WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ACTION

Improving the lives of children, youth and families through health, wellness, and safety
Dear Community,

The Board of Education and I are pleased to provide you with this report that details our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of all the students and staff in Westminster Public Schools. We take this responsibility seriously and are continually looking for ways to improve our plans and procedures.

School safety involves many components and an effective plan requires awareness with input from students, employees, parents and the community at large. As you read this report, I encourage you to think of ways that Westminster Public Schools can do an even better job of making sure our students’ time at school is safe, productive and rewarding.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Swanson, SPHR
Superintendent of Schools

Larry Dean Valente
President

Joe Davidek
Vice President

Ryan McCoy
Secretary

Ken Ciancio
Treasurer

Max Math
Board Director
KEEPING OUR CAMPUSES, STUDENTS, AND STAFF SAFE

Westminster Public Schools is committed to ensuring safe and nurturing learning environments for students and staff. It is important to us that we share with you—our community—our efforts in keeping your child safe. After all, your child is number one in our eyes too. Safety takes a variety of forms:

• Safe and secure facilities;
• Physical safety;
• Emotional safety; and,
• The promotion of health and wellness activities.

Our schools are among the safest places for our children. However, we must continue to work tirelessly to keep crime down and to recognize early patterns of behavior—such as truancy, vandalism, and substance abuse—that may result in youth turning to more serious crime.

Extreme forms of violence, such as school shootings, are often sensationalized as a reflection of school safety and are mentioned frequently by politicians and media outlets. However, these events are rare and only one of many areas of concern for students and staff. While we must plan for a catastrophic event, we cannot lose sight of the daily interactions among our students that involve threats and intimidation that strongly affects students’ school experiences. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are a growing concern, as are issues students bring to school from home and the community. Schools must design a comprehensive approach to youth violence prevention that addresses the whole child and provides integrated services to develop pro-social behaviors and includes environmental and procedural safeguards that support a safe and healthy school environment.

This report provides you an up-to-date snap shot of the work we have done in each of these areas. Our goal is to make our schools a little bit safer tomorrow than they are today.

CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

The District takes advantage of the many opportunities to enhance school safety, security, climate, and culture through our design features. In designing our campus security measures, we realize we are not a courthouse, airport, or corporate building and we strive to find the right balance of control while ensuring our campuses are welcoming and inviting for students, staff, and community. We want a school community that is aware and prepared, not scared.

SECURE VESTIBULES/ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL

In 2010, the District started a program to provide a secure entrance and video supervision of all main entrances with electronic controlled access. The District began installing camera systems with two-way communication at schools and within two years completed that process. We now have secured main entrances that can be monitored by office staff. Staff have the ability to communicate with visitors prior to electronically unlocking the main entrance allowing access to the building. Currently, we have seven schools with secured vestibules with main office access or welcome windows for staff to great our guests. We are planning to complete our eighth building in the summer of 2017.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Also in 2010, the District started designing video surveillance systems for buildings, with secondary schools being a priority. We plan to install video systems throughout the District over multiple years through funding from our Capital Reserve Budget. We currently have camera systems in seven schools and are planning two more schools in the summer of 2017.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The District does have a visitor management process at all schools with one electronic software system in place at this time. All buildings track daily visitors knowing who is in the buildings at all times.
FIRE ALARM/INTERCOM SYSTEMS

Throughout the District we have up-to-date fire alarm monitoring systems that have a self-diagnostic process that is managed out of the Maintenance and Operations Department. In the past three years, all building fire alarm systems have been updated and inspected by qualified staff. As an ongoing plan, we are adding voice notification systems to our buildings with two schools complete and adding a third building in the summer of 2017.

Also over the past few years the School District has invested in updating our building intercom systems with the most current technology. Intercoms are a first response notification system that allows all staff members and students access in case of an emergency.

LANDSCAPING

As an ongoing process, our sites are inspected and work planned accordingly to ensure landscaping around our schools provides an esthetically pleasing appearance with security in mind. In selecting trees, shrubs, and other plants our goal is to provide an open and clear visual line of site to all access points at our buildings and to reduce the opportunities for individuals to hide.

PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Throughout the District, playground inspections are completed monthly to ensure all equipment is safe for daily use. All necessary repairs are completed by district personnel as issues are identified. Playground inspections are completed by State Certified employees.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The primary objective of the Westminster Public Schools Transportation Department is to safely and efficiently transport our riders to and from school. Because the time before and after school is as crucial to your child’s health and safety as the time during school, a safe bus ride is a key element of your child’s education. Some of the key safety features implemented by the Transportation Department are:
Z-PASS SYSTEM

Z-Pass improves the safety and security of our bus riders by allowing us to quickly see where and when a rider enters and exits a bus. Riders scan their identification card upon entry/exit of the bus giving us real-time rider status information. In an emergency, Z-Pass provides information on the location of the bus, who is on the bus, and where and when students exited. We are able to use the date, time, and location of a child’s last entry onto or exit from the bus to speed the search for a missing child.

ZONAR

When an emergency occurs, district staff needs information fast. Zonar provides real-time school bus fleet tracking for instant reports on the location of each bus. Security and safety are further improved with alerts when buses are not operated safely or when they need maintenance.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

All district buses have video surveillance systems to help enhance safety for students and drivers. The cameras help us monitor on-board student activity to help promote and maintain a safer environment.

STAFF TRAINING

Our school bus drivers go through an intensive training program before they ever start transporting students. Drivers work with our on-staff Driver Trainer, are tested by a third-party evaluator before licensed as a CDL driver, and must pass a Department of Transportation medical exam before they are allowed to operate a school bus. Once on staff, drivers must complete annual written and driving exams and they are also subject to random drug testing.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE & PROCEDURES

Westminster Public Schools works closely with local law enforcement to prepare and practice for various emergencies. Your child is number one in our eyes and through our partnerships with the Westminster Police Department and Adams County Sheriff’s Office, we work hard and are committed to providing a safe and nurturing
learning environments for every child. As emergencies may take many forms, we train and prepare for a variety of events such as:

- Death of a student, a staff member, or a community member whose passing affects a significant portion of the school population.
- Major environmental crisis, such as a tornado, flood, fire, or hazardous material spill.
- Situation that involves a threat to the physical safety of students, such as an active shooter or school bus accident.
- Situation that involves a perceived threat to the emotional well-being of students, which may be precipitated by hate-crime graffiti or repetitive bomb threats.

**DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Emergency Management Team is an organized group of faculty, staff, and first responders (Police, Sheriff, and Fire) trained in the implementation of the District’s emergency response protocols. The team conducts drills, table top exercises, and debriefs major events in order to be more effective in: the prevention-mitigation of potential hazards and vulnerabilities; preparing for an emergency through planning and training; responding to an event to effectively contain and resolve an emergency; and, recovering from an event and restoring a healthy and safe learning environment.

**SCHOOL-BASED CRISIS TEAMS**

School-based crisis teams are similar to the District’s Emergency Management Team but at the school level. For schools to effectively address the many issues that typically arise during a crisis, a preplanned, systematic organizational model to direct decisions is essential. Each school has a local safety plan written specifically for that building and campus, and the plan is reviewed and revised, as needed, each year.

To be effective, a school’s crisis response model must anticipate the results of a crisis and identify the ways it will affect individuals and the community.
SAFETY/EMERGENCY DRILLS

Preparation is the key to effective response in case of an emergency. Drills help our staff and students respond quickly, calmly, and safely to a variety of hazards. Fire drills are conducted each month. Lockdown drills, designed to familiarize students with how to respond to an active shooter in the school, are conducted twice a year. Weather related tornado drills are conducted twice a year and a hazardous material spill drill is conducted once a year. Conducting drills allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of our evacuation procedures and determine any necessary changes or adjustment to current practices that may be needed to improve performance.

TECHNOLOGY

While technology facilitates the sharing of knowledge, it can be a dangerous tool if improperly used. As our world becomes increasingly connected, we must be vigilant to the dangers posed by this connectivity and be able to respond to a variety of threats. Not only do we need to educate our students on how to safely work in an online environment, we must ensure our systems are secure and protected from cyber-attacks. Information management and internet security have become increasingly important to all of us. Westminster Public Schools is working hard to find the right balance between online access and security. We have a full suite of solutions from Firewall Protections, URL Filtering, Secure Data Transfers, to educational programming designed to help students become proficient digital citizens armed with the proactive and experiential knowledge to make informed and safe decisions online.

PARENT PORTAL

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal incorporates high levels of security and is a confidential and secure way to allow authorized parents/guardians access to school-related information about their children in real-time. Parents/guardians can only see information related to their students they are authorized to view. Accounts are not shared among more than one parent/guardian within households—there are no “household” accounts—each parent/guardian account is tied to an individual.
STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

While technology tools and apps are making it possible for educators and students to collaborate, create, and share ideas more easily than ever, they also present issues regarding the collection and use of personal information. The District is currently implementing the Colorado Student Data Transparency and Security Act and we now require all software vendors to sign a Data Protection Agreement prohibiting student data mining or targeted marketing practices. The agreement also sets standards for encryption and security of student data.

MASS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Communication is a foundation of effective parent and community engagement. The Blackboard Mass Notifications system provides fast, reliable, effective communications for crisis management and community building in multiple languages. Messages are delivered instantly to parents and community members across multiple channels including email, text, website, social media and mobile app. Every parent can be reached with every channel of delivery or communications can be tailored providing up to the minute critical notifications.

EMAIL SECURITY

An email filter that helps identify and block “phishing” attacks is in place for all faculty accounts, some of which potentially have access to student data. These types of attacks ask for username/password information which can then be used by an unauthorized user to access systems and data that they wouldn’t normally have access to. Social Engineering and Targeted Email Attacks are the easiest way to gain illegitimate access to a system, and this system is capable of eliminating the majority of these attacks. Having an email security system that is as strong as the one we use (Mimecast) is another layer of security to protect personally identifiable information because it greatly lowers the likelihood that an employee will give up a username/password due to a phishing scam in email that could provide access to student information.
WEB FILTERING
Westminster Public Schools utilizes an industry leading technology network appliance, which provides web filtering. This solution is very successful in preventing students from accessing most of the harmful websites related to pornographic materials, hate and violence, inappropriate games and other websites that contain items which may be harmful to minors. All internet traffic that is provided by the District including Chromebook access, desktop access, as well as guest access on personal devices connected to the network is scrutinized by this system and filtered appropriately. The web filter continuously updates its integrated database of websites as new dangerous websites are found that fall into the filtered categories used in the District.

NETWORK SECURITY
Network security refers to any activity designed to protect the usability and integrity of our network and data. Types of network security employed by Westminster Public Schools include, but are not limited to:

- Firewalls: barriers between the trusted internal network and the untrusted outside networks.
- Email Security: filtering of emails to reduce the amount of spam and phishing campaigns.
- Data Loss Prevention: replication of data to offsite location and redundant media backups.
- Antivirus and Antimalware Software: programs that constantly scan for malware upon entry to the system and that track files afterward to find anomalies, remove malware, and fix damage.
- Behavioral Analytics: detection of abnormal network behavior.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL SERVICES/SUPPORTS

THREAT ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL
In collaboration with four other Adams County School Districts and the Adams County Youth Initiative, Westminster Public Schools participated in the design and development of a Threat Assessment Protocol. Combining key recommendations from the Secret Services’ National Threat Assessment Center, the University of Colorado’s Center for
the Study and Prevention of Violence, and the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, the team created an instrument to assist in determining the degree to which a student who has made a threat actually poses a threat to person, school and/or community. The protocol also provides a foundation on which to develop a plan to respond, manage, and support the student and all involved.

CULTURE AND CLIMATE SURVEY

The Adams County Student Survey has been administered annually since 2008 to middle and high school students. Participants are asked to answer questions about their experiences with bullying, gangs, drug/alcohol exposure, physical activity, mental health, adult support and goals for their future. The results from the survey help the District create and sustain safe, respectful, and drug-free environments and promote positive social skills.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Westminster Public Schools employs school psychologists, social workers and counselors who are available to provide a variety of mental health supports and services for students that need them, including individual and small-group counseling. They also are skilled at working with classroom teachers for behavioral planning purposes. As part of their roles, they also help lead the following interventions within their assigned schools:

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS)

Schools offer schoolwide systems of support to proactively engage students with strategies to not only improve behavior at school, but to help enhance positive school climates. This is done by teaching and supporting appropriate behaviors for all students (e.g., safe hallway behavior, etc.) as well as by providing targeted or intensive supports for students that need extra help in keeping their schools safe and their classrooms free from behavioral disruptions.
BULLY PREVENTION

As part of the Westminster Public Schools bully-prevention program, mental health interventionists train staff by combining both positive behavioral intervention support with research-based bully prevention methods (stop/walk/talk). These professionals teach students effective strategies and give them tools to reduce bully behavior at school.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

This process is used to help students “fix what’s broken” or to repair harm that was created from an act of misconduct. Restorative Justice practices emphasize the importance of taking care of one’s own learning community while also being held accountable for actions through a disciplinary lens.

HABITS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PERSONALIZED LEARNER

In addition to addressing social-emotional concerns when they arise, the District is also committed to take a proactive stance in helping students develop personal and social habits for success at school and in the community. These habits help students become more organized, to manage emotions, to be team players and to plan for the future, to name a few. In fact, we believe that these habits are as important in life as are academic skills. The five Domains and four specific Habits within each domain are as follows:

- **Self-Managers**...are organized, go for it, manage emotions and manage risks.
- **Effective Participators**...identify issues, find solutions, are persuasive and are involved.
- **Team Workers**...take responsibility, build team strengths, manage teams and evaluates teams.
- **Reflective Learners**...accept challenges, plan-do-check-adjust, invite feedback and share learning.
- **Future Minded**...are responsible, strive for personal mastery, are effective communicators and are flexible and adaptable.
MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our district partners with a variety of community behavioral health entities to provide an additional layer of mental health supports and services for students.

The Community Reach Center is an important partner with our district by offering school-based therapists for students and families that may have a higher level of need than what our school-based mental health interventionists provide. They also offer the district professional development opportunities and outreach activities if and when an emergency occurs.

The Medicaid Counseling Partnership is paid out of our School Health Services program and is meant to help provide short-term counseling services from community counseling partners for our enrolled students that are uninsured/under-insured to receive these services.

THERAPEUTIC DAY TREATMENT: THE INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES CENTER (ISC)

The District houses a day-treatment program, called the Instructional Service Center, for eligible students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and who require a therapeutic and structured educational program to support their social-emotional goals and IEP priorities. Student participation in this program occurs through the IEP team process only.

SUICIDE ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

When students present with suicidal thoughts, they are referred to their school’s Mental Health Interventionist to offer counseling and, if necessary, to follow our suicide assessment protocol with parental involvement. Assessment information is then shared confidentially with the Executive Director of Special Services who may guide further intervention and/or follow-up practices with the student. In some cases, only if it is deemed necessary, the student may be referred or taken directly by a School Resource Officer to the Crisis Center at The Community Reach Center for additional mental health follow through.
We also have community-partnered support for preventing and responding to suicide, including but not limited to, Safe 2 Tell, The Community Reach Center, and the Yellow Ribbon program.

**TALKING WITH YOUR TEEN ABOUT SUICIDE**

Included are helpful tips for talking with your son or daughter about suicide:

- Perhaps the best approach for preventing suicide is keeping the lines of communication open and talking about suicide. Avoiding the topic or “sweeping it under the rug,” may unintentionally indicate the parent is unavailable to talk about difficult topics in times of need. Talking about suicide does not plant the idea.
- Ask if they know anyone who has talked of or attempted suicide.
- Ask if they have ever thought about suicide. Ask them what you can do to help and let them know you are there to support them, not matter how difficult their issue.
- Give them resources if they need someone to talk to in confidence: 800-273-TALK (8255).

**NUTRITION SERVICES**

The mission of the Nutrition Services Department is to alleviate childhood hunger within the community and increase student success by providing and promoting a nutritionally balanced diet in a warm, friendly environment. Each school kitchen has a team of highly trained staff with food safety and customer service as its highest priority. Leading a culture of food safety means more than managing food safety practices. It is a partnership between the Nutrition Services staff and our suppliers, school nurses, teachers and aides, parents, and most importantly—students.

**FOOD SAFETY**

Nutrition Services mandates all kitchen personnel complete food safety training on an on-going basis. USDA and Health Department standards are upheld and inspected at all times. Hazard and Critical Control Points (HACCP) are documented from harvest to consumption on all products.

**FOOD ALLERGIES**

Alternate meals are provided for students with documentation of their food allergy. Our Point of Sale (POS) system alerts kitchen staff when a child has a food allergy allowing them to ensure no meal items selected contain those ingredients. Parents, students, and school nurses can also
access westminsterpublicschools.nutrislice.com and view complete nutritional and allergy information on all school menu items. Nutrition Services also has a district wide ban on serving peanut products to protect students with severe peanut allergies.

**BUILDING SECURITY**

External kitchen doors are kept secured at all times and public access to the school is not allowed through kitchen access points.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

In compliance with Colorado State Statute, all teachers must submit fingerprints to the Colorado Department of Education as part of the licensing process. All non-licensed personnel hired by Westminster Public Schools must submit fingerprints to the District for review by the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI). The District has gone a step further and, while not requiring fingerprints to be submitted, WPS conducts CBI background checks on all volunteers and most regular contracted service providers.

**INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN DISTRICT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

In 2008, the General Assembly passed a law requiring the Colorado Bureau of Investigations to notify the Colorado Department of Education whenever an educator gets arrested. The Department of Education is then required to notify the local school district. This legislation is to ensure the administration at the local level know of potentially problematic employees and applicants.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The District offers employees a confidential assistance program that assists individuals with personal and/or work related problems that may impact their job performance, health, and/or their mental and emotional well-being. In addition to supporting our employees, the District believes access to program services improves productivity and employee engagement, reduces employee turnover, reduces the likelihood of workplace violence or other safety risks, and improves the overall quality of the workplace environment.
MANDATORY REPORTING TRAINING

School personnel are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect if they have a reasonable cause to know or suspect a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or if they have observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. The District provides on-going training to employees on their reporting requirements under the law and what student behaviors and/or physical cues to be aware of.

WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AT SCHOOL?

Each year since 2008, Westminster Public Schools has surveyed all middle school and high school students. In 2015:

88% of both middle school and high school students report they feel safe at school.

90% of both middle school and high school students report they feel safe to and from school.

34% of middle school students and 25% of high school students reported they were harassed or bullied on school property.

13% of middle school students and 27% of high school students reported they believed there were gangs at their school. However, only 2% of middle school students and 3% of high school students reported membership in a gang.

2% of middle school students and 3% of high school student reported they had carried a weapon to school.
WHAT CAN YOU DO? A PARENT'S CALL TO ACTION.

Your child’s safety is a partnership between the District and the family. Staying safe means planning ahead. In case of emergencies, the District will reach out to you, and it is your responsibility to keep your contact information accurate and up-to-date. Through the Westminster Public Schools Parent Portal, you are able to update your contact information, provide home and cell phone numbers, submit address changes, verify your emergency contacts, and keep your email address current. To access the Parent Portal, please use the web address below:

https://campus.adams50.org/campus/portal/adams50.jsp?1947Nav=|&NodeID=856

Here are some other tips to help keep kids safe and healthy at home and in school.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

- Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections.
- Teach children to follow traffic signals when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections.
- Teach children not to talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission.

ONLINE

- Keep an eye on your child’s internet use.
- Talk to your children about what they do online. Let them know they can talk to you if anything they see online makes them uncomfortable, whether it’s an explicit website or a classmate bullying them or someone else through email, chat, or websites.
- Remind your children not to give strangers private information such as their name, school, phone number, address, email, pictures or anything that could identify who they are.
- Look for warning signs. Does your child seem withdrawn, emotionally distant, spend endless hours online, or seem to be hiding something? Children who get lured into
inappropriate online relationships often show warning signs. If you think this might be happening, ask your child about it!

HEALTHY HABITS

- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep. Sleep is one of the building blocks of mental health and well-being and is one of the most powerful strategies to improve kids’ ability to cope with stressful or challenging situations.
- Get the whole family moving. Take walks, ride bikes, go swimming, or just play outdoors. Encourage physical activity that they’ll enjoy.
- Make meal time family time.
- Talk to your child. A problem shared is a problem halved. Talking to your child is a great way to remove the burden of worry and reduce anxiousness.
PARTNERS

SAFE2TELL

Safe2Tell provides a 24-hour, seven days a week statewide reporting tool where youth and/or concerned adults may report a perceived threat to their safety or the safety of others. Anonymity is the key to the success of the Safe2Tell Colorado model. When action is needed, information is immediately forwarded to local school officials and law enforcement agencies for investigation and action. The assurance that calls are not traced and that appropriate action is taken has persuaded young people to move away from a code of silence and take a stand.

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Westminster Police Department is a committed partner to the District providing us with technical assistance in threat assessment, violence prevention, and crisis response. The Department is represented at the table as part of our District Crisis Response Team, a multi-agency team created to respond to small-scale or mass-casualty incidents resulting from violence or natural disaster. The Department also provides the District with School Resource Officers (SRO) for our two high schools.

ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Westminster Public Schools has a long and strong partnership with the Adams County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff provides School Resource Officer (SRO) support for our three middle schools and the elementary schools located in unincorporated Adams County. Additional support includes participation on the District’s Crisis Response Team, crisis response scenario training (tabletop exercises), community outreach to our parents, and crossing guard training.

HYLAND HILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

Hyland Hills provides a wide variety of sports and recreation programs, before and after school programs, vacation camps, swimming lessons, sports leagues, preschool and much more. They are an integral part of the School District’s Health and Wellness efforts providing athletic opportunities to our middle school students, free swimming lessons to any district student, and working with our high school sports teams to provide camps and feeder programs to give players and youth the opportunity to learn basic concepts, fundamentals, and skills.
KIDS FIRST HEALTH CARE

Kids First Health Care is committed to improving the health and well-being of infants, children, and youth through providing primary and preventative health services in partnership with schools and other community organizations. Kids First Health Care manages the school-based health clinic at our Early Childhood Center. Staffed by individuals specialized in adolescent health care, services include annual physicals, immunizations, sick visits, health education, mental health services, confidential advice, and much more. The District also contracts with Kids First Health Care for school nursing services during the school year and for our summer enrichment programs.

COMMUNITY REACH CENTER

For nearly 60 years, Community Reach Center has been an integral component of our region, with an unparalleled commitment to promoting excellence, professionalism and integrity within our community mental health care system. Community Reach Center provides the District with school-based licensed mental health professionals that offer day-to-day mental health services to students in need. They also provide crisis teams to support students, staff, and community members in dealing with school related tragedies.

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Tri-County Health Department works closely with the District on health related education and programming. The Department has provided funding to support our health and wellness teams and initiatives to raise the awareness of the dangers of tobacco and reduce and/or prevent the use of tobacco by our students. The District also has agreements with Tri-County to open our schools as emergency clinic sites in the event of a pandemic or community-wide health threat.

ADAMS COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVE (ACYI)

The Adams County Youth Initiative (ACYI) connects vital community resources to improve achievement for students of all ages. ACYI brought together Adams County School Districts and first responders to create a unified crisis response/emergency management plan. They support the annual Adams County Youth Survey, which collects vital information on students’ perceptions of school/community climate and their attitudes toward pro-social behaviors. ACYI has also implemented a wide range of evidence-based strategies and programs on violence prevention, substance use prevention/intervention.
YELLOW RIBBON

Founded in 1994 in response to the suicide of a Westminster High School Student, Yellow Ribbon is dedicated to suicide prevention. By collaborating and partnering with support networks to reduce the stigma associated with talking about suicide, Yellow Ribbon seeks to empower individuals and communities through leadership, awareness, and education. Housed at Hidden Lake High School, the program provides the District with training and support to increase the awareness of suicidal risks and warnings, increase awareness of intervention techniques, and to increase the awareness of other community resources and how to access them.

WESTMINSTER AREA COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTION TEAM (CAAT)

Through programs such as Red Ribbon Week, Just Say No to Drugs, and Parents Who Host Lose the Most CAAT works to inform and educate the community on the dangers of mind-altering drugs and the promotion of positive change in our community leading to a drug-free society. Since 1990, CAAT has sponsored the annual Youth Conference for District middle and high school youth, an interactive and creative venue where participants learn about drug prevention and resisting related risky behavior.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT SERVICES INSTITUTE (YESS)

The YESS Institute is a valuable partner in helping Westminster Public Schools secondary school students bring out the best in themselves by tapping into their inner resources and developing skills that will help them succeed in high school and prepare for the day after graduation. The program uses strong and supportive peer-to-peer relationships to teach students to advocate for themselves. Students enrolled in the YESS Institute receive direct classroom instruction to help them create their own “Road to Success.”

HAVE A HEART

Have-A-Heart is one of Westminster Public Schools longest and most important partnerships. Created in 1996, by former Board of Education member Joan Smith the mission of the organization is to provide food, clothing, school supplies and personal hygiene items to the children so they may achieve their academic potential. It is notable that absolutely all donations made to Have-A-Heart go directly to the recipients and all of the work is done on a volunteer basis.
INCLUSIVITY

Westminster Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all of its students and staff. Cultural diversity and a respect for all opinions are important core values in Westminster Public Schools and we strive to ensure that all of our schools are safe and caring places. In February of 2017, the Board of Education unanimously passed the resolution below:

RESOLUTION 17-02-28 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
WESTMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (“Board”) of Westminster Public Schools pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 22-32-109(1)(b), has the duty to adopt policies and prescribe rules and regulations necessary and proper for the efficient administration of the District; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of all District students is a major responsibility and priority for the District; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that all students should feel safe and honored for who they are; and

WHEREAS, the District does not tolerate any type of bullying or harassment; and

WHEREAS, the District does not tolerate discrimination based on disability, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or religion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the safety and well-being of all District students and staff, regardless of disability, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or religion;

(2) will not tolerate discrimination, bullying or harassment of any District student or staff member.

DATED AND SIGNED by the Directors of the Board of Education of Westminster Public Schools
this 28th day of February, 2017
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

F.M. Day Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.1330
1740 Jordan Dr. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/fmdayelm

Fairview Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.1405
7826 Fairview Ave. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/fairviewelm

Flynn Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.2161
8731 Lowell Blvd. | Westminster, CO 80031
westminsterpublicschools.org/flynnelm

Harris Park Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.1721
4300 W. 75th Ave. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/harrisparkelm

Hodgkins Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.1121
3475 W. 67th Ave. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/hodgkinselm

Mesa Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.2891
9100 Lowell Blvd. | Westminster, CO 80031
westminsterpublicschools.org/mesaelm

Metz Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.1884
2341 Sherrelwood Dr. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/metzelm

Sherwood Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.5353
8095 Kalamath St. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/sherwoodelm

Skyline Vista Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.428.2300
7395 Zuni St. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/skylinevistaelm

Sunset Ridge Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.426.8907
9451 Hooker St. | Westminster, CO 80031
westminsterpublicschools.org/sunsetridgeelm

Tennyson Knolls Elementary
PK-5 School | Ph: 303.429.4090
6330 Tennyson St. | Arvada, CO 80003
westminsterpublicschools.org/tennysonknollselm

Westminster Academy for International Studies
PK-6 School | Ph: 303.428.2494
7482 Irving St. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/wais

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Ranum Middle
6-8 School | Ph: 303.428.9577
2401 West 80th Ave. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/ranumms

Scott Carpenter Middle
6-8 School | Ph: 303.428.8583
7001 Lipan St. | Denver, CO 80221
westminsterpublicschools.org/scottcarpenterms

Shaw Heights Middle
6-8 School | Ph: 303.428.9533
8780 Circle Dr. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/shawheightsms

HIGH SCHOOLS

Hidden Lake High
9-12 School | Ph: 303.428.2600
7300 Lowell Blvd. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/hiddenlakehs

Westminster High
9-12 School | Ph: 303.657.3980
6933 Raleigh St. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/westminsterhs

INNOVATION SCHOOLS

Colorado STEM Academy
K-8 School | Ph: 303.429.7836
7281 Irving St. | Westminster, CO 80030
costemacademy.org

OTHER SCHOOLS

Early Childhood Center
Preschool | Ph: 303.428.1560
8030 Irving St. | Westminster, CO 80030
westminsterpublicschools.org/ece