Annual Report

2020 – 2021 School Year

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I.   Safe2Say Something Overview

In 2018, the General Assembly passed Act 44, which mandated the Office of Attorney General to establish the "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) anonymous reporting system and required every Pennsylvania school entity to participate in the program by January 14, 2019.

S2SS is a life-saving and life-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 OAG, in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a leader in anonymous reporting systems, has built out the app, website, and PA-based 24/7 Crisis Center. SHP is a national non-profit committed to creating safe schools and communities through their four evidenced-based Know the Signs intervention programs.

Students, educators and administrators have the opportunity to be trained 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.

OAG Crisis Center analysts are trained to vet and triage tips by: (1) conducting 2-way anonymous dialog with tipsters to gather missing information and ensure enough information is provided for schools and local law enforcement to act upon, (2) categorizing each tip as either "Life Safety" or "Non-Life Safety," for ease of prioritization by tip recipients, and (3) delivering the tip to the impacted school and, when needed, its local law enforcement via 911 county dispatch.

II.   Reporting Requirements

In accordance with Act 44 of 2018, Section 1307-D (a), the Safe2Say Something Program Annual Report is respectfully submitted to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the chairperson and the minority chairperson of the House and Senate Education Committees.

As required by law, the data included covers the previous school year, starting July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, related to the following:

- The number of reports received for the previous school year.
- The total number of reports received since the program began.
- A breakdown of reports by type.
- A breakdown of the method by which the report was received.
- A breakdown of the reports by Intermediate Unit, utilizing only aggregate data
- The total cost to operate the program, including staffing costs, administrative costs, and support costs.
- The total number of false reports received.
- Any other information the Attorney General deems appropriate.

III.   Findings for the 2020-2021 School Year, July 1, 2020 –June 30, 2021

1. Number of reports received, and total number of report received since the launch of the program (January 14, 2019).

Since the launch of the program, the tip line has received **56,709 tips**. This number excludes any false reports received, as well as any test tips to the system.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Safe2Say Something program received **10,495** tips. This number also excludes false report received, and any test tips.

2. Breakdown of reports by type.

The chart below represents a breakdown of reports by type and includes the top 10 categories of tips received by the Safe2Say Something Program since the launch. The top 3 categories are Bullying/Cyber Bullying, Suicide / Suicide Ideation, and Cutting / Self-Harm. The Safe2Say Something Program has 52 different event types to choose from on the mobile application as well as additional event types that only the Safe2Say Something Investigative Analysts can designate during triage.

TIP TOTALS 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021	
Event Types	**Total**
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	1459
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	1394
Cutting / Self-Harm	944
Drug Distribution / Possession	603
Depression / Anxiety	566
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	556
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	510
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	419
Harassment / Intimidation	390
False Report / Prank Tip	378

The remaining event types and total tip numbers are available upon request.

3. Breakdown of the method by which the report was received.

Reports can be received by the Safe2Say Something Program in 3 ways. A report can be submitted via theSafe2Say Something mobile application, which is available for download. Reports can also be submitted through the Safe2Say Something website, as well as calling the hotline and speaking to an investigative analyst directly. The chart below represents the breakdown of the method by which tips were submitted.

TIP SOURCE	TOTAL
Web Site	2,744
Mobile App	7,846
Phone Call	298

4. Breakdown of the reports by Intermediate Unit, utilizing only aggregate data.

The following is a breakdown of reports, grouped by Intermediate Units. This breakdown contains the tip numbers for all school districts registered with the Safe2Say Program, within their assigned Intermediate Unit, as required in Act 44. Also, for the purpose of streamlining and simplifying the data, Intermediate Unit's 2 and 3 were combined.

PA Intermediate Units	TOTAL TIP NUMBERS
Intermediate Unit 1	223
Pittsburgh - Mt. Oliver IU 2 / Allegheny IU 3	922
Midwestern IU 4	620
Northwest Tri-County IU 5	219
Riverview IU 6	92
Westmoreland IU 7	494
Appalachia IU 8	662
Seneca Highlands IU 9	195
Central IU 10	253
Tuscarora IU 11	134
Lincoln IU 12	479
Lancaster - Lebanon IU 13	629
Berks County IU 14	14
Capital Area IU 15	783
Central Susquehanna IU 16	252
Blast IU 17	283
Luzerne IU 18	178
Northeastern Educational IU 19	328
Colonial IU 20	612
Carbon - Lehigh IU 21	644
Bucks County IU 22	630
Montgomery County IU 23	808
Chester County IU 24	544
Delaware County IU 25	329
Philadelphia IU 26	120
Beaver Valley IU 27	99
ARIN IU 28	182
Schuylkill IU 29	152

*It is important to note that some tips received involved multiple schools creating duplicate tip statistics.

5. The total cost to operate the program, including staffing costs, administrative costs and support cost.

The following figure represents the **fiscal year** cost for operation of the crisis center, continuing education, and outreach for the program**: $1.66 Million.**

6. The total number of false reports received

The Office of Attorney General classifies false reports into 2 categories: tips immediately identified as being false, and those determined to be false based off of an investigation conducted by the school team or police. The number of false reports made to the system is less than 5% and is declining year-over-year.

During the 2020 – 2021 school year, the Safe2Say Something Program has received a total of 378 tips that were designated as false reports or prank tips.

There were a total of 265 tips that were immediately identified as prank tips by the crisis center analysts. These tips were delivered to the school account without sending a notification to the school team.

There were a total of 113 tips containing the disposition of "Deliberate Abuse of System" which are tips that contain seemly credible information yet proven untrue upon investigation; or the information was provided with the intention to harm or disrupt.

False tips submitted to Safe2Say present safety risks to students and drain program and law enforcement resources. While false tips are rare, it is critical to the success of the program to keep false tips rare. The Office of Attorney General (OAG) encourages District Attorneys to investigate and file charges in the event of a false tip as a deterrent, and the OAG is prepared to assist local District Attorneys in these investigations.

7. Total number of schools and students trained

Student training was offered this year through either self-led trainings, an in person trainer, or using an interactive video. A training model was created for students who were home schooling as well. These students could navigate the Safe2Say Training on their own. The number of students that received Safe2Say Something training during the 2020 – 2021 school year, totaled 391,061

IV.   COVID-19

During the 2020-2021 school year, schools were challenged with developing alternative models to their education programs, due to the presence of COVID-19. Many schools operated on a virtual model or a hybrid model, where students would only attend in-person classes for a few days a week. The guidelines that many schools were following, also did not allow for in person student trainings or assemblies.

The Safe2Say Something Program was able to adjust training models for the 2020-2021 school year. Schools were able to provide the students with a virtual Safe2Say Something Training. There were various models to this training, which included a self-guided training for students who learning through a completely virtual model.

The Safe2Say Something Crisis Center, like other services such as Pennsylvania's ChildLine, saw a reduction in the volume of tips received during the 2020-2021 school year. In the Spring of 2021, the Safe2Say Something Crisis Center did see an increase in volume as schools started opening for in person instruction. Many schools also held Safe2Say Training at this time.

In 2019-2020, during the regular school year, 17% of tips received were designated as Life Safety matters. After schools closed in March of 2020, 37% of the tips received were designated as Life Safety Matters.   From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, 21% of the tips received through Safe2Say were designated as life safety, with the top event type being suicide / suicide ideation.

V. Comparison from Previous Reports

In the previous school year (July 1, 2019 – June 2020), the Safe2Say Something Program received **23,745 tips**. During the 2020-2021 school year, (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), the Safe2Say Something Program received **10,494 tips**, which was a **decrease of 13,251 tips.**

The top 3 tip categories received were the same as the previous two school years, but also showed a change in the number. The following chart shows a comparison in the top 3 event types received by the program:

Event Types	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Bullying/Cyber Bullying	3,558	3,608	1,459
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2,184	2,576	1,394
Cutting / Self-Harm	2,529	2,139	944

VI. Conclusion and Recommendation

The Safe2Say Something Program, along with other National School Safety Tip lines, saw a reduction of tips during the 2020-2021 school year. Even with the reduced tip volume, national tip lines such as the Safe2Say Program are still being used by students and are needed now more than ever. It is apparent that students continue to struggle with mental health issues, as we have seen an increase in reports of related event types.

The Safe2Say Something Program has also seen a rise in reports related to domestic violence and child abuse during this school year. During the 2019-2020 school year 1.3% of tips received to the program were related to domestic violence and child abuse. During the 2020-2021 school year, event types related to domestic violence and child abuse did not decline proportionally and made up 2.3% of all tips received.

The majority of tips received by the Safe2Say Program are submitted by young adults struggling with bullying, anxiety and thoughts of self-harm, rather than direct violent threats to schools or classmates. The pressures that students face are interconnected, and the more our schools can address counseling and mental health needs, the safer and better off students will be. The numbers in this report show the reality of what our children are facing day to day, and the Attorney General urges the General Assembly to analyze this data and address the need for increased counseling and mental health resources for students across our Commonwealth.

Appendix A:

Breakdown of Top Ten Report Categories
By Intermediate Unit

This breakdown contains the tip numbers for all school districts registered with the Safe2Say Program, within their assigned Intermediate Unit, as required in Act 44.

Intermediate Unit 1

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/Cyber Bullying	32
Suicide/Suicide Ideation	23
Cutting/Self Harm	19
Hate Crime/Hate Speech/Discrimination	13
COVID-19 Information	12
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	12
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	8
Domestic Violence/Child Abuse	9
Depression/Anxiety	9
Drug Distribution/Possession	7

Pittsburgh-Mount Oliver Intermediate Unit 2 and Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	157
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	85
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	74
Drug Distribution/ Possession	68
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	51
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	50
Cutting/Self Harm	44
Harassment/Intimidation	36
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	31
Depression/Anxiety	29

Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	109
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	68
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	54
Cutting / Self-Harm	45
Drug Distribution/ Possession	34
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	32
Harassment/ Intimidation	23
General Student Concern	21
Sharing Inappropriate Photos/ Sexting	19
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	17

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	27
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	25
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	22
Drug Distribution/ Possession	19
Cutting/ Self Harm	16
Depression/ Anxiety	13
General Student Concern	10
Harassment / Intimidation	8
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	8
Sexual Assault/ Rape	7

Riverview Intermediate Unit 6

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	22
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	18
Cutting / Self-Harm	10
Drug Distribution/ Possession	5
Sexual Assault/ Rape	4
Harassment/ Intimidation	3
Depression/ Anxiety	3
Inappropriate Physical Contact	2

*There were no other event types selected

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	61
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	44
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	44
Cutting/ Self-Harm	40
Depression/ Anxiety	35
Drug Distribution/ Possession	31
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	19
Harassment/ Intimidation	17
COVID-19 Information	16
General Student Concern	15

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	98
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	86
Cutting/ Self-Harm	69
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	45
Drug Distribution/ Possession	35
Depression/ Anxiety	33
Harassment/ Intimidation	26
General Student Concern	22
Sharing Inappropriate Photos/ Sexting	21
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	14

Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9

Event Type	Totals
Cutting/ Self-Harm	29
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	29
Depression/ Anxiety	20
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	18
Harassment/ Intimidation	12
Drug Distribution/ Possession	7
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	6
Planned Attack/ Fight/ Assault	3
Sharing Inappropriate Photos/ Sexting	3
COVID-19 Information	3

Central Intermediate Unit 10

Event Type	Totals
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	44
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	31
Cutting/ Self-Harm	30
Depression/ Anxiety	20
General Student Concern	11
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	9
Concern About an Adult	6
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	6
Threat Against Person	5
Sharing Inappropriate Photos/ Sexting	5

Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11

Event Type	Totals
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	14
Cutting/ Self-Harm	14
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	14
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	9
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	9
Depression/ Anxiety	8
Threat Against Person	5
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	5
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	4
COVID-19 Information	3

Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12

Event Type	Totals
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	83
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	55
Cutting/ Self-Harm	44
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	25
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	25
Depression/ Anxiety	25
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	24
Drug Distribution/ Possession	23
COVID-19 Information	19
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	18

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	89
Suicide/ Suicide Ideation	77
Cutting/ Self-Harm	71
Depression/ Anxiety	32
Depression/ Anxiety	32
Harassment/ Intimidation	27
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	25
Drug Distribution/ Possession	24
COVID-19 Information	22
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	21

Berks County Intermediate Unit 14

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	53
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	30
Cutting/ Self-Harm	27
Depression / Anxiety	22
Drug Distribution/ Possession	12
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	10
Harassment/ Intimidation	10
Threat Against School	8
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	8
General Student Concern	8

Capital Area Intermediate Unit 15

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	119
Cutting/ Self-Harm	80
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	80
Drug Distribution/ Possession	39
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	37
Depression/ Anxiety	34
Harassment/ Intimidation	33
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	29
COVID-19 Information	25
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	24

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	43
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	37
Cutting/ Self-Harm	19
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	16
Drug Distribution/ Possession	11
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	10
Depression/ Anxiety	10
Harassment/ Intimidation	10
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	7
Concern About an Adult	7

BLaST Intermediate Unit 17

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	37
Cutting/ Self-Harm	33
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	30
Depression/ Anxiety	22
Drug Distribution/ Possession	18
General Student Concern	15
Harassment/ Intimidation	13
COVID-19 Information	12
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	9
Sexual Assault/ Rape	8

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	36
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	21
Cutting/ Self-Harm	13
Drug Distribution/ Possession	10
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	8
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	6
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	6
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	5
Harassment/ Intimidation	5
General Student Concern	5

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	45
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	43
Drug Distribution/ Possession	30
Cutting/ Self-Harm	25
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	16
Depression/ Anxiety	16
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	14
Sharing Inappropriate Photos/ Sexting	13
General Student Concern	13
Inappropriate Relationship	10

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	78
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	59
Cutting/ Self-Harm	58
Depression/ Anxiety	43
Drug Distribution/ Possession	29
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	28
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	17
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	16
General Student Concern	15
Harassment/ Intimidation	13

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	89
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	65
Cutting/ Self-Harm	58
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	28
Drug Distribution/ Possession	28
Depression/ Anxiety	30
Harassment/ Intimidation	25
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	18
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	15
Threat Against Person	13

Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	102
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	68
Drug Distribution/ Possession	53
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	50
Cutting/ Self-Harm	37
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	28
Depression/ Anxiety	24
General Student Concern	23
Harassment/ Intimidation	20
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	18

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	108
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	95
Cutting/ Self-Harm	63
Depression/ Anxiety	54
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	51
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	43
Drug Distribution/ Possession	38
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	36
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	28
Harassment/ Intimidation	28

Chester County Intermediate Unit 24

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	98
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	85
Cutting/ Self-Harm	39
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	34
Depression/ Anxiety	33
Drug Distribution/ Possession	31
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	25
Harassment/ Intimidation	24
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	21
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	17

Delaware County Intermediate Unit 25

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	55
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	42
Cutting/ Self-Harm	33
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	32
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	19
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	16
Drug Distribution/ Possession	15
Depression/ Anxiety	14
Harassment/ Intimidation	11
General Student Concern	9

Philadelphia Intermediate Unit 26

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	27
Cutting/ Self-Harm	11
Threat Against School	10
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	9
Depression/ Anxiety	8
Domestic Violence/ Child Abuse	5
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	4
General Student Concern	4
Verbal Abuse	3
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	3

Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 27

Event Type	Totals
Cutting/ Self-Harm	13
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	11
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	7
COVID-19 Information	7
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	6
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	6
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	5
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	5
Drug Distribution/ Possession	5
Depression/ Anxiety	5

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	21
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	21
Cutting/ Self-Harm	20
Drug Distribution/ Possession	12
Hate Crime/ Hate Speech/ Discrimination	11
Harassment/ Intimidation	11
Depression/ Anxiety	11
Inappropriate Language/ Behavior/ Gesture	7
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	5
General Student Concern	5

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Event Type	Totals
Bullying/ Cyber Bullying	24
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	21
Cutting/ Self-Harm	14
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	9
Harassment/ Intimidation	9
Drug Distribution/ Possession	9
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	7
Sharing Inapporpriate Photos/ Sexting	6
General Student Concern	5
Threat Against School	5