

Hello and Happy New Year

In accordance with Act 44 of 2018, the Office of the Attorney General's Safe2SaySomething Program has launched its training for school entities and 911 emergency dispatch centers to be trained on the new Safe2SaySomething application, which will be fully implemented state wide January 14, 2019. For the past few weeks, several select staff at the District level have been participating in these related training events. All designated staff, 5th through 12th grade (teachers and instructional aides), will be using an hour of the upcoming 2-hour delay to review required documents. On January 16th when you log in you will receive a notification (just like when a new policy is released) once you click OK it will take you to a link that will release 3 documents for your review:

- 1.A Brochure
- 2.PowerPoint Overview
- 3.Single Page Overview

Students at Linton MS and Penn Hills HS will use designated class time in the near future to learn more about the intent of the hotline and navigation. Once a date and training time is secured, more information will be shared. For questions regarding the program, please contact: [info@safe2saypa.org](mailto:info@safe2saypa.org). A **Frequently Asked Questions** document has also been prepared by the Office of the Attorney General for additional information regarding the program. This is a mandatory training.

For all non-Instructional personnel including secretaries, maintenance, and cafeteria workers, a link will be emailed to you separately from the IT department.



## Program Overview

In 2018, the General Assembly passed Act 44 mandating the establishment and use of the “Safe2Say Something” (S2SS) anonymous reporting system by every Pennsylvania school entity by January 14, 2019

S2SS is a life-saving and changing school safety program that teaches students, educators, and administrators how: (1) to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others and (2) to anonymously report this information through the S2SS app, website, or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline. The following provides an overview of how the program works and will be implemented in schools:

- S2SS works through 5 easy steps:
  1. A tip is submitted via mobile app, website, or by calling the PA based 24/7 Crisis Center
  2. The tip is then triaged by the Crisis Center to gather enough information to act on it
  3. The tip is delivered to the impacted school and, as needed, local law enforcement via 911 County Dispatch
  4. The school and, as needed, local law enforcement assess and intervene with the at-risk individual
  5. The school then closes out the tip and reports actions taken as a record for their school
- The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has established S2SS and will manage and maintain the program. The OAG, in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise – a leader in anonymous reporting systems, is building out the app, website and PA-based 24/7 Crisis Center platform.
- OAG Crisis Center analysts are being trained to receive and triage tips to: (1) ensure there is enough information to act upon, (2) conduct 2-way anonymous dialog with tipsters to gather missing information, (3) categorize the tip into life-safety or non-life safety for ease of prioritization by recipients, and (4) deliver the tip to the impacted school and, where needed, its local law enforcement via 911 County Dispatch.
- The S2SS platform allows the official users (Crisis Center analysts, school entities and 911 County Dispatch) to view and act against tips using their PC or mobile device. Additionally, the platform allows for real-time 2-way dialog with a tipster and the viewing and sharing of attachments (such as screen shots and videos) that a tipster has submitted. The platform permits communication between the official users on each tip, allowing for up to the second information sharing and action that all see and read at the same time – as one of the MOST critical pieces of information needed for a life safety issue is a child’s address. This address must be passed to 911 Dispatch to pass to the local jurisdiction to act upon. This exchange can take seconds helping to act quicker to save lives.
- A district, charter school, cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic school, intermediary unit, and/or area vocational-technical school must have an assigned S2SS Lead to coordinate the establishment and training of a 3-5 member team who will have the responsibility to receive and act upon tips. Additionally, the team will help maintain and sustain S2SS long-term in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise local coordinators, who will in turn support the efforts of the S2SS Lead. Training for S2SS Leads is 3 hours, while team members require 2 hours. Both require a minimum of 30 minutes of un-interrupted practice time to learn the system ... 45 minutes if you may be technically challenged.



- County-based 911 dispatches must have an assigned S2SS Lead to coordinate the setup and training of their personnel to action against life safety tips. Dispatchers will use the S2SS platform to view and act upon the tip, conduct 2-way dialog with a tipster, communicate with the school team, and act against the tip by dispositioning to local police jurisdictions. Training of S2SS Leads takes 2 hours and is delivered by external experts and requires a minimum of 30 minutes of un-interrupted practice time. Dispatch team / personnel training will take 2 hours, including 30 minutes of practice time.
- At the conclusion of school and police investigation and intervention (as needed), all tips will be closed out by school personnel only. Districts, charter schools, cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic schools, intermediary units, and/or area vocational-technical schools can then run reports to analyze the types, times, etc. of tips received and, over time, view trends to demonstrate where change is taking place or is needed.
- Students, educators and administrators have the opportunity to be trained post January 14, 2019 to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others along with how to use the S2SS anonymous reporting system to submit tips of the signs and signals they observe. Training takes 1 hour and will be made available via an interactive training video, the downloading of materials to self-lead and/or direct S2SS certified trainers (where availability exists).
- S2SS will be sustained via support by Sandy Hook Promise's School Outreach Coordinator, in-school awareness materials (at no cost), annual training of new incoming classes and educators/administrators, and, critically, establishment of in-school student clubs (existing or new clubs) to empower students to create sustained change.
- S2SS is mandated to launch January 14, 2019 – therefore trainings for school and dispatch officials will take place in December, followed by a statewide test to ensure all are ready to go LIVE. Finally, students will be trained (starting January 14) given that “once you train, you are live and students will start submitting tips”.
- As reference – The OAG has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) to rollout the S2SS program. SHP is a national non-profit committed to creating safe schools and communities through their four evidenced-based *Know the Signs* intervention programs. To date, SHP has delivered its programs to 10,000+ schools and trained 5+ million youth and adults in every state resulting in countless suicide, school shooting and firearm threat interventions and countless bullying, drug use and other acts of violence and victimization interventions.

**SAFE**  **SAY** <sup>TM</sup>

**SOMETHING**

# SAFE SAY™

**SOMETHING**



## What is the problem?

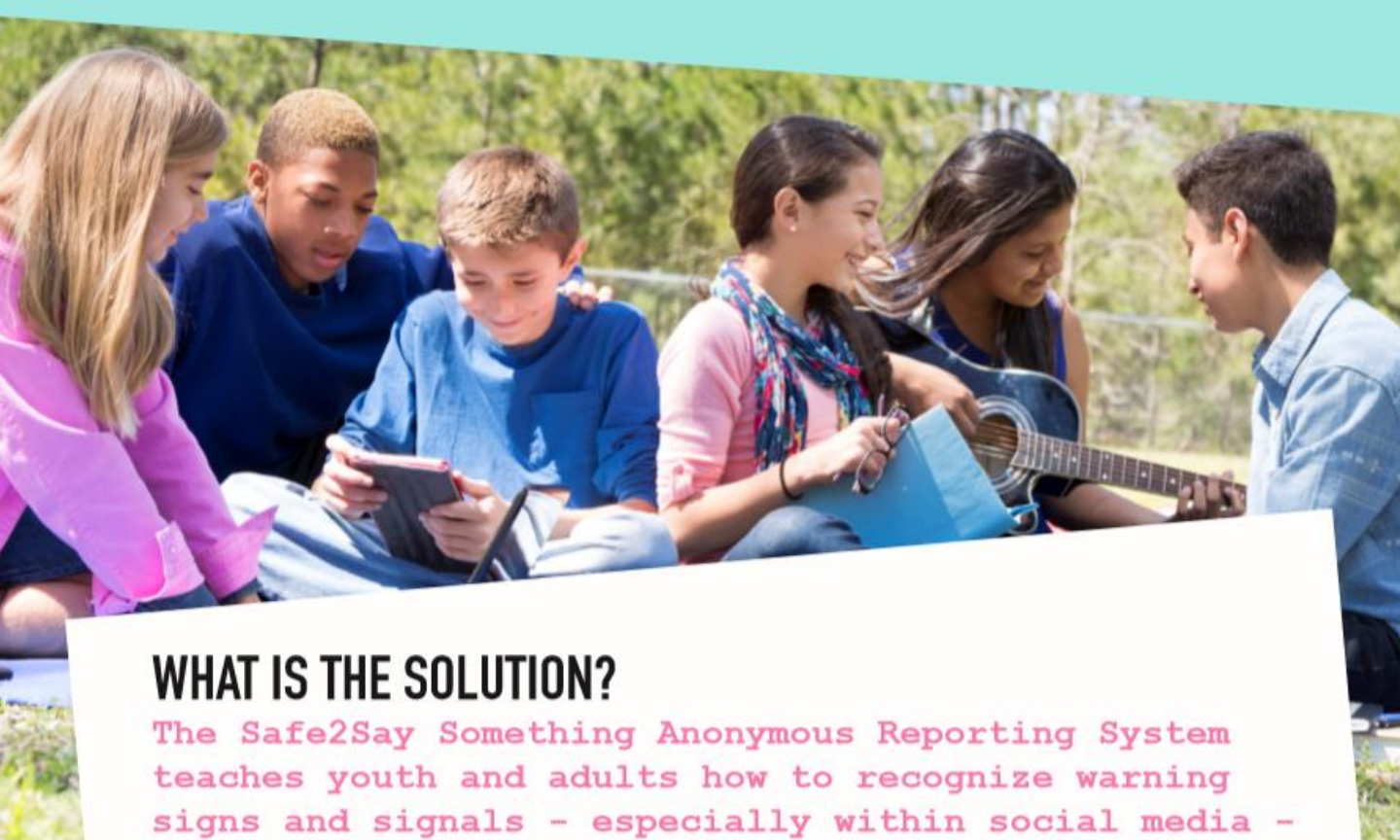
Each year in schools and communities across the United States, there are millions of youth who hurt themselves or others through verbal, physical and digital means. These behaviors can cause youth to experience emotional trauma and physical injury, mental health or wellness issues, stress or anxiety, and/or feelings of being unsafe. Too often the outcome results in self-harm, suicide or homicide.

**21%**

of high school students are bullied on school property in Pennsylvania each year<sup>[1]</sup>

1. 2017 CDC's Youth Risk Behavior study
2. [www.nveee.org/statistics/](http://www.nveee.org/statistics/), 2016
3. Vossekuil, B., et al., 2002
4. Robins, E., et al., 1959
5. Trump, K., 2015
6. 2017 CDC's Youth Risk Behavior study





## WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals - especially within social media - of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and say something BEFORE it is too late.



Provides an app, website, and 24/7 crisis telephone hotline for youth and adults to submit anonymous tips

Provides training on how to recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media

Works to take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult

# The Facts

In a majority of these acts, youth and adults are witnesses to threats, warning signs, or signals, especially on social media, but do not report or intervene to help the at-risk youth. In fact:

- Approximately, 1 million U.S. students reported being harassed, threatened or subject to other forms of cyberbullying<sup>[2]</sup>
- 80% of school shooters told someone of their violent plans. 59% told more than one person<sup>[3]</sup>
- 70% of people who complete suicide tell someone of their plans or give some other warning sign<sup>[4]</sup>
- A national study found that 37% of threats of violence, bullying, etc. were sent electronically and 28% used social media<sup>[5]</sup>

# The Reasons

There are many reasons why youth and adults do not say something when they see a warning sign or signal. They do not:

- Understand or know how to recognize warning signs and signals of at-risk behavior
- Believe a threat to be true because “they would never say it publicly if they meant it”
- Want to be labeled, stigmatized, possibly physically threatened as a “snitch”
- Know who to tell or “believe that nothing will be done to help anyhow”
- Think they need to because someone else will say something

## HOW IT WORKS

### Step 1

Submit an anonymous tip

Call the tipline



1-844-SAF2SAY

Use the Website



[www.safe2saypa.org](http://www.safe2saypa.org)



Use the mobile App available for Apple and Android devices

### Step 2

All calls and tips received by the 24/7 crisis center

1

A crisis center analyst receives and reviews tip information

2

The tip is triaged and categorized as either life safety or non-life safety

3

The tip is then sent to school officials and law enforcement (as needed) via text, email, and/or phone call within seconds



### Step 3

School officials & law enforcement intervene and help individual(s)

1

School officials and law enforcement (as needed) act immediately to investigate, assess, and intervene with reported at-risk individuals

2

At-risk individuals receive the help they need BEFORE they ever get to the point of hurting themselves or others

3

School officials report their outcomes into the Safe2Say Something platform and close out the tip, ensuring accountability for every tip submitted



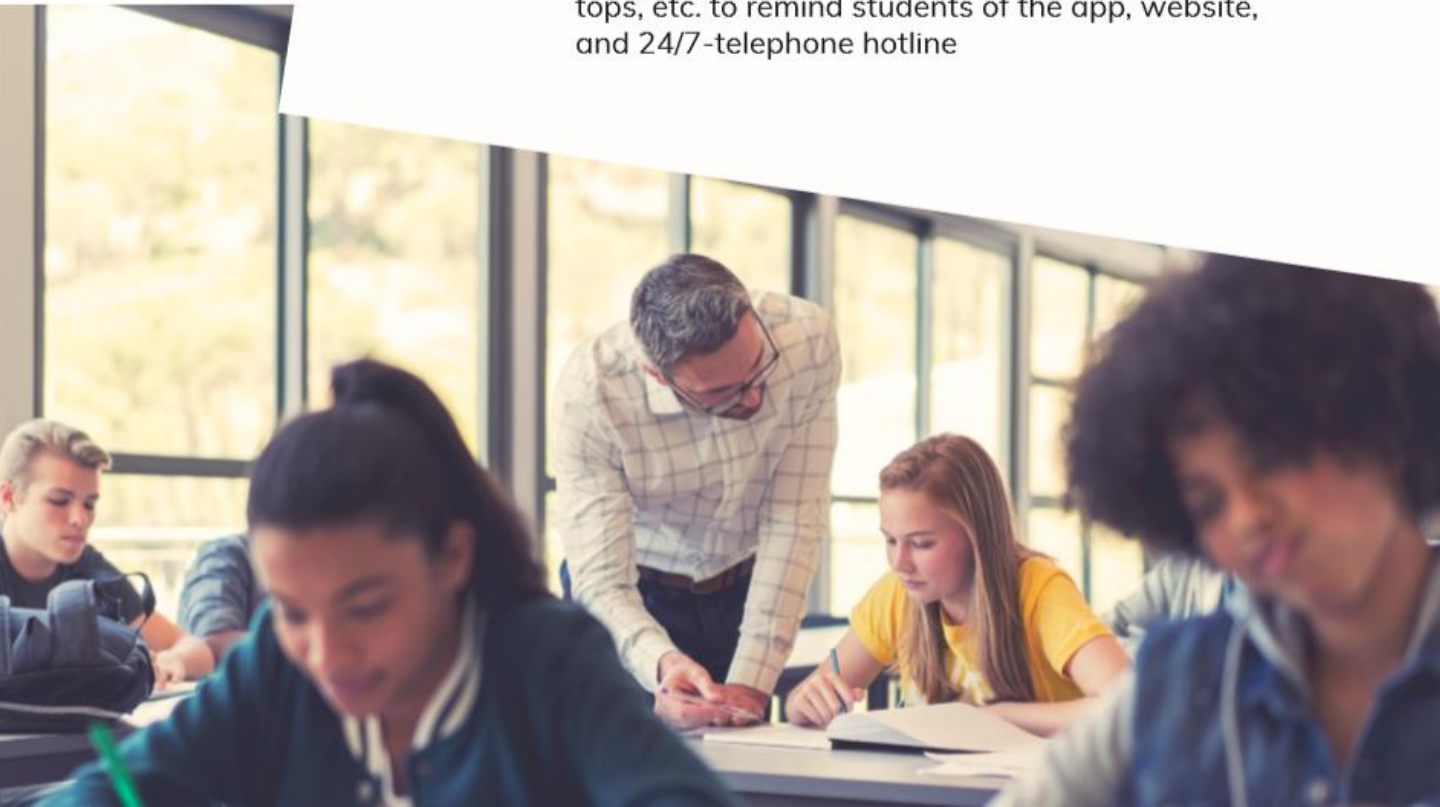
**17.3%**

of high school students are electronically bullied in Pennsylvania each year<sup>[6]</sup>

## How is the Program Sustained?

Safe2Say Something is sustained through our:

- Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club or existing student club by embedding Safe2Say Something in the club in order to empower students to carry it forward and keep awareness high within schools
- On-going support, refresher trainings and call-to-action weeks to rally school personnel and student clubs around the Safe2Say Something program
- No cost, in-school awareness materials – posters, table tops, etc. to remind students of the app, website, and 24/7-telephone hotline





# SEE IT. REPORT IT.

## WHY SAFE2SAY SOMETHING WILL BE SUCCESSFUL...

- 1** Educating students, educators and administrators how to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at-risk of hurting themselves or others
- 2** Intervening days, months, and years before a tragedy could ever take place, truly driving prevention
- 3** Fostering a connected, “up-stander” culture where at-risk students are getting help
- 4** Reducing violence, suicide, self-harm, bullying, drug use and other at-risk behaviors and actions
- 5** Reducing suspensions, tardiness, absenteeism, damages, and trauma... creating safer and healthier schools



**The Safe2Say Something program and crisis center is operated  
by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.**



## S2SS Program Overview

*December 2018 – 121918*

# Purpose

## 1. Provide an overview of S2SS program

- What is it?
- How does it work?
- Benefit for our school?

## 2. Next Steps

# Program Summary

- S2SS is launching in our schools
- S2SS teaches how to recognize and report at-risk behavior
- Students (& adults) submit tips via app, website and 24/7 crisis hotline
- All tips are triaged by certified crisis counselors and then emailed, texted and/or called back into the school / school district to act upon
- The school then investigates, assesses and intervenes (as needed) and closes the tip out to ensure all tips are reviewed and actioned
- Students and staff will be trained in person and/or via interactive video
  - Middle and high school students will be trained only
  - Adults K-12 in all school systems will be made aware of the program
- S2SS will also be embedded in student clubs and be featured in-school via awareness materials and other events to sustain the program



# S2SS Overview

# In a majority of violence and victimization acts, there are warning signs or signals given off

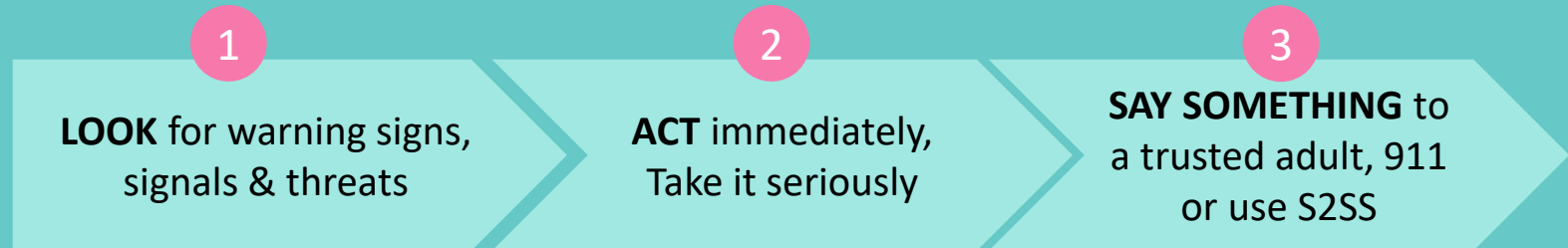
- 37% of threats of violence, bullying, etc. are sent electronically.  
28% used social media
- 80% of school shooters tell someone of their violent plans. 69% tell more than one person
- Most mass shootings are planned for 6+ months
- Up to 70% of people who complete suicide tell someone their plans or give some other warning sign
- Youth display/present pathway behaviors / at-risk behaviors between the ages of 13-17
  - Creating a petri-dish or breeding ground in schools
  - Creating opportunities for early identification and intervention

# However – these signs are not seen because youth (and the adults around them) do NOT...

- Understand or know how to recognize signs and signals
- Believe a threat to be true because “they would never say it publicly if they meant it”
- Want to be labeled, stigmatized and/or possibly physically threatened as a “snitch”
- Want to be “that kid” or “that parent” saying something
- Feel comfortable calling 911 or talking to a trusted adult
- Know who to tell or “believe that nothing will be done to help”
- Just choose to ignore the sign or signal thinking someone else will say something – bystander effect

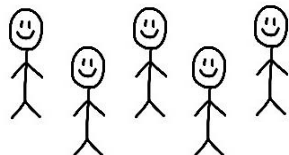


Teaches middle and high school youth (and the adults around them) how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and *Say Something* to a trusted adult, call 911 or use the S2SS [anonymous reporting system](#)





# S2SS – HOW does it work?



**Step 1: Submit**  
Youth or Adult Submit  
a Tip using our App,  
Website, and Hotline



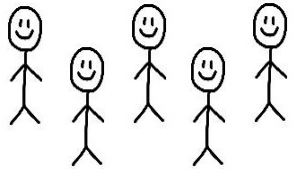
OAG Crisis Center

**Step 2: Manage**  
Tips are Triaged,  
Categorized, and  
Delivered to the  
School Teams /  
Dispatch by the OAG  
Crisis Center

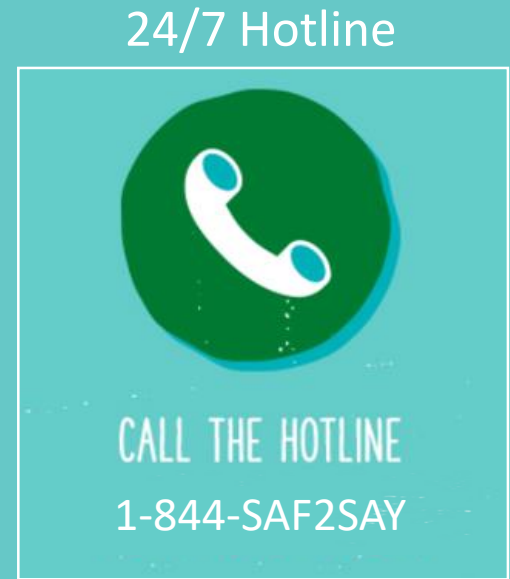
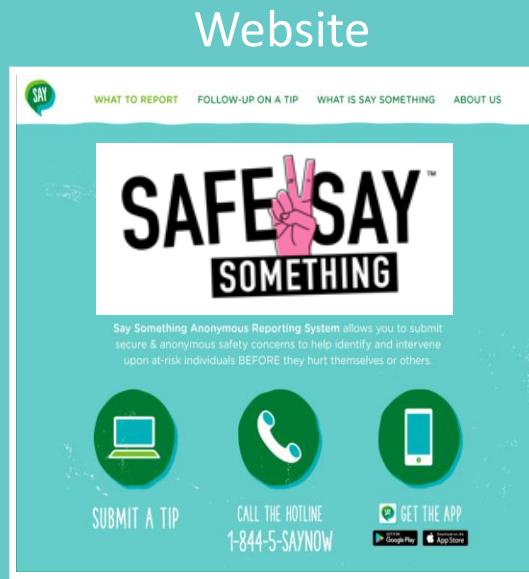


**Step 3: Disposition**  
School Team and/or  
Law Enforcement  
Assess and Intervene  
as Needed

# Step 1: Tip Submission



**Step 1: Submit**  
**Youth or Adult**  
**Submit a Tip**  
**using our App,**  
**Website, and**  
**Hotline**



Every user **MUST** associate themselves with a school within the district in order to submit a tip

# Step 2: Tip Management at Crisis Center



OAG Crisis Center

**Step 2: Manage**  
**Tips are Triage,**  
**Categorized, and**  
**Delivered to the**  
**School / Dispatch**  
**by the OAG**  
**Crisis Center**

## Action 1: Triage

S2SS Analyst gathers caller tip information and/or receives website and app submission(s). Conducts two-way anonymous dialog as needed with tipster to capture as much information as possible.

# Step 2: Tip Management at Crisis Center



OAG Crisis Center

**Step 2: Manage**  
**Tips are Triageed,**  
**Categorized, and**  
**Delivered to the**  
**School / Dispatch**  
**by the OAG**  
**Crisis Center**

## Action 1: Triage

S2SS Analyst gathers caller tip information and/or receives website and app submission(s). Conducts two-way anonymous dialog as needed with tipster to capture as much information as possible using set SOPs.

## Action 2: Categorize

S2SS Analyst categorizes tip as either “life safety” or “non-life safety” incident/concern/threat based on OAG approved definitions



# Step 2: S2SS Statewide Defined Events

Safe2SaySomething Defintions		
Life Safety - Imminent and In-Progress	Non-Life Safety - Crime or Violence	Non-Life Safety
Active Shooter or presence of explosive device	Alcohol possession or use	Anger issues/management (non-life threatening)
Bodily injury and/or emergency condition	Animal cruelty	Breaks school code of conduct
Child predator	Cannabis/Other drug paraphernalia	Bullying/cyber-bullying/general teasing
Dating violence	Distribution of inappropriate photos	Creating a hostile environment
Disorderly/dangerous conduct	Drunk and/or under influence of other substances	Depression/anxiety (non-life threatening)
Domestic violence/victimization	Forgery/falsifying documents	Discrimination
Drug use, distribution/sale, and/or substance abuse	Graffiti and/or other defacing of property	Drug use NOT in progress
Emergency building condition (fire, collapse, explosion)	Hate crime/speech	Eating Disorder/anorexia/bulimia
Gang violence/formation/threats	Sexting	General harassment of students/staff
Have attempted suicide and are requesting help	Theft	General school complaint
Human Trafficking	Threat/ideation of performing a false alarm	Inappropriate behavior, language, gestures
Individual is unconscious/unresponsive	Truancy/skipping school	Inappropriate bus behavior
Intend/threaten/ideate to commit suicide	Vandalism	Inappropriate intimidating physical contact
Intend/threaten/ideate to harm another person		Inappropriate use of technology/school equipment
Intend/threaten/ideate to harm building/property		Intention, discussion, and/or planning of any hazing
Missing/lost student, educator, and/or administrator		Mean/cruel towards others
Physical Abuse		Planned parties
Planned attack, shooting, fight/assault		Possession of lighter/matches
Presence of weapons (guns, knives, explosive)		Sexual harassment
Reckless driving on school property		Smoking tobacco, e-cigs, or vapes
Sexual Assault/Rape		Verbal abuse
Terrorism threat and/or ideation		

# Step 2: Tip Management



**Step 2: Manage**  
**Tips are Triageed,**  
**Categorized, and**  
**Delivered to the**  
**School / Dispatch**  
**by the OAG**  
**Crisis Center**

## Action 1: Triage

S2SS Analyst gathers caller tip information and/or receives website and app submission(s). Conducts two-way anonymous dialog as needed with tipster as needed to capture as much information as possible.

## Action 2: Categorize

S2SS Analyst categorizes tip as either “life safety” or “non-life safety” incident/concern/threat based on district approved definitions

## Action 3: Deliver

S2SS Analyst forwards tip via text, email and/or phone call 24/7 to assigned school crisis team and local county 911dispatch (as needed) based on OAG approved process and protocols

# Step 3: Tip Disposition



## **Step 3: Disposition**

**School Team  
and/or Law  
Enforcement  
Assess and  
Intervene as  
Needed**

- 1) School Team and local law enforcement (as needed) assess, intervene, and take protective action per their respective policy, laws and procedures
- 2) School Team ONLY closes out tip within the S2SS platform documenting / dispositioning what actions were taken

# School Team Steps They are Taking to Receive and Act upon tip submissions



As Needed

As Needed

- Phone Call
- Text Alert
- Email Alert

Log into Mobile or Full Website Tip Manager

- Description of event
- Attachments
- Anonymous Dialog with Tipster
- Team Comms and info sharing

Conduct 2-way anonymous dialog with tipster

Review and conduct any team comms between school, district and, for life safety tips, local police dispatch

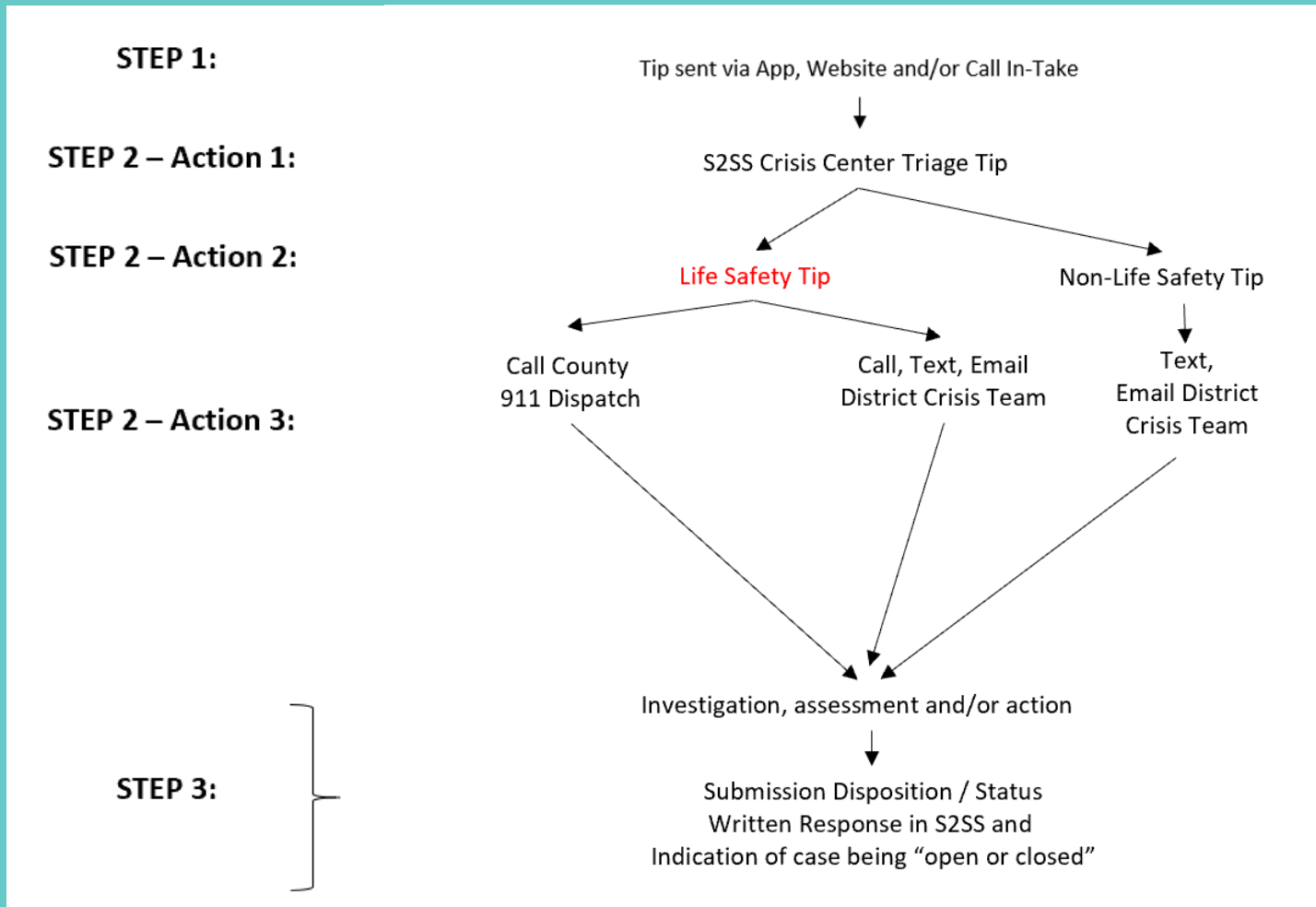
After school – likely providing address for life safety issue

Investigate, assess and intervene as needed  
Police/Sheriff involved as needed

Add any additional attachments gathered during investigation

Team reports action(s) taken against tip and then closes tip

# S2SS 3-Step Summary



# WHAT are the anticipated reporting rates?

- 3%-6% of population trained will submit a tip once all students are trained and receive sustained updates - the number of tips in the first 48-72 hours will be run higher then flatten out
- Approximately 40-60% will be Life Safety Tips of which 10-15% will be very serious
- Suicide, suicide ideation, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, school violence, bullying/cyber-bullying and gang violence will likely be your top tip submissions
- Hoax or false claims are less than ½ of 1% -- with most being in-actionable submissions such as “clowns have red hair”

# WHO owns the data? HOW is Anonymity Broken?

- All tip data is owned by the school system / district with student information being protected via state and federal laws
- If a tipster is suicidal / in crisis, state and federal laws allow anonymity to be broken (if feasible) to protect the well-being and safety of the individual (occurs <1/2% of all tips)
- If an individual abuses the system or breaks a state or federal law, the school system / district can request a court order to TRY and uncover anonymity.

Note: we will NOT break anonymity without a court order – there are no exceptions



# HOW will S2SS be sustained?

- Imbed S2SS in existing school clubs or establish a new club
  - Activities, Call-to-Action, National Summit, Youth Board
- In-school collateral and materials



- Virtual or local School Outreach Coordinator to support the school and student club
- Annually train in-coming class/new educators and admin

# WHAT will be overall impact and benefits?



- Educate on signs and signals – especially in social media – creating a well informed district and parents
- Reduction in violence, suicide and cutting, bullying, drug use and overall victimization with more students getting help
- Creates safer / healthier environment

**Launch Date**

**January 14, 2019**

**Questions?**

# SAFE SAY<sup>TM</sup>



## SOMETHING

Thank You