

# NEXT GENERATION LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## SAFE AND HEALTHY



### THE COLORADO EDUCATION INITIATIVE

**SAFE AND HEALTHY** learning environments are those which are safe, welcoming, and free of obstacles to learning. Basic health is not a barrier to learning, physical activity is a valued part of every learning environment, and students are supported in building the skills to handle whatever they may be going through in life.

#### **STUDENTS...**

- are socially, physically, mentally and emotionally supported by caring adults.
- are given opportunities to build resilience, self-esteem, as well as belief in themselves and their futures.
- are not distracted from learning by physical, mental, or emotional crises.

#### **EDUCATORS...**

- model, teach, and hold students and each other accountable for respectful, healthy, professional behavior.
- encourage students to form healthy relationships with both peers and adults.
- are trained in recognizing the social-emotional needs of their students, and have access to the resources and contacts they need to put students in touch with appropriate supports.
- teach students how to be good collaborators, and give them feedback on how their choices and communication either support or impede emotional safety of their colleagues.
- facilitate conversations between students to help them resolve conflict in safe and healthy ways.

#### **IN PRACTICE:**

- Brain breaks
- Anti-bullying programs
- Scored-discussion - students participate in a formal dialogue on a controversial issue, or open question, and are graded for their efforts

#### **RESOURCES:**

- [Transforming School Climate Toolkit: Creating Safe, Caring and Engaging Schools](#)
- The [Healthy School Champions Score Card](#) will measure best practices in the eight Coordinated School Health components, providing a score for each area. You'll know where you're doing well, and where you can improve.

