Dear Mesa County Public Schools,

Pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act § 24-72-201 et seq., we request that you make available for inspection and copying the following public records:

-- The number of student risk assessments performed per school, per year going back to the year when student risk assessments began in Mesa County. We would prefer to receive this data electronically, in the form of a spreadsheet, if possible.

-- The outcome of the risk assessments, in terms of whether the student was expelled, suspended, disciplined, referred to counseling in the community, etc.

If you are not the custodian of records for this request, please forward this letter to the appropriate person or let us know who has custody of these records.

We request a waiver of all fees for searching or copying these records in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public’s understanding. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform us of the cost.

If access to these records will take longer than three days, please cite the extenuating circumstances and let us know when we should expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records. We ask that if the records are available in electronic format, they be transmitted by email to jennifer@coloradosun.com and osher@coloradosun.com.

If you deny any portion, or all, of this request, please provide me with a written explanation of the reason(s) for your denial, including a citation to each specific statutory exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information.

Please contact us with any questions about this request. We look forward to working with you and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown and Christopher Osher
The Colorado Sun

(Follow-up email, Feb. 20, 2019) Numbers of threat assessments broken down by elementary, middle and high school would work for us. I understand what you're saying about the discipline database and the research that would be required. For now, let's just go with the aggregate data on threat assessments, and separately, aggregate data (numbers only) on suicide risk assessments. After we get that data, I'd love to schedule an interview to talk about the process of handling these assessments in your district. As for the timeframe, would March 1 work for you? That's fine on our end. - Jennifer Brown