

Summer Edition



NEBRASKA SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY 2026 NEWS



HEARTLAND Safety & Security Summit

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Oct. 6th & 7th partnering with
other schools to learn and
discuss safety practices.

FINISH READING ON PG. 2 TO 5



2026/2027 NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Let's make this
school year a safe
and fun one! We
have Bully
Prevention Month in
October, so be
prepared to spread
kindness!
**Goooo Beeeeee KIND!
Go Be Kind!**

Recognizing, Responding, and Reporting

Human Trafficking Awareness

This module will take approximately 20 minutes.



New Training Module is Available in Our Canvas Learning Network

More details on PG 7

October is Bullying Prevention & Farm to Schools Month

Read More on PG 7 to 9



START SCHOOL ON THE RIGHT FOOT





Keynote Presenter
Kevin Hines
Focus on
Prevention,
Early Intervention,
and the
Power of Connection

Opportunity to Collaborate

To Provide Better Outcomes

The Heartland School Safety & Security Summit October 6th & 7th Lincoln, NE

Join school safety professionals, educators, first responders, mental health practitioners, and community partners for the **Heartland Safety & Security Summit** on **October 6-7 in Lincoln, Nebraska**, at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton**.

[Register online now](#) or [fill out the form](#) to attend the Summit and remember to mention the Summit when booking your [hotel room reservation](#)!

There is a full comprehensive program [agenda](#) attendees will benefit from to include tabletop exercises, expert panel discussion, keynote presentation, breakout sessions and the Nebraska School Safety & Security Award Winner announcement.

***The Summit is open to a broad audience** including School safety & security personnel, first responders, Emergency managers, School psychologists, Counselors & LMHPs, School nurses, School administrators, School board members, Teachers, Community stakeholders interested in school safety best practices.*

We are also welcoming participants from neighboring states throughout the Heartland region. This event provides a valuable opportunity to collaborate, exchange knowledge, share expertise, and strengthen school safety practices across our communities.

**Together, we can help make every Heartland school
become safer, more secure, and better prepared.**

AGENDA Day 1

Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

‘Better Recovery Outcomes Start with Prevention’

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026

- **12:30 to 1:00** Check-In/Registration
Embassy Suites by Hilton 1020 P Street Lincoln, Nebraska
- **1:00 to 1:30** **WELCOMING to the Summit:**
Governor Jim Pillen welcomes attendees to the Heartland School Safety & Security Summit
- **1:30 to 3:00** **Tabletop Discussion Exercises**
Be prepared to have an active role in the open discussions and collaboration in this exercise of actual situations schools encounter in school safety & security.
School Safety Teams will be made as all participants contribute to the safety decisions.
‘The Perfect Storm’
Far more than a bad weather day
- **3:00 to 4:00** **Panel Discussion**
Partnership with Clarkson Institute: AI Companions Influence on Youth Well-Being. After watching the *Clarkson Institute’s* youth created short film *Disconnected* – written by an Auburn High School Junior. (15 minutes) there will be a panel discussion on AI Companion chatbots impact on youth well-being.
 - Youth High School Moderator – TBD – provide the youth voice.
 - Joe Toscano – AI Expert: former Google Consultant, author of *Automating Humanity*, in the film *Social Dilemma* on Netflix
 - Kevin Kaminski – School Counselor Youth Engagement Voice
 - Jay Martin – NDE, School Safety & Security Director
 - Dr. Ken Zoucha – Director of Addiction Medicine & Department of Psychiatry
- **4:00 to 6:00** **Social & Vendor Opportunities:**
- **6:00 Dinner:** on your own

AGENDA – DAY 2

Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026

- **8:00 AM** Check-In/Registration and Continental Breakfast – Coffee - Water
Embassy Suites by Hilton 1020 P Street Lincoln, Nebraska.
- **8:30 to 9:30 Keynote Speaker:**
Suicide continues to be at the top of Schools Anonymous Call Center Report/Tiplines – Youth Suicide & Mental Health concerns remain on an upward path. It is a #1 concern in schools across the country, so we are pleased to bring a survivor who can address prevention and resilience.

Kevin Hines is an internationally recognized mental health advocate, bestselling author, and one of the nation’s most powerful voices on suicide prevention. At just 19 years old, Kevin survived a suicide attempt that became a turning point—not only in his own life, but in the lives of millions he has since reached through his work.

- **9:30 to 9:45 Break/Visit with Vendors**
- **9:45 to 10:45 Session I Breakouts**
 - **Addressing Educator Safety** – Margaret Ochoa – Colorado Office of School Safety
 - **Evaluating Recent Attacks to Strengthen School Safety** – Brian Kempf – Elkhorn Nebraska
 - **Columbine, Lesson Learned from a First Responder** – Don Moseman – North Dakota Safety Council
 - **Swatting Indicators** – Devon Bodestab – Nebraska – NIAC
- **10:45 AM Break/Vendors**
- **11:00 to 12:00 Session II Breakouts**
 - **Crisis Recovery and Interventions Real Lessons from Two School Tragedies** – Trish Kilpin – Wisconsin Dept of Justice
 - **Beyond the Drill: Navigating Lockdown Response & Recovery** – Kyle Poore – Nebraska - Lincoln Public Schools
 - **Beyond the Binder: Using AI to Build Smarter Tabletop Exercises** – Christopher Villarreal, ED.D and Missy Stolley – Papillion, Nebraska
 - **Tier 1 Preventative Team Approach to Decrease School Threats** – Victory Haines and Rob Brenner – Nebraska - LPS Middle School

- **12:00 to 1:00 Lunch**
- **1:00 to 1:30 Nebraska School Safety & Security Award Presentation**

**Then... Connecting with Today's
Youth The Power in the Hallway
How We Improve School Culture By Mike Donahue**

- **1:30 to 1:45 Break/Vendors**
- **1:45 to 2:45 Session III Breakouts**
 - **Safety & Emergency Debrief the Response: Experiences from a 5 -8 Grade Building** – Katie Rose & Jordan Anderson – Columbus, Nebraska
 - **Recognize, respond, and prevent dating and sexual violence.** – Alex Pecoraro and Rachel West – Nebraska Coalition
 - **Enhancing Crisis Management: Using Handle with Care for Trauma-Sensitive School Interventions** – Kelly Addington – Wyoming Department of Education – School & Student Safety Accreditation Consultant
 - **Helping Students Navigate Social Pressure** – Mike Donahue
- **2:45 to 3:00 Break/Vendors**
- **3:00 to 4:00 Session IV Breakouts**
 - **Proactive School-based MTSS Measures to Address Suicide Concerns** – Kim Jacobson & Sally Carlson
 - **How to USE AI for Good: A Gen X Guide to Mastering NotbookLM for School Safety, Compliance, and Transport** – Lee Jacobsen – Grand Island, Nebraska
 - **The Mentoring Effect: How a Caring Adult Supports student well-being and security** – Kristina Syring and Tori Pedersen – Nebraska Teammates
 - **SCIP: Intervention and Prevention** – Tessah Fulk – Nebraska, School Community Intervention & Prevention

TRAININGS AVAILABLE



Get The Entire School Community Speaking the Same Language When It's Important

The SRP/SRM Canvas Course is a quick and easy way for anyone in your school or district to learn the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM).

When we all use the same safety language, we can respond quickly and confidently during threats, hazards, or emergencies. Whether you're in your home building or attending a district event, knowing exactly what a SECURE announcement means helps keep everyone safer.

Join schools across Nebraska and complete the SRP/SRM Canvas Module today!



All School Districts Submit (EOP) Emergency Operations Plan's in the Canvas

All accredited public and nonpublic schools subject to Rule 10 are required to submit their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) through the "[Guidance to Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan](#)" Canvas course during the 2026-2027 school year.

Schools whose safety teams have already submitted an EOP through Canvas are exempt from resubmitting their plan during the 2026-2027 school year. However, ***all course modules must be completed before a team member can submit the EOP.***

The current resubmission requirement is designed to allow schools to upload and store their EOPs directly within Canvas, creating a permanent and easily accessible record of their plans.

Get your school's safety team enrolled in the Guidance to Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan course and complete the process as soon as possible rather than wait until later in the school year.

After completing each module, please submit your district's EOP under the last assignment titled "Submit Your Approved EOP" and follow the instructions:

RENAME the file with your school or district name in all caps with the year it was updated 'KEARNEY PUBLIC 2026 EOP'

*When updated the following year...
Re-Save with Name & New Year*

- Save and export as a PDF.
- Submit ONE completed EOP per safety team.
- Click the 'Submit Assignment' button to attach EOP.



FYI...The Federal School Enhancement Grant has been applied for by NDE we will notify all schools IF WE ARE AWARDED FUNDING – Notification is NOT until Nov. or Dec. 2026

Recognizing, Responding, and Reporting

Human Trafficking Awareness

This module will take approximately 20 minutes.



New Trainings Are Available Now!

Human Trafficking Awareness

The NDE School Safety & Security Team and ESU #2 content expert Megan Reese have built an educational module on Human Trafficking Awareness.

The crime of human trafficking is only second to drug trafficking in the U.S. and Nebraska is not immune from this crime. It impacts school communities. Therefore, the module was built to help schools understand youth vulnerability and grooming tactics used by traffickers. As well, school staff can learn how to recognize, respond and report human trafficking if it presents itself in your school. If after completing the two modules you would like more training in person for staff or students, please contact mreese@esu2.org.

'You may be the person who creates the moment of safety a student needs to speak up.'

Bullying Prevention Lessons

Our bullying specialist finalized three cheesy bullying lessons.

Complete the three cheesy lessons then plan to participate in October Bullying Prevention & Farm to Schools Month. First step is to complete the 3 lessons elementary – middle school lessons.

1. Login to NDE canvas site:
<https://canvas.education.ne.gov/>
2. Once logged in find your Dashboard and select Commons on the left
3. In Search type "Bullying Prevention" or use 'filter' first & select 'Nebraska Districts, ESU's and NDE' – Search for the 'Bullying Prevention Lessons' & select



THE ICON
to select:



Prepare for a Month of Kindness

This October Be the School Making Everyone Smile!



After completing the three cheesy lessons provided by our Bullying Specialist at the UNL Psychology Department & the NDE, School Safety Team, we want to see what creative ways schools spread kindness throughout October.

Some examples to potentially use are:

- Kindness Cards
- Posters/School Bulletin Boards
- Digital boards @ games or in hallways
- Video campaigns
- Rap/Musical songs

Just no social media posts in a campaign as the next goal is the 31-day challenge to be social media free in October. The easiest way to prevent cyberbullying is to not be on the platforms that perpetuate the issues. October is a time to go old school and talk and play in person. Taking time with your own thoughts or creating a 31 calendar of fun things to do without a device!

October 21st is Unity – Bully Prevention Day and the day to **wear and share ORANGE**. We will be looking for schools who show the most **ORANGE** Spirit by turning your school community on this day. We want schools to share their photos with us.

Farm to Schools Month is this month too, so let's get our local farmers involved in kindness and anti-bullying too. Here are some thoughts on how to get them involved:

- **Spookley Farm Program** – host story times, movie screenings, and corn/hay mazes to teach tolerance & resiliency.
- **Plant Seeds of Kindness** – children can plant seeds as the learn to 'cultivate' kindness in their own school.
- **Farm Tours & Field Trips** – use the farm as an outdoors classroom to learn about acceptance & nature.
- **Charity & Awareness Proceeds** – dedicating a portion of pumpkin or produce sales to mental health or anti-bullying charities. Or community service projects.
- **Youth leadership** through 4-H Clubs or Future Farmers of America (FFA) to lead bully prevention workshops.



We are hoping all school communities across Nebraska can get involved this October. Then once we have established the new norms in October it will be easy to keep the kindness going for the rest of the year!



Together, we can grow
responsible, respectful, &
kind school communities! 

This October we're celebrating:

 **Bullying Prevention Month**

 **Farm to School Month**

 **Unity Day - Wear & Share Orange**



The Big Cheesy Challenge

1

LEARN IT

Complete the 3 Cheese-Themed Bullying Prevention Lessons

Discover how:

- ✓ Being a good friend
- ✓ Standing up for others
- ✓ Showing respect and empathy

help make our schools stronger, safer, and more welcoming for everyone.



DAIRY MAKES THE CONNECTION



Meet Your Local Dairy Community

Partner with:

-  Dairy Farmers
-  Local Producers
-  Farm-to-School Programs
-  School Nutrition Teams

Learn where your food comes from while discovering how teamwork, responsibility, and respect help communities thrive.



2

SHARE IT

"Being Cheesy" School Kindness Campaign

Spread kindness throughout October with:

- ✓ Kindness Cards
- ✓ Cheesy Bulletin Boards
- ✓ Schoolwide Kindness Challenges
- ✓ Positive Morning Announcements
- ✓ Student-Created Kindness Messages



Kindness
is 
always in
good taste!

3

LIVE IT

31-Day Social Media-Free Challenge

Reconnect with:

-  Reading
-  Sports
-  Face-to-Face Friendships
-  Games & Family Time
-  Creativity

The best way to reduce cyberbullying is to spend more time connecting in real life.



UNITY DAY - OCTOBER 21ST

Wear ORANGE Share KINDNESS Build COMMUNITY



Digital Resources & Training Opportunities

Want an In-person Digital Presentation?

If you would like a presentation to students, staff, or parents please reach out to the NDE School Safety & Security Director jay.martin@nebraska.gov for more information.

Presentation Title: Digital Wisdom & Resiliency Framework

Finding Digital Engagement that Ensures Youth Well-Being

Getting to the root cause of issues in schools' digital media platforms and A.I. need to be a part of the discussion with the entire school community. Chatbots, A.I., and social media, continue to create tension when maximizing digital engagement conflicts with ensuring youth safety. Platforms optimize algorithms to capture personal data, time, and attention by exposing youth to emotionally charged, toxic, and harmful content. Building digital wisdom and resilience is a necessity for youth digital health & well-being. Before interacting with tech youth must learn to digitally SMILE by checking their Security, Management, Integrity, Literacy, and Ethics.

How We are Giving Our Privacy Away...



We encourage everyone in your school community to visit the site [‘Terms of Service’](#) to reference the platforms you utilize to see how your privacy is compromised on each site. TOS grades the platforms and lets you know what information has been given by agreeing to their ‘terms of service’. It may make us question why we have given these companies such freedom to take our information.

GenAI Training for HS Students

Generative AI literacy is no longer optional. As educators, we cannot make the same mistake we made with social media by allowing students to teach themselves how to use transformative technologies without structured guidance. Students are already engaging with AI tools every day. What they need is support, instruction, and clear expectations that help them use these tools safely, responsibly, and effectively. AI literacy must come first if we want students to benefit from innovation while avoiding preventable harms.

Before Allowing Teens on Generative AI – Train Them First

GenAI Literacy 101 for Students Course

Learn the essentials of Generative AI. Build real-world AI skills you can use in school and life.

[Enroll Now](#)

Free | Self-paced | Online

Free | Self-paced | Online

GenAI Student Course

NDE & Clarkson Institute Partnership Initiatives

The Nebraska Department of Education School Safety & Security Team is partnering with the Clarkson Institute to support youth well-being, digital safety, and responsible technology engagement through several key initiatives:

1. Panel Discussion at the Heartland Safety Summit

Clarkson Institute will participate in a panel discussion featuring its short film, ***Disconnected***, which explores the impact of AI companions on teen behaviors and social development. The discussion will help educators, parents, and school leaders better understand emerging digital trends affecting youth.

2. Youth Voice: What Do You Meme?

This student-led video series provides young people with a platform to share their perspectives on school safety and security topics. Through engaging and relatable content, students will contribute to meaningful conversations about creating safer and healthier school environments.

3. Digital Curriculum Lessons

These lessons will address current digital safety concerns and promote healthy digital engagement practices that support student well-being.

4. Amazing Generation Book and Educator Guide Distribution

To further support digital wellness education, Clarkson Institute has provided copies of **Amazing Generation book** by Dr. Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price, along with the accompanying Educator Guide, to elementary and middle schools across Nebraska.

During the Administration Days Conference, one book and guide were distributed to Educational Service Units (ESUs). ESUs will then get these resources to librarians, technology teachers, or other designated staff members to support instruction and school-based discussions on healthy digital habits and advocacy practices.

Request for Feedback

As part of evaluating the impact of this generous donation from the Clarkson Institute, educators are asked to share how the book and educator guide were utilized within their schools. Feedback will be collected through a simple Google Form and will focus on general implementation information, helping us better understand the reach and effectiveness of these resources across Nebraska schools.

Your participation and feedback are greatly appreciated as we continue working together to promote healthy digital practices and student well-being.

Clarkson

INSTITUTE

YOUTH WELLNESS INITIATIVE

Youth today face a growing set of behavioral health challenges.

We strive to create measurable impact that improves the lives of Nebraskans today and for generations to come.

Working to make Nebraska
the healthiest
state in the country



Book Feedback



**PLEASE Provide
How the Educational
Guide & Book Are
Used in Your School!**

Script to Short Film Project

Opportunity for Middle & High School Students – Due Sept. 18th

Announcing Script Competition 2.0



This is your chance to share your unique perspective on how smartphones shape the lives of young people today – and maybe even see your idea turned into a short film.

This competition invites Nebraska middle and high school students (ages 13–19) to share their experiences and ideas. One winning entry will be developed into a professionally produced short film!

Important info

- **Deadline:** September 18
- **Who's eligible:** Middle- and high-school students throughout NE
- **To enter and for more info:** Click the QR code
- **For questions:** Email support@glowmedia.org



Two New School Safety Webpages

Relationships & Substance Use Awareness



Relationships Webpage

Jump on our new pages to find new lessons and resources on relationships and substance use awareness.

uBEATS (UNO/UNMC – Building Excellence in Academics Through STEM) have evidence-based lessons we have linked to our website. Growth mindset and resiliency are covered in relationships while vaping, alcohol, and other drugs lessons are available on the substance use awareness site. Other content is also available to assist Nebraska schools too.

Substance Use Awareness



SCHOOL SAFETY BADGE STATUS

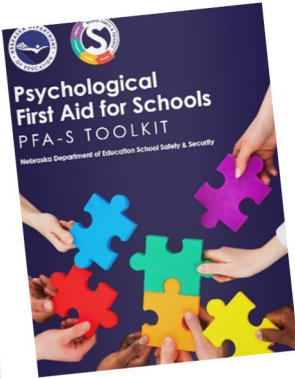


PLACE
SCHOOL
SAFETY
FIRST

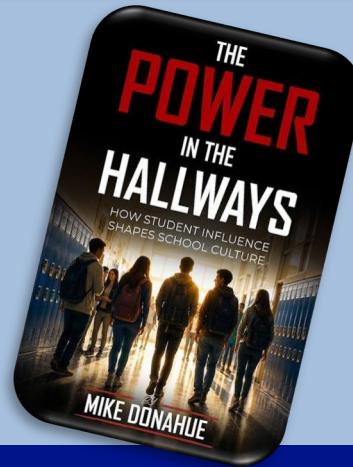
GET YOUR SCHOOL ON
DIAMOND STATUS TODAY!



Place School Safety First

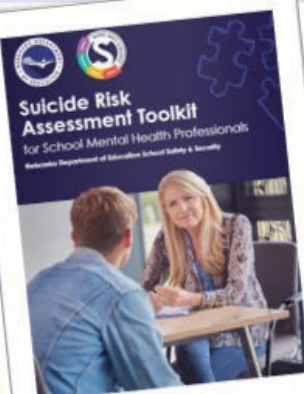


PFA-S Toolkit

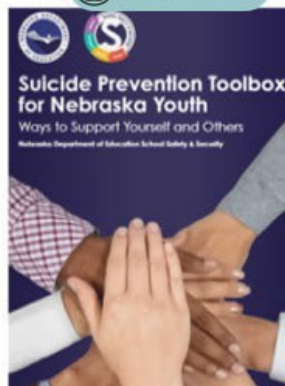


Find Mike
Donahue's
NEW
BOOK on
Amazon

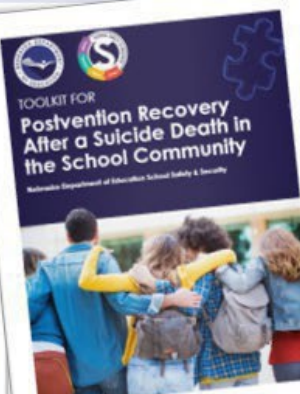
Suicide Prevention, Postvention, Re-entry, and Risk Assessment Toolkits



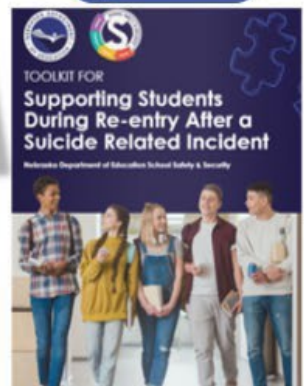
Suicide Toolbox for Youth



Suicide Risk Assessment Kit



Re-Entry After a Suicide



Postvention Toolkit

2026/2027 Suicide Prevention Trainings

Nebraska School Safety Approved Annual School Trainings for Behavioral/Mental Health and Suicide Awareness/Prevention Update for 2026-2027	
Nebraska LB 705 - §79-2,146 (Effective beginning the 2023-24 school year) - 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. ★ indicates there may be a fee with training.	
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)	- 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. ★ A fee may be charged for the training. 
Building a Suicide-Safe School Community	- 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	- 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	- 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)	- 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	- 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. ★ May require training fee depending on the training facilitator. 
Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention and Postvention	- Jason Platt Act - Nebraska through Safe Schools - 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	- 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. 
Erika's Lighthouse Staff Training: Depression and Suicide	- 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. 

This year's training has remained largely unchanged from last year, with only minor modifications made during the previous school year. If you believe additional content should be included in the [Suicide Prevention, Behavioral and Mental Health list of approved trainings](#), there is an established process for submitting recommendations for review and approval. The training is reviewed annually to ensure its content remains relevant and effective. NDE consultation with other organizations and professionals with expertise in these topics develops the list of approved training courses. [79-2, 146](#).

Preparing to Respond to Suicide Concerns in Your Community

[Training that is available](#) for people new to their Mental Health Professional position is available on September 3rd 9:30 to 11:00 CT or September 9th 1:00 to 2:30 CT. The session will focus on understanding suicide and screening tools to assess suicide risk, as well as supporting students returning to school following a suicide related incident. Opportunities will be provided to explore a wide variety of related resources to utilize in assisting students, staff, and families.



833-980-SAFE (7233)

SAFE2HELPNE.ORG



ARE YOU A NEW SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL?

DO YOU FEEL PREPARED TO ADDRESS SUICIDE CONCERNS THAT MAY OCCUR IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

This is a FREE remote training through Zoom to provide tools and resources for effectively addressing suicide concerns.

Join the NDE School Safety Suicide Prevention and Response Team for this valuable training.

PREPARING TO RESPOND TO SUICIDE CONCERNS IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Sept. 3rd 9:30-11:00 am CT OR Sept. 9th 1:00-2:30 pm CT

This training is offered especially for school mental health professionals who are new to their position or have not participated in previous NDE suicide prevention trainings. The session will focus on understanding suicide and screening tools to assess suicide risk, as well as supporting students returning to school following a suicide related incident. Opportunities will be provided to explore a wide variety of related resources to utilize in assisting students, staff, and families.

NOTE: A series of refresher trainings will be offered during first semester for review of previous suicide related trainings with updated tools and resources.

Register here:



suicideprevention@nebraska.gov

<https://www.education.ne.gov/safeschools/suicide-prevention-response/>



Lunch & Learn Series

These sessions will inform schools how to integrate system changes to address issues discovered through safety exercises and drills.

Each session is self-contained; there are no prerequisites:

12:00 to 12:30 p.m. (CT); 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. (MT)

- **Tuesday, August 18, 2026:**
Premiere of two brief videos about drills and teens with psychological challenges with Denise Bulling
- **Wednesday, August 26, 2026:** Reunification at a Glance with Kurt Mantonya
- **Monday, August 31, 2026:** When it is Beyond Local Control: How, When, and Where Schools Can Access External Assistance with Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S) with Jay Martin and Denise Bulling

[Register for Lunch & Learn Sessions](#)



Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S)
with Dr. Melissa Brymer

ESU 2

2320 N. Colorado Ave, Fremont, NE

August 27, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (CT)

This free Psychological First Aid for Schools (PFA-S) training is an evidence-informed intervention model to assist students, families, school personnel, and school partners in the immediate aftermath of an emergency. PFA-S is designed to reduce the initial distress caused by emergencies, and to foster short- and long-term adaptive functioning and coping.

Participants may be reimbursed for travel. [Request Travel Reimbursement.](#)

[Register for PFA-S training](#)

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

(go.unl.edu/09-29-btam-reg)



DATE/TIME

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (CT),
8:30 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

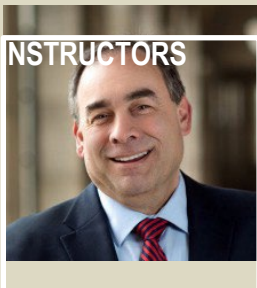
All participants are expected to complete the brief online course "Introduction to Principles of Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management" prior to attending the one-day workshop. It takes about one and a half (1.5) hours to complete three modules of the online course. You do not need to do it in 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

(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.





Prepare for the School Year

Keep Your Community Safe



Bystander Awareness eLearning

The Foundations of Targeted Violence Prevention eLearning is a free, one-hour online training developed by the Department of Homeland Security, National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Program Office that empowers faculty, staff, and parents to:

- ✓ Recognize threats or potentially concerning behaviors
- ✓ Understand what behaviors may be displayed by a person who is on a pathway to violence
- ✓ Learn where to report information of concern
- ✓ Understand how the information reported will be used to keep our community safe

You Can Help Make Prevention Possible!

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"Targeted school violence is preventable when communities facilitate bystander reporting and promote climates of safety and trust."

- U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center

For additional information on training and resources to help keep your community safe, please visit <https://www.dhs.gov/nter/>