

2024 Virtual STAR-Center Conference

May 10, 2024

Will be held virtually via ZOOM

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE PROGRAM
(Please complete and return to Jamey Covaleski no later than December 4th)

Name, Credentials, Position Title	Melissa M Nelson, Ed.D. K12 School Safety and Security Subject Matter Expert
Affiliation:	Southwestern PA Threat Assessment Hub; RSM: Risk and Strategic Management Corporation
Please Provide a Brief Bio (Also please attach a copy of your CV) For over 30 years, Dr. Melissa M. Nelson has developed a wealth of experience and expertise where K12 education, mental health services, and legal system sectors intersect. This is the source of her deep passion for serving schools, families, communities, and clinicians who care for children with the most complex emotional, behavioral, and cognitive disabilities. Dr. Nelson has worked in a variety of roles in urban, suburban, and rural education systems including as a teacher and administrator. Most recently, as the Senior Vice President of Educational Services, she led the educational initiatives in a multi-state organization with specialized schools for children with significant behavioral disorders and cognitive disabilities. Dr Nelson served as the K12 Schools Subject Matter Expert for the Southwestern PA Threat Assessment Hub, a Department of Homeland Security Grant Funded Program. She is currently a School Safety and Security Subject Matter Expert for the Risk Training Firm, RSM. Prior to her work in education, Dr. Nelson spent over a decade as a mental health clinician, counselor, and advocate.	
Skill Development Workshop (1 hr. and 15 min session (includes Q&A)) Title of Presentation (As you would like it to appear in conference program) School Based Behavioral Threat Assessment and Suicide Screening: Missteps and Solutions	
Description (Please describe your presentation in 50 words or less as you would like it to appear in the conference program) Understanding the interconnectedness of targeted violence and suicide is essential for developing school-based supports for students in crisis. Dr. Nelson will provide an overview of the relationship between targeted violence and suicide and share evidence-based tools for use while conducting threat assessments and suicide screens.	
Level of Presentation (Select one) (This applies to workshops only)	

Introductory ___

Intermediate ___

Advanced ___

Learning Objectives: (Please list 3)

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Explain the importance of understanding and interpreting K12 children and adolescent behavioral health issues which indicate warning signs and risk factors for violence and suicide.
2. Apply the use of evidence-based resources to develop Behavioral Threat Assessment and Suicide Screen systems in K12 settings.
3. Use evidence-based strategies to improve Behavioral Threat Assessment and Suicide Screen systems in K12 settings.

FOR ACCREDITATION PURPOSES PLEASE PROVIDE:

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation. (See next page).

AbiNader MA, Graham LM, Kafka JM. Examining Intimate Partner Violence-Related Fatalities: Past Lessons and Future Directions Using U.S. National Data. J Fam Violence. 2023 Jan 12:1-12. doi: 10.1007/s10896-022-00487-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36685752; PMCID: PMC9838333.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (2019, December 25). *Risk factors and warning signs*. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. <https://afsp.org/risk-factors-protective-factors-and-warning-signs/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, March 2). *Risk and Protective Factors*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>