



NEBRASKA SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY 2026 NEWS



MULTI-STATE MIDLANDS SAFETY SUMMIT IN OCTOBER

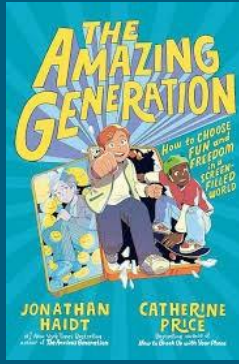
Mark your calendar for the 12 state School Safety & Security Summit October 19th and 20th in LaVista, Nebraska...

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



HERE IS TO A SAFE 2026

Keep up the great work in school safety and security this year! Let's make Nebraska school communities the safety role models for others to follow!



BOOKS WITH DIGITAL HELP FOR PARENTS & YOUTH

Two books to consider when raising children in the high-tech fast-paced digital world are available.

FINISH READING ON PG. 3

NEW MODULES COMING IN 2026

The NDE School Safety Team is working hard to get new Canvas Modules built in 2026 to support school safety & security efforts. Self-paced e-learning...

SEE THE OFFERINGS ON PGS. 4, 5, 6



Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

OPPORTUNITY TO
COLLABORATE

With Other States in School Safety...

2026 October 19th & 20th

...the decision was made this year to expand our Nebraska Safety & Security Summit to include 11 other states. The NDE School Safety Team, with some collaboration with others in school safety across our state, thought it would be a great opportunity to learn what other states are doing to keep schools safe and secure. The first day of the two-day Summit will have a youth panel discussion and round-table discussions between the states on best practices in safety and there will be a social event in the evening to include entertainment and/or a cornhole tournament. The second day will include a keynote along with a variety of breakout presentations related to school safety from all the states.

Be on the lookout for the registration for this event as you will want to sign up early with multiple-state safety personnel being invited and capacity limited to 450. Also, be ready to submit presentation ideas when the call for proposals is made available. If you are aware of an ideal vendor candidate in school safety and security, please forward the call for vendors form to them when it is made available too. The Safety Summit Committee will then determine the presenters and the accepted vendors for this event.

The theme for the Heartland School Safety & Security Summit will be “**Better Recovery Outcomes Start with Prevention.**” School Safety and Security encompass four pillars: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. If we focus on prevention and preparedness, we will respond better with the potential of avoiding the necessity of recovery.

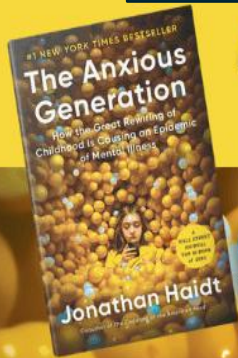
Mark your calendar to save the date for October 19th and 20th Heartland School Safety & Security Summit at the Embassy Suites in LaVista, Nebraska. Calls for presentation proposals will be made available in the next few weeks. By working together, we can make the states in the Heartland the safest schools in the United States.

The NDE School Safety & Security website should be on your list of favorites for all things School Safety & Security. Use the QR code to get access to all the guidance and resources needed to keep our school communities safe and secure.

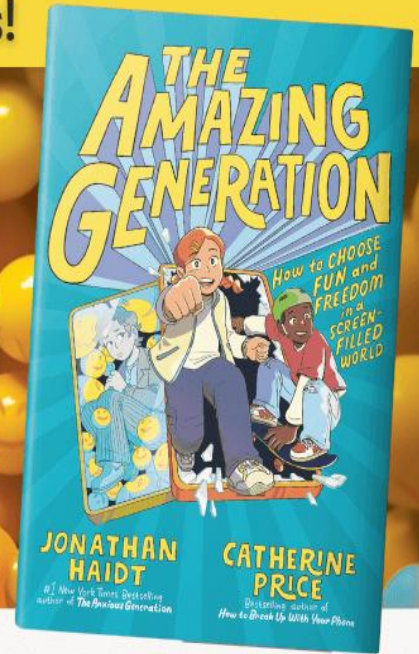


BOOKS FOR BETTER DIGITAL PRACTICES...

A companion to the #1 bestseller *The Anxious Generation*
Written specifically for tweens!



A healthier screen relationship
for your school community
starts here



Encourage Your School Community to Read!

Newest guidance on digital best practices have come out in books for adults & children!

Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World

by Dr. Jean Twenge and supported by Dr. Johnathan Haidt author of the *Anxious Generation*, was released in September 2025. As Dr. Haidt's states, if parents can follow just a few of the ten rules in their home, they will have a happier family and healthier child. Please take the time to educate the parents in your school community after reading this book on these 10 rules to follow:

- Rule 1: You're in charge!
- Rule 2: No electronic devices in the bedroom overnight.
- Rule 3: No social media until age 16 or later.
- Rule 4: First phones should be basic phones.
- Rule 5: Give the first smart phone with the driver's license.

Watch the 60 minutes clips on A.I. Concerns:

- [Character A.I. Concerns \(13:24\)](#)
- [AI Chatbot Safety Concerns \(7:10\)](#)
- [Concern Over Teen Use of Chatbots \(:32\)](#)

- Rule 6: Use parental controls.
- Rule 7: Create no-phone zones.
- Rule 8: Give your kids real-world freedom.
- Rule 9: Beware the laptop-and the gaming console, and tablet, and ...
- Rule 10: Advocate for no phones during the school day.

Learn more about each rule in Dr. Twenge's book.

The second book is an extension of the #1 best seller *Anxious Generation*, however **The Amazing Generation** book by Dr. Haidt and Catherine Price is a youth-focused guidebook released December 30, 2025. It is geared for kids ages 9 through 12 and shows kids how to live without screens, by offering kids help to find fun and freedom away from screens.

Share this book with the young students in your schools and encourage them to use technology as a tool to become more authentic, confident, and adventurous leaders rather than screen dominated youth.

New Canvas Safety Modules Will Be Coming in 2026...

The first one currently being built for school personnel is on Human Trafficking. With the crime of human trafficking being only second to drug trafficking in the U.S. and it continues to pop up in Nebraska news it is one topic we cannot avoid or think it does not happen in our communities. Therefore, this module is being built to help schools understand and recognize human trafficking so school personnel can help address the issue if it presents itself in their community.

Another Canvas topic currently in the building phase is a **series of bullying/cyberbullying lessons** for teachers and counselors to utilize and teach their students. These canvas lessons will be available for instructors to address bullying and cyberbullying concerns with ready-made content and activities at their fingertips.

Additionally, the school safety team is planning to construct and provide evidence-based lessons for teachers to develop digital-wise students. These **digital lessons** will be designed to help school personnel who need content and curriculum in this area. By educating students to be digitally wise to all the nuances with social media, algorithms, artificial intelligence, and chatbots, we can curb some of the safety concerns in schools.

Other modules will also be in the works very soon around **Basic Behavioral Threat Assessment Training** to aid Safe2Help NE teams and **Substance Use** (vaping and marijuana use will be two prime areas of focus).

We will notify everyone as soon as each of these modules is complete and available on the NDE Canvas site.



The 2025 School Safety & Security Award was given to Bill Jelkin from Millard Public Schools in October. Bill beat out 14 other deserving nominated people or groups who have been doing outstanding work across our state in school safety and security. Bill has helped the Millard community and assisted the Sarpy County Threat Assessment Team, as well as many others across the state in a variety of school safety areas. Learn more about Bill and the award on our [website](#) and how you can [nominate someone](#) in 2026. Nomination form for 2026 will be opening soon!

QUOTE FOR 2026:
*“The past is your LESSON.
The present is your GIFT.
The future is your MOTIVATION.”*
Lindsey Vonn

SAFE 2 HELP
NEBRASKA



833-980-SAFE (7233)

SAFE2HELPNE.ORG 



Get Parents, Staff, and the Entire Community Speaking the Same Language When It's Important

Anyone in your school or school district can take the quick Canvas Course on Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM). Get your entire school community to learn the language of SRP and what to do when a threat, hazard, or incident happens. If we are all use the same terminology, we will know how to react to any situation that arises. If all our Nebraska schools are trained in the SRP/SRM Canvas Course and we are at a district event for band, track, or another occasion, it will allow us all to feel more comfortable and safer if a 'SECURE' is announced because we all will know what to do. Sign in and start the [SRP/SRM Canvas Module](#) today!



Emergency Operations Plan's Will Need to Be Submitted in the EOP Canvas Module in 2026/2027 School Year



All accredited public and non-public schools falling under Rule 10 will be asked to submit their EOP in the "Guidance to Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan" Canvas Course in 2026/2027 School year. **If you are already in the course and submitted an EOP in Canvas you will be exempt from needing to do it again in 2026/2027.** So, get a jump and turn it in early if your school safety team is already in the system.

Accredited schools turned their EOP's in during the 2022/2023 school year for evaluation under a federal grant received by NDE in collaboration with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

The main reason for the resubmission is the new Canvas Module, which allows schools to download their EOP right into the Canvas training platform. This allows school districts to have a place to store their EOP's permanently and gives them access to the template at any time to update their existing EOP's. This will also aid a new administrator in being able to find their schools existing EOP more easily. Please get your safety teams enrolled on the [Guidance to Prepare an EOP](#) module!

Please Title Your SAVED EOP with the School Name & the YEAR - ex: 'Kearney Public 2026'
If updated the following year – Re-Save with Name & New Year

SCHOOL SAFETY BADGE STATUS



PLACE
SCHOOL
SAFETY
FIRST



Place School Safety First

FILL THE FORM OUT AND GET YOUR
SCHOOL ON DIAMOND STATUS!

Updated Approved Suicide Training List 2026

| Nebraska School Safety Approved Annual School Trainings for Behavioral/Mental Health and Suicide Awareness/Prevention <small>Update for 2025-26</small> | |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Nebraska LB 705 - 579-2 146 (Effective beginning the 2023-24 school year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School districts must provide at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention each year for any school staff member who has contact with students. The school district superintendent is responsible for the selection of the annual training. <p><small>* Indicates there may be a fee with training.</small></p> | | |
| Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive 2 day, in-person interactive and practice-dominated course. Designed to help recognize and review risk, and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. <p>* A fee may be charged for the training.</p> |  |
| Building a Suicide-Safe School Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers free online interactive training designed for faculty and staff at all levels within schools. Equips staff for proactive prevention, intervention, and postvention. Allows choice of 3 different training module options. |  |
| Hazelden Lifelines Prevention Staff Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This staff training component is part of the Hazelden Lifelines Prevention program, along with student curriculum and parent training modules. Training is presented in-person by the school's designated staff. Manual includes slides for the presentation, with NDE PowerPoint available. |  |
| Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-hour, free online training program designed in a series of modules with videos and interactive activities. Educators are taught their responsibilities for identifying and referring potentially suicidal youth. Includes links to extensive supplemental resources. |  |
| Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QPR is approved through in-person or online trainings. The training is a 1-2 hour education program designed to teach personnel the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. Free in-person training may be available through trained facilitators with your Behavioral Health Regions or ESU; contact them for details. |  |
| Youth Mental Health First Aid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One day training through in-person or blended model. Focus on understanding and responding to mental health challenges including suicidal ideation among children and adolescents ages 12-18. <p>* May require training fee depending on the training facilitator.</p> |  |
| Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention and Postvention | <p>Jason Flatt Act - Nebraska through Safe Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online training offered free for districts enrolled in Safe Schools (Vector Solutions), or districts can utilize direct bill for payment. Interactive training overviewing prevention, intervention and postvention procedures. |  |
| SOS (Signs of Suicide) for School Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One hour, self-guided online training that teaches staff how to identify and support students and co-workers through the ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) framework with video and interactive experiences. This training may be especially valuable for schools who are also utilizing the SOS curriculum. Districts responsible for the annual fee for training. <p>* Districts responsible for the annual fee for training.</p> |  |
| Erika's Lighthouse Staff Training: Depression and Suicide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-hour, free online training program with 3 sections: understanding suicide and depression, ways to extend help to students, and intervening in a crisis. Erika's Lighthouse also offers free training programs and resources for school staff to use in educating students grades 4-12, parents, and community that could be used in conjunction with the staff training. |  |

Several Toolkits in Suicide Prevention & PFA-S Putting Resources At Your Fingertips

NDE School Safety: Suicide Prevention and Response



Introduction to School Suicide Prevention and Response

This training is designed for school mental health professionals who are in the early stages of their work in supporting students with suicide concerns or who have not recently completed NDE trainings. This is an introductory training offering general information and providing tools to build a foundation for suicide prevention in their schools.

The training builds the capacity to understand and effectively address:

- reasons for suicide concern and connections with the school's overall school safety and MTSS plans
- suicide warning signs/risk factors and how to build protective factors
- steps to take when suicide concerns are evident to accurately screen, keep the student safe, and provide assistance
- actions for extending targeted support for students re-entering school after a suicide related absence
- resources to support your school's comprehensive suicide prevention and response efforts



All training is provided at no charge...

**Register here for either
of the Zoom trainings:**

 **Registration**

Remote/Zoom Training Opportunities:

January 27, 2026
9:00-11:00 AM CT

or

January 28, 2026
12:30-2:30 PM CT

Practical (Basic) Behavioral Threat Assessment

with Dr. Mario Scalora & Dr. Denise Bulling

Join Dr. Mario Scalora and Dr. Denise Bulling in a one-day virtual workshop designed to provide practical information to guide implementation of behavioral threat assessment in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, communities). Behavioral threat assessment is a way to focus on observable actions and communications to detect patterns, ultimately determining if the person is moving toward an attack or violent action. Participants will have the opportunity during this workshop to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the "Pathway to Violence" model.
2. Identify behavioral risk factors for targeted violence.
3. Evaluate communications for warning signs of targeted violence.
4. Justify levels of concern for targeted violence risk.
5. Apply the six steps of the threat assessment approach to case examples.

SPONSORS

This event is presented by The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The NUPPC maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

REGISTER ONLINE

[Practical Behavioral Threat Assessment Training](https://go.unl.edu/reg-basic-btam)
(go.unl.edu/reg-basic-btam)



DATE/TIME

Thursday, March 19, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CT),
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (MT)

LOCATION

Join virtually via Zoom
(receive link after registration)

QUESTIONS?

Contact McKenna Schneider
mckenna.schneider@unl.edu
402.472.5678

COST

Free to attend

REQUIRED PREREQUISITE

All participants are expected to complete the brief online course "Introduction to Principles of Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management" prior to attending the one-day workshop. It takes about one and a half (1.5) hours to complete three modules of the online course. You do not need to do it in one sitting, but you must complete each module in order. You will receive a certificate at the end of the course that can be used by Nebraska licensed mental health professionals as continuing education.

Access the online course at this website: go.unl.edu/intro-to-btam or by scanning the QR code below. You will be asked to create an account that only you will have access to that will allow you to stop and start the course and retrieve certificates of completion later.

TAKE THE PREREQUISITE

[Intro to Principles of BTAM](https://go.unl.edu/intro-to-btam)
(go.unl.edu/intro-to-btam)



INSTRUCTORS



MARIO SCALORA, PhD

Dr. Mario Scalora is the director of the Public Policy Center and professor of psychology with the Clinical Training and Law-Psychology Programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as coordinating an active academic research program engaging in collaborative research in targeted violence. His research interests address various types of targeted violence issues including threats to public institutions and infrastructure/threat assessment, sexual offending, stalking, and workplace violence. This research continues to involve collaboration with federal, state and local agencies addressing a range of risk assessment and management issues.



DENISE BULLING, PhD

Dr. Denise Bulling is a Licensed Independent Professional Counselor with extensive field experience in behavioral health that she uses in her work to create bridges among practitioners, academicians and policymakers using facilitation and public engagement approaches. Dr. Bulling's research interests include behavioral health policy, disaster and homeland security issues, and threat assessment.

The speakers certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials presented in this training.

Prevention Symposium

United for Change: Strengthening Minds and Communities

Join the Panhandle Prevention Coalition for a full day of insight, prevention, and inspiration. This year's symposium features powerful stories, practical tools, and meaningful discussions on addiction, resilience, and community wellness. Hear from expert speakers, explore current drug trends with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and experience the Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit—an interactive look at where risky behaviors can hide in plain view. Together, we're uniting to strengthen minds, inspire change, and build healthier communities.




Register Now

L **Thursday, April 23**
8:30am - 3:00pm

- Jake Danielson
- Jay Martin
- ASAC Justin S. Dillard
- Miranda Stoll
- Attorney General Mike Hilgers
- Jim Cowser



 **Gering Civic Center**
1050 M Street
Gering, NE

You will receive a certificate to apply for CEUs.

<https://tinyurl.com/mr22chev>

Cost - \$40, including light breakfast & lunch

This event is open to everyone—community members, educators, first responders, and professionals committed to building healthier communities.

Session Highlights

- Jake Danielson, TEDx speaker, shares his powerful story of perseverance, inspiring self-care, vulnerability, and hope.
- Jay Martin offers an eye-opening look at how digital media and artificial intelligence influence youth behavior and mental health.
- The Drug Enforcement Administration presents current drug trends impacting our communities and hosts the interactive Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit, revealing where risky behaviors can hide in everyday settings.
- Miranda Stoll explores addiction, connection, and the science of healing.
- Jim Cowser provides updates on the new regional crisis stabilization and substance treatment center in Kimball.
- The Nebraska Attorney General's Office closes with a timely overview of medical marijuana in the state.

Contact Us

Suzanne Crane
scrane@pphd.ne.gov
308-672-9800



Prevention Symposium

Presenter Bios



Jake Danielson

Jake Danielson is a TEDx speaker, motivational speaker, podcaster, devoted mental health and wellness advocate, and insightful life coach committed to helping people unlock their potential. Jake received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in 2020.

As someone experienced in combating mental health issues, Jake uses his unique testimony as a beacon of hope. Each battle he faced and conquered fuels his mission to empower others, transforming lives by teaching the art of self-care and the power of vulnerability.



Jay Martin

Jay Martin is the School Safety & Security, Director with the Nebraska Department of Education. He retired from his law enforcement career in 2020. During his tenure he taught, developed curriculum, and partnerships with former digital platform employee's, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), human trafficking task forces, movie producers, authors, doctors in psychology, and he ghost wrote on digital best practices. Also, he spent time teaching in Omaha and Colorado schools. His career has been committed to educating communities in developing a better culture and climate for youth.



ASAC Justin S. Dillard

Justin S. Dillard is the Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC 1) for the Drug Enforcement Administration - Omaha Field Division. ASAC Dillard began his career as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2002. He was initially assigned to the Los Angeles Division's Reno Resident Office. In 2009, ASAC Dillard transferred to the Istanbul Resident Office, Middle East Region and was later assigned as the first Special Agent in the Sofia, Bulgaria Resident Office. In 2015, he was promoted and assigned to the Rocky Mountain Division as a Group Supervisor. In April 2019, ASAC Dillard transferred to the Kabul Country Office (KCO) as the Country Attaché where he worked until the withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan. In December 2021, ASAC Dillard received his headquarters assignment to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) as the Unit Chief of the Global Tracking Unit. In December 2022, ASAC Dillard was promoted the Section Chief of the Mission Support Section within EPIC, responsible for the National License Plate Reader Program (NLPR), the General Watch, Air Watch and Security Unit. Prior to his employment with DEA, ASAC Dillard served as a Trooper for the Colorado State Patrol from January 1999 to November of 2002. ASAC Dillard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Sociology.

Prevention Symposium

Presenter Bios



MIRANDA STOLL

Miranda Stoll is a licensed independent mental health practitioner, and a licensed alcohol and substance abuse counselor. Miranda is also a Master Level Reiki Practitioner and continues to deepen her understanding of the mind-body connection in all areas of life. Miranda has been fortunate enough to learn from and work with a diverse population that includes veterans, first responders, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and their families, drug court participants, federal parolees, and many other youth and adult populations. Miranda has spent the past few years obtaining certification in EMDR, and is now an EMDR Consultant in Training, Synergetic Play Therapy, and trained in TF-CBT. Miranda continues to deepen her understanding through training, personal coaching, and hands-on learning experiences.



ATTORNEY GENERAL MIKE HILGERS

Elected as Nebraska's 33rd Attorney General in 2022, Mike Hilgers has focused on keeping Nebraska families safe, defending constitutional rights, supporting law enforcement, and protecting the state's natural resources and water. During his six years in the Nebraska Legislature—two as Speaker—he led efforts to strengthen public safety, safeguard individual freedoms, and promote responsible stewardship of Nebraska's land and water. His leadership continues to center on protecting Nebraskans and ensuring the state remains strong and secure for future generations.



JAMES COWSER

Jim Cowser, MSSW, LCSW, MCAP, is the current CEO of Central Wyoming Counseling Center. Previously, Cowser was the Director of Innovative Clinical Solutions at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. Cowser has interest in both direct clinical practice and the effective development of systems that include integrated services and co-response with law-enforcement. Cowser embraces a framework for the flexible use of standardized and evidence-based practices to address the complex challenges of implementation across diverse settings. These implementation strategies can quickly lead to implementation practices within sustainable treatment delivery systems. Cowser's experience across various service settings includes corrections, community supervision, integrated primary care and inpatient and outpatient specialty care. His focus on person-centered approaches and the integration of all effective treatment methods and modalities results in realistic and effective plans.

PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

UNITED FOR CHANGE: STRENGTHENING MINDS AND COMMUNITIES

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Details | |
| Meeting date & time | Thursday, April 23, 2026 |
| Location | Gering Civic Center, 1050 M Street, Gering, NE |

AGENDA

| Time | Description | Presenter |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| 8:00 am | Check-in | |
| 8:30 - 8:35 am | Welcome & Introductions | Suzanne Crane |
| 8:35 - 9:35 am | 5 Ways to Manage Your Mind and Emotions to Become a Better Leader | Jake Danielson |
| 9:35 - 9:50 am | Break/Hidden in Plain Sight Room | |
| 9:50 - 10:50 am | Impact of Social Media on Youth | Jay Martin |
| 10:50 - 11:50 pm | Drug Enforcement Administration--Drug Trends | Justin S. Dillard |
| 11:50 - 12:45 pm | Lunch/Hidden In Plain Sight Room | |
| 12:45 - 1:45 pm | Hard Conversations That Heal: Addiction, Connection, and the Science of Change | Miranda Stoll |
| 1:45 - 2:00 pm | Break/Hidden In Plain Sight Room | |
| 2:00 - 2:30 pm | Medical Marijuana in Nebraska – current landscape and community impact | AG Mike Hilgers |
| 2:30 - 3:00 pm | Update on the Regional Crisis Stabilization Unit in Kimball | Jim Cowser |
| 3:00 pm | Closing Remarks and Drawings | |

