



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Safe2Say Something (S2SS) State Policy

#### **1. Is Participation in Safe2Say Mandated by law?**

The Safe2Say Something program is state mandated by Act 44 of 2018 and requires all K-12 schools, school districts, charter schools, private schools, cyber charter schools, private schools, nonpublic schools, intermediate units, and area vocational-technical schools operating in Pennsylvania to participate.

#### **2. How does S2SS work?**

All tips from a tipster are received and triaged by the Crisis Center at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Once information has been gathered by the Crisis Center, it is then sent electronically to the School District team and, as needed, local police to review and act upon. Schools/Districts will sign-in to the S2SS platform to access the tip on their phone or PC.

#### **3. How do you locate the S2SS APP in the APP store?**

The app and website will be available for students to download and use on January 14, 2019. The app will be available for Apple and Android phones.

#### **4. Will the platform work on an iPad?**

Yes – the platform is web-based, therefore will work with any device that can access the internet.

- 5. Is this just for concerning behaviors or also concerns about the physical environment that may be unsafe?**

It is for both and whatever the tipster deems necessary to report to School/District officials.

- 6. Will parents have the ability to submit tips through the system regardless of whether or not they complete any training materials?**

Yes-they can submit tips using any of the three platforms...app, website, and/or 24/7 crisis hotline.

### **False Reporting and Breaking Anonymity**

- 7. Are you able to trace false submissions? How will the S2SS program handle instances of false reporting, students attempting to get other students in trouble?**

We are able to trace false submissions ONLY if a school gets a court order to uncover anonymity of a tipster. As reference, we anticipate less than ½ of 1% of tips are false submissions based on similar programs nationally.

### **Student Training**

- 8. Is this a K-12 initiative? If so, is the student training appropriately geared to younger students?**

S2SS will train middle and high school students only (grades 5 or 6-12). However, tips may be received for students and adults located in K-12 schools.

- 9. How much instructional time is going to be required to train students?**

Middle and high school students (grades 5 or 6-12) will be trained in 1-hour through an interactive training video or direct training by Sandy Hook Promise trainers (availability is limited). The interactive training video can be split over two periods if required. Direct training requires one session.

- 10. Is training available bilingually?**

Direct trainers are available to deliver the program in Spanish and English. Other languages may be able to be delivered (or translated) upon request.

- 11. What is the timeframe for training of students, staff and parents for the 2018-19 school year? Is there different training for the HS/MS as opposed to Elementary students?**

Schools can begin to train students, staff and parents on January 14, 2019. All are required to have their Schools/Districts trained in the 2018-2019 School Year. Only middle and high students and the adults around them will be trained in the S2SS program.

**12. If we were unable to train all staff and students prior to January 1, what would happen?**

The program will be live and accepted tips from every school entity in Pennsylvania beginning on January 14, 2019. The district lead and team accepting tips should be trained before January 14 and if the lead so chooses to train additional staff, this can happen at any time so long as the school is ready to receive tips by January 14. Student training will be ongoing, however any student can hear of the program, download the app, access the website, and submit a tip beginning on January 14, 2019 whether their student training has taken place or not.

**Community Training**

**13. Does the community have the ability to access this? Can they report tips? If so, is there training for the community?**

The community will not be trained in the program, however, they could access and submit tips as “parents/caretakers” are part of the community.

**14. What is the turnaround time – from receipt of a tip to the district notification?**

Typically, a tip takes 1-3 minutes if all needed information is available to be sent to the School/District. If more information is needed in order to properly inform and act upon a tip, then the time will extend. As a rule, the minimum information needed is what is the event/concern, who is involved, what is their address/where are they located now. If this is available then tips move quickly.

**15. Regarding the FERPA, are Schools/Districts permitted to share student contact information (phone, address, etc.) with local law enforcement?**

Yes – in cases that involve the welfare and well-being of a student in crisis, contact information for a student may be shared with local law enforcement to allow them to respond and intervene.

**Crisis Center**

**16. How are tips triaged?**

Tips are triaged by Analysts in the Office of the Attorney General Crisis Center. They triage each tip to ensure there is enough information to act upon the tip, determine if the tip is life safety or non-life safety as well as conduct on-going 2-way dialog with the tipster where needed.

**17. If child abuse is alleged will the Crisis Center be required reporter to Child line alleviating school staff from also making that call?**

No – the Crisis Center is solely responsible for triaging and forwarding the tip to local school and law enforcement officials to review and take action against. Therefore the responsibility related to mandated reporters of child abuse will remain and continue to lie with school staff or local law enforcement as well.