

Colorado School Shooting Resources
May 8 2019

Office of the Governor Jared Polis

State Capitol 200 E. Colfax Ave
Rm. 136,
Denver, CO 80203

Constituent Services Help Line: (303) 866-2885

Governor's Office, Front Desk: (303) 866-2471

"We are making all of our public safety resources available to assist the Douglas County Sheriff's Department in their effort to secure the site and evacuate the students. We are monitoring the situation in real time. The heart of all Colorado is with the victims and their families."

American Red Cross of Colorado

American Red Cross of Colorado
444 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 722-7474

There currently are no services available for persons affected by the recent school shooting.

Douglas County School District

620 Wilcox Street,
Castle Rock, CO 80104
(303) 387-0100

<https://www.dcsdk12.org>

This is an incredibly difficult letter for me to write to you - and one I hoped I would never have to send. Our STEM family is hurting tonight. Our DCSD family is hurting tonight.

I am saddened to share that one student died in today's shooting at STEM School Highlands Ranch, and others were injured. At this time, I am not sharing the names out of respect for the families. However, our hearts are with all of STEM's students, families and staff during this incredibly sad time.

Supporting one another in the coming days, weeks and months is critical.

STEM School will be closed the remainder of this week. All other DCSD schools will be open as normal with heightened security including additional patrols from our local law enforcement partners. Updates will be provided as they become available.

On Wednesday, May 8, we will have a Crisis Support Center available to all STEM students, staff and families at the St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Douglas County School District crisis team and community partners will be available to provide age-appropriate grief support and resources.

Crisis Support Center for STEM Students, Staff and Families
Wednesday, May 8 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
St. Andrew United Methodist Church
9203 South University Boulevard
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

In addition, all DCSD schools will have support staff available, on-site, to help students and staff with processing today's tragedy.

As parents, you are the very best support system in meeting your child's needs. You can provide the best explanation that fits with your values and beliefs, knowing that other parents may share this information with their children, and informal discussions may take place between students. You may wish to have a family discussion to talk briefly about loss of life and to acknowledge any feelings that may surface. Knowing what to say to your child is often difficult. When no words come to mind, a hug may provide comfort. Below are a number of resources that may help you when talking to students, or processing today's tragedy.

Feelings can be especially overwhelming at a time like this. There is no right way to express the sadness, grief and confusion that students will feel when they encounter a tragedy. For example, students may react by needing more sleep or being more emotional. On the other hand, a student may not react outwardly at all. Students can be particularly vulnerable if this event reminds them about another loss or sadness in their own lives.

Expect that resolving the feelings related to this tragedy may take time. It is normal for a child to bring up the tragedy after it has happened and often when least expected. We are a united family. We are here to support each and every one of you - students, parents and staff - and will continue to do so as long as needed. Together, we will get through this difficult time.

Colorado Department of Education

201 East Colfax Ave.

Denver, CO 80203

(303) 866-6600

<https://www.cde.state.co.us>

No current resources for persons affected by the school shooting.

Douglas County Sheriff Office

Ranch Substation

9250 Zotos Drive

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

(303) 660.7505

<http://www.dcsheriff.net>

Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said that the STEM school does not have a resource officer, but it had hired an armed private security guard.

This armed private security officer was on campus at the time of the shooting, but he described the layout of the school as "extensive." Two suspects entered through the northeast side of the campus, entering through the middle school. There are no metal detectors.

UNITED HEALTHCARE AND OPTUM

Free Help Line: Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, **866-342-6892**, will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as necessary. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>