Using What Works to Create Safe Schools

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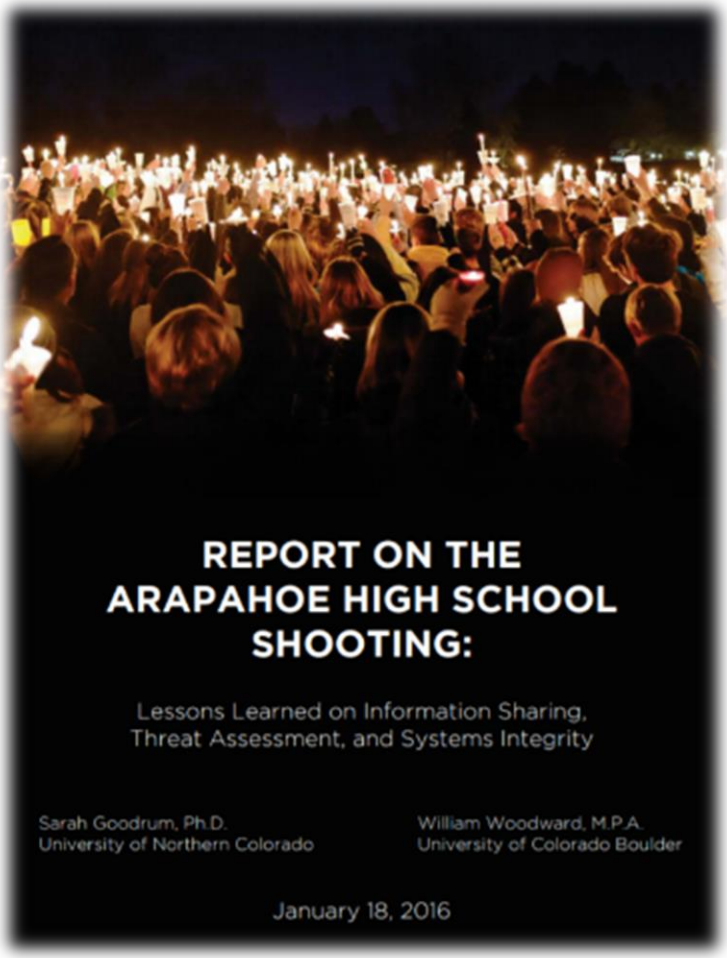
RESPONSES TO TRAGEDY: LESSONS

- **Emergency crisis plans & rehearsals**
  - I Love U Guys' Standard Response Protocol
- **Threat assessment trainings**
  - Colorado School Safety Resource Center
- **Anonymous reporting tool development**
  - Safe2Tell
- **Policy enactment**
  - Claire Davis Act

RESPONSES TO TRAGEDY: GAPS

Arapahoe Report (2016)

- Information sharing
- Threat assessment
- *Leadership, school climate and culture*



Research consistently finds that a comprehensive approach to school safety offers the *greatest potential* for:

- ***Preventing*** youth violence
- ***Promoting*** mental/behavioral health

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH:

Foundational Areas

- Culture, Climate, & Community
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Bystander Response and Reporting
- Information Sharing
- Threat Assessment

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH:

Addressing what matters most when creating safe schools

1. Identifying and addressing warning signs
2. Positive school climate
3. Upstream prevention and intervention

THE SCSS MODEL

Safe Communities Safe Schools (SCSS) is a comprehensive approach to school safety

- Currently being implemented in 46 middle schools in Colorado*
- Designed to be f*easible* and *actionable*
- Recommended in the Colorado Attorney General's School Safety Guide

* SCSS is currently supported by Award No. 2015-CK-BX-K002, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

SCSS MODEL COMPONENTS

How it happens at each school community
(e.g., multi-disciplinary team)

How needs are identified
(e.g., school climate surveys, resource mapping)

How we reach our goals and integrate evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies
(e.g., Blueprints Programs)

Using what works could reduce violence by 30%

www.blueprintsprograms.org

Flooded

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORTS

For schools to implement a comprehensive approach…

We *must* provide support and resources.

Kingston & Wilensky (2018). Building Adult Social and Emotional Capacity: A Key Ingredient for Unleashing the Power of Prevention. Journal of The Society for Social Work and Research

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Safe Communities Safe Schools *improves motivation and capacity* to address safety concerns

Building Schools' Readiness to Implement a Comprehensive Approach to School Safety (Kingston et al., 2018)

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Schools implementing the SCSS model demonstrated *improved:**

- **Staff *and* student attitudes about school**
- **Student behaviors**

***As compared to control schools**

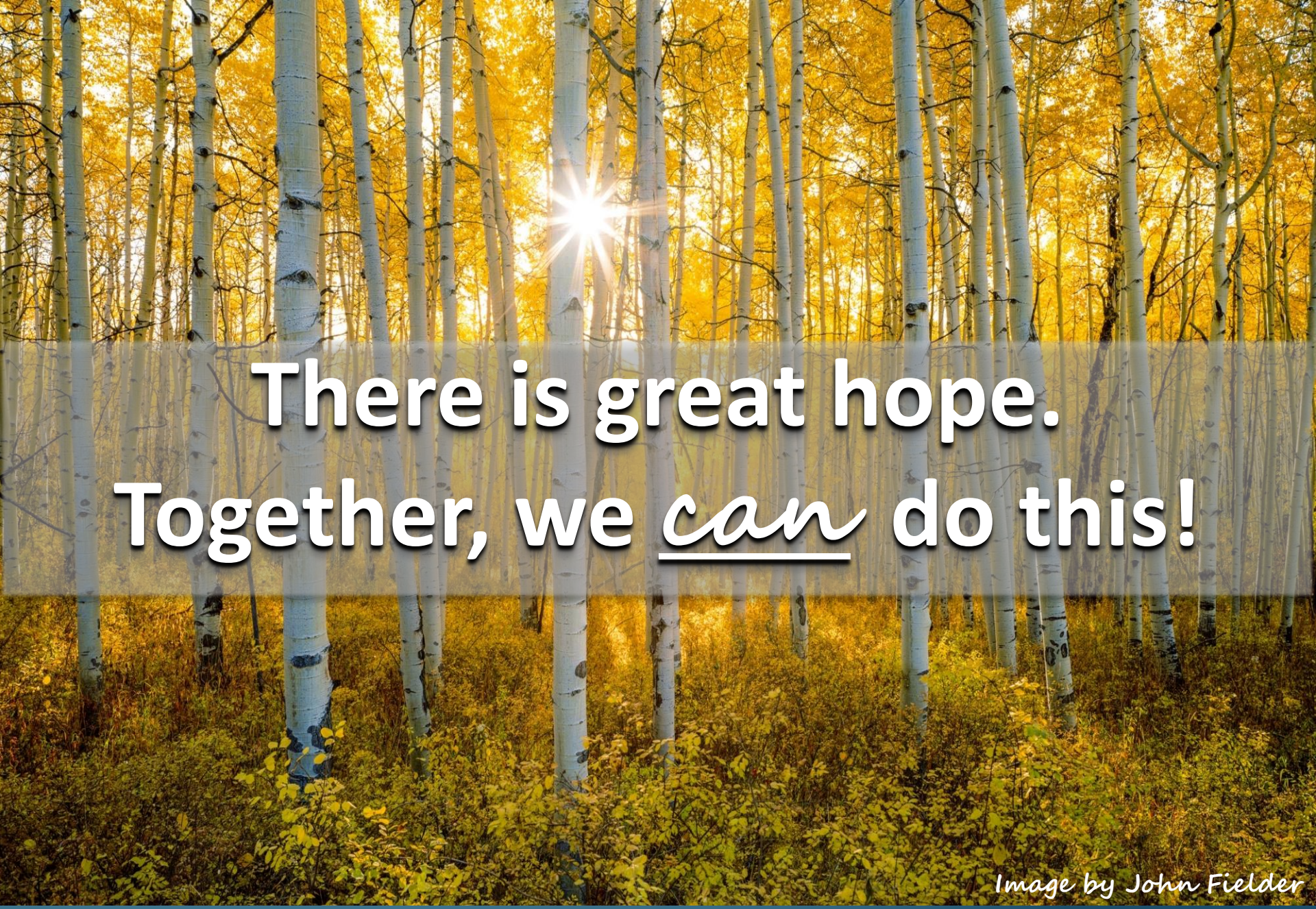
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1) Task and fund an agency to clearly define elements of a comprehensive approach to school safety for Colorado schools using expertise from multiple fields (e.g., education, law enforcement, mental health, researchers, etc.)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

2) Fund schools across Colorado to implement a comprehensive approach to school safety

- School Safety Climate Survey
- Programs, training, tools, and resources in foundational areas
- Implementation supports


There is great hope.
Together, we can do this!
Image by John Fielder