SAFE SAY SOMETHING

Annual Report

2022 – 2023 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023, 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 2022-2023 School Year, July 1, 2022 –June 30, 2023

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 **113,683 tips**. This number excludes any false reports received, as well as any test tips to the system.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Safe2Say Something program received **31,027** 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 three categories remain consistent with the previous year; Bullying/Cyber Bullying, Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School, and Suicide / Suicide Ideation. 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 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2023	
Event Types	**Total**
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	5100
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	2911
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2499
Drug Distribution / Possession	2464
Cutting / Self-Harm	2304
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	1472
Harassment / Intimidation	1447
Threat Against School	1216
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	848
Threat Against Person	838

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 the Safe2Say 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. The website submissions are further broken down between tips that are submitted via a PC and tips submitted using a mobile browser (i.e., cell phone or tablet).

TIP SOURCE	TOTAL
Mobile Web Browser	13,867
PC Web Browser	9,732
Mobile App	8,306
Phone Call	511

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	800
Pittsburgh - Mt. Oliver IU 2 / Allegheny IU 3	2483
Midwestern IU 4	1110
Northwest Tri-County IU 5	939
Riverview IU 6	356
Westmoreland IU 7	1598
Appalachia IU 8	1525
Seneca Highlands IU 9	320
Central IU 10	590
Tuscarora IU 11	273
Lincoln IU 12	1698
Lancaster - Lebanon IU 13	1579
Berks County IU 14	782
Capital Area IU 15	1794
Central Susquehanna IU 16	692
Blast IU 17	689
Luzerne IU 18	791
Northeastern Educational IU 19	765
Colonial IU 20	1796
Carbon - Lehigh IU 21	1822
Bucks County IU 22	1935
Montgomery County IU 23	2163
Chester County IU 24	1422
Delaware County IU 25	1257
Philadelphia IU 26	391
Beaver Valley IU 27	316
ARIN IU 28	699
Schuylkill IU 29	471

*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: **$1.92 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 on an investigation conducted by the school team or police. The number of false reports made to the system this year is at 4.2%.

During the 2022 – 2023 school year, the Safe2Say Something Program has received a total of 1,368 tips that were designated as false reports or prank tips.

There was a total of 787 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 was a total of 581 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. The number of students that received Safe2Say Something training during the 2022– 2023 school year, totaled 440,038.

IV.   Comparison from Previous Reports

In the previous school year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), the Safe2Say Something Program received **26,174 tips**. During the 2022-2023 school year, (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Safe2Say Something Program received **31,027 tips** which was a **15.6% increase**. The Safe2Say Something Program has received more tips this school year that any year prior. Life Safety Tips this year were 15% of all tips received, which is consistent with last school year.

Event Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	% Change
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	4062	5100	+26%
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	2100	2911	+39%
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2071	2499	+21%
Drug Distribution / Possession	1638	2464	+50%
Cutting / Self-Harm	1839	2304	+25%
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	1235	1472	+19%
Harassment / Intimidation	1145	1447	+26%
Threat Against School	1633	1216	-26%
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	684	848	+24%
Threat Against Person	592	838	+42%

V.   Conclusion and Recommendation

In the last school year, Safe2Say Something has seen an increase in tips received by double digits in all but one category.   Tips related to physical and mental wellbeing of students have increased over 20% across the board.

This data shows that students continue to face significant mental health concerns. The program saw a 26% increase this year in tips related to Bullying and Cyber Bullying. The program also saw a significant increase in tips submitted to the program regarding Hate Crime/ Hate Speech / Discrimination. This event type saw a 24% increase as compared to the previous school year.

Although the aggregate data reveals a 6% decrease in overall threats of violence, threats against person increased by 42%. There were 37 weapons recovered as a result of tips received to the Safe2Say Something Program this school year.   Since the inception of the program, 89 weapons have been recovered from schools as a result of Safe2Say Tips.

The mental health of our Commonwealth's children is one of the most pressing issues facing our communities. We encourage the General Assembly to analyze the data and take steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children, including increased availability of mental health services in schools and taking steps to educate and regulate the use of social media by parents. The bullying and threats described in this report are often accomplished by social media. The ability of this behavior to impact students well beyond the end of the school day is significant. Reducing the ability for students to use and sometimes abuse social media will be an important step in creating safe space for children in and out of the classroom.

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	165
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	93
Drug Distribution / Possession	67
Cutting / Self-Harm	60
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	47
Harassment / Intimidation	38
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	33
General Student Concern	19
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	18
Threat Against Person	18

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

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	430
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	199
Drug Distribution / Possession	191
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	163
Cutting / Self-Harm	160
Harassment / Intimidation	116
Threat Against School	112
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	112
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	85
Threat Against Person	81

Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	209
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	169
Cutting / Self-Harm	101
Drug Distribution / Possession	86
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	71
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	60
Harassment / Intimidation	43
Threat Against School	25
General Student Concern	21
Threat Against Person	20

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	152
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	137
Drug Distribution / Possession	107
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	86
Cutting / Self-Harm	64
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	40
Harassment / Intimidation	35
Threat Against Person	23
Concern About an Adult	21
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	18

Riverview Intermediate Unit 6

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	59
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	49
Cutting / Self-Harm	43
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	32
Drug Distribution / Possession	24
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	15
Harassment / Intimidation	11
Threat Against Person	10
General Student Concern	9
Verbal Abuse	7

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	264
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	239
Drug Distribution / Possession	167
Cutting / Self-Harm	118
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	109
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	83
Harassment / Intimidation	60
Threat Against School	51
Threat Against Person	50
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	46

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	230
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	195
Cutting / Self-Harm	147
Drug Distribution / Possession	111
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	97
Threat Against School	71
Harassment / Intimidation	68
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	65
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	39
General Student Concern	36

Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	57
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	38
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	35
Cutting / Self-Harm	35
Harassment / Intimidation	17
Drug Distribution / Possession	17
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	11
Depression / Anxiety	8
Threat Against Person	7
Domestic Violence / Child abuse	6

Central Intermediate Unit 10

Event Type	Totals
Cutting / Self-Harm	73
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	71
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	65
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	31
Drug Distribution / Possession	30
Harassment / Intimidation	27
Depression / Anxiety	21
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	19
General Student Concern	15
Threat Against Person	12

Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	69
Cutting / Self-Harm	25
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	24
Drug Distribution / Possession	22
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	18
Harassment / Intimidation	15
General Student Concern	9
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	8
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	7
Threat Against School	5

Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	276
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	180
Cutting / Self-Harm	156
Drug Distribution / Possession	131
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	131
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	88
Harassment / Intimidation	72
Threat Against School	57
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	36
Depression / Anxiety	36

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	245
Cutting / Self-Harm	147
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	140
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	105
Drug Distribution / Possession	99
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	87
Harassment / Intimidation	84
Threat Against School	49
Threat Against Person	41
General Student Concern	36

Berks County Intermediate Unit 14

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	95
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	83
Drug Distribution / Possession	77
Cutting / Self-Harm	55
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	49
Harassment / Intimidation	48
Threat Against School	38
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	29
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	27
Threat Against Person	24

Capital Area Intermediate Unit 15

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	283
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	142
Drug Distribution / Possession	104
Cutting / Self-Harm	103
Threat Against School	101
Harassment / Intimidation	98
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	96
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	69
Threat Against Person	64
Concern About an Adult	50

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	103
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	82
Cutting / Self-Harm	67
Drug Distribution / Possession	53
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	44
Threat Against School	33
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	24
Harassment / Intimidation	22
Threat Against Person	21
Domestic Violence / Child abuse	21

BLaST Intermediate Unit 17

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	110
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	74
Drug Distribution / Possession	62
Cutting / Self-Harm	50
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	62
Harassment / Intimidation	40
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	27
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	27
Domestic Violence / Child abuse	15
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	14

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	154
Cutting / Self-Harm	76
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	64
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	60
Harassment / Intimidation	40
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	38
Drug Distribution / Possession	37
Threat Against School	32
Depression / Anxiety	28
Concern About an Adult	28

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	152
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	63
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	59
Cutting / Self-Harm	57
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	44
Harassment / Intimidation	41
Drug Distribution / Possession	39
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	30
Threat Against Person	22
General School Complaint	18

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	222
Drug Distribution / Possession	204
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	180
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	155
Cutting / Self-Harm	118
Threat Against School	117
Harassment / Intimidation	90
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	81
Depression / Anxiety	32
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	30

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	261
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	251
Drug Distribution / Possession	177
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	156
Cutting / Self-Harm	146
Harassment / Intimidation	74
Threat Against School	71
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	70
General Student Concern	63
Threat Against Person	49

Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	345
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	164
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	159
Drug Distribution / Possession	159
Cutting / Self-Harm	124
Threat Against School	116
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	98
Harassment / Intimidation	76
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	67
Depression / Anxiety	60

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	449
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	208
Drug Distribution / Possession	139
Cutting / Self-Harm	131
Harassment / Intimidation	113
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	107
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	95
Threat Against School	87
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	68
Threat Against Person	65

Chester County Intermediate Unit 24

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	222
Drug Distribution / Possession	143
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	133
Cutting / Self-Harm	91
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	88
Threat Against School	71
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	71
Harassment / Intimidation	61
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	45
Depression / Anxiety	44

Delaware County Intermediate Unit 25

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	246
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	124
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	89
Drug Distribution / Possession	74
Cutting / Self-Harm	72
Harassment / Intimidation	69
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	59
Threat Against School	51
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	51
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	38

Philadelphia Intermediate Unit 26

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	85
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	36
Cutting / Self-Harm	32
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	25
Threat Against School	19
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	18
Harassment / Intimidation	18
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	16
General Student Concern	16
Concern About an Adult	16

Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 27

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	42
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	40
Cutting / Self-Harm	37
Drug Distribution / Possession	21
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	16
Harassment / Intimidation	16
Domestic Violence / Child abuse	15
Threat Against School	14
Depression / Anxiety	14
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	13

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	122
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	100
Drug Distribution / Possession	49
Cutting / Self-Harm	46
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	39
Harassment / Intimidation	39
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	33
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	26
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	24
General Student Concern	13

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	80
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	73
Drug Distribution / Possession	59
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	44
Cutting / Self-Harm	40
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	18
Harassment / Intimidation	17
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	16
General Student Concern	12
Depression / Anxiety	12