](#) - School Safety Forum - From Surviving to Thriving

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