SAFE2SAY™

SOMETHING
ANNUAL REPORT
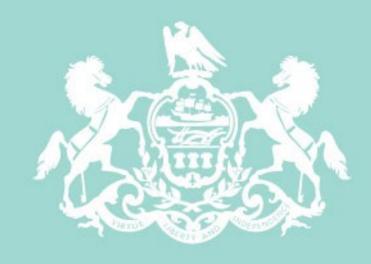
2023 — 2024 School Year

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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 2023-2024 School Year, July 1, 2023 –June 30, 2024

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 **146,513 tips**. This number excludes any false reports received, as well as any test tips to the system.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Safe2Say Something program received **32,873** 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 Program in the 2023-2024 school year. The Safe2Say Something Program has 34 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.

It is important to note that during the 2023-2024 school year, the Safe2Say Program has removed Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School as an event type, however, this did not prevent students from submitting tips on smoking or vaping utilizing another event type. The Safe2Say Program will still categorize these tips appropriately and send them to the school team. Investigative Analysts send responses to tipsters and provide available resources for students who are having issues with smoking or vaping. We will continue to educate students to directly reach out to a trusted adult for and concerns related to smoking or vaping use in schools.

| TIP TOTALS 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024 ||
Event Types	Total
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	6392
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	2712
Drug Distribution / Possession	2537
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2424
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	2191
Cutting / Self-Harm	2038
Threat Against Person	1373
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	1208
Threat Against School	1111
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	975

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 4 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. This year, a new method has been added, allowing reports to be submitted via text message.

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
Phone Call	545
Mobile App	7482
Mobile Web Browser	15912
PC Web Browser	10310
Text	1

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	917
Pittsburgh - Mt. Oliver IU 2 / Allegheny IU 3	2486
Midwestern IU 4	1052
Northwest Tri-County IU 5	1037
Riverview IU 6	407
Westmoreland IU 7	1865
Appalachia IU 8	1754
Seneca Highlands IU 9	275
Central IU 10	681
Tuscarora IU 11	380
Lincoln IU 12	2159
Lancaster - Lebanon IU 13	1853
Berks County IU 14	898
Capital Area IU 15	1773
Central Susquehanna IU 16	742
Blast IU 17	794
Luzerne IU 18	752
Northeastern Educational IU 19	786
Colonial IU 20	2327
Carbon - Lehigh IU 21	2032
Bucks County IU 22	1886
Montgomery County IU 23	2193
Chester County IU 24	1582
Delaware County IU 25	1068
Philadelphia IU 26	433
Beaver Valley IU 27	389
ARIN IU 28	524
Schuylkill IU 29	404

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: **$2.0 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 an investigation conducted by the school team or police. The number of false reports made to the system this year is at 4%.

During the 2023 – 2024 school year, the Safe2Say Something Program has received a total of 1,361 tips that were designated as false reports or prank tips.

There was a total of 747 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 614 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 2023– 2024 school year totaled 564,392.

IV.   Comparison from Previous Reports

In the previous school year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Safe2Say Something Program received **31,027** tips. During the 2023-2024 school year, (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), the Safe2Say Something Program received 32,873 tips, which was a 6% increase. The Safe2Say Something Program has received more tips this school year that any year prior. This year, Life Safety Tips accounted for 12% of all tips received, marking a slight decline from the previous school year.

Event Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	% Change
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	5100	6392	+25%
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	2911	2712	-7%
Drug Distribution / Possession	2464	2537	+3%
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2499	2424	-3%
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	1472	2191	+49%
Cutting / Self-Harm	2304	2038	-12%
Threat Against Person	838	1373	+64%
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	796	1208	+52%
Threat Against School	1216	1111	-9%
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	848	975	+15%

2023-2024 Top 10 Event Types shown. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

V.   Conclusion and Recommendation

The Safe2Say Something Program tip line has again seen an increase in tips received to the program during the 2023-2024 school year. This data shows that students continue to face significant mental health concerns as well as issues with substance abuse.

The data reveals several significant increases in Safe2Say Something reports. Reports of "Threat Against Person" saw the highest increase, rising by 64%, indicating a concerning escalation in personal safety threats. This school year, 35 weapons were recovered as a result of tips received to the Safe2Say Something Program, bringing the total number of weapons recovered to 123 since the program's launch.

Incidents of Inappropriate Language, Behavior, or Gestures increased by 49%, suggesting either a shift in social behavior or increased vigilance and reporting. Additionally, reports of Bullying and Cyber Bullying increased by 25%, likely influenced by the widespread use of social media, which has amplified opportunities for cyberbullying and made it more challenging to control. The significant impact of this behavior on students, extending well beyond the school day, emphasizes the need for measures to reduce students' ability to use and sometimes abuse social media. We encourage the General Assembly to continue examining the impact of social media on the Commonwealth's children and exploring possible solutions. Creating a safe space for children, both in and out of the classroom, remains a critical priority.

In the 2024-25 Budget, the General Assembly took the necessary step to appropriate funds for increased mental health services in schools. As in previous years, we encourage the General Assembly to analyze the data and take steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children. We also encourage to increase education on substance abuse and provide students and their families any available resources for assistance. The Safe2Say Something Program will continue to partner with our school districts to ensure additional student trainings are taking place.

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	213
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	129
Drug Distribution / Possession	87
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	67
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	48
Cutting / Self-Harm	45
Threat Against Person	43
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	42
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	22
General Student Concern	20

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

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	553
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	190
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	188
Drug Distribution / Possession	152
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	142
Cutting / Self-Harm	127
Threat Against Person	122
Threat Against School	120
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	85
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	82

Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	251
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	109
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	83
Drug Distribution / Possession	73
Cutting / Self-Harm	68
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	59
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	42
Threat Against Person	41
General Student Concern	33
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	31

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	174
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	172
Drug Distribution / Possession	91
Cutting / Self-Harm	82
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	71
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	70
Threat Against Person	34
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	29
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	28
General School Complaint	22

Riverview Intermediate Unit 6

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	69
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	41
Drug Distribution / Possession	41
Cutting / Self-Harm	34
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	32
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	22
Threat Against Person	22
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	20
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	17
Inappropriate Relationship	14

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	357
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	267
Drug Distribution / Possession	237
Cutting / Self-Harm	110
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	109
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	109
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	65
Threat Against Person	63
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	49
Threat Against School	48

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	367
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	155
Cutting / Self-Harm	147
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	123
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	119
Drug Distribution / Possession	112
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	82
Threat Against Person	73
General Student Concern	56
Threat Against School	45

Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	42
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	36
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	22
Drug Distribution / Possession	21
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	17
Cutting / Self-Harm	16
Inappropriate Relationship	12
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	12
General Student Concern	10
Threat Against Person	9

Central Intermediate Unit 10

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	121
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	92
Drug Distribution / Possession	54
Cutting / Self-Harm	51
Threat Against Person	50
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	33
Threat Against School	23
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	22
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	22
Disorderly / Dangerous Conduct	14

Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	73
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	38
Cutting / Self-Harm	36
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	31
Drug Distribution / Possession	22
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	20
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	16
Threat Against Person	14
Domestic Violence / Child abuse (Verbal or Physical)	14
Threat Against School	7

Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	362
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	182
Cutting / Self-Harm	180
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	176
Drug Distribution / Possession	173
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	158
Threat Against School	92
Threat Against Person	87
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	66
Inappropriate Physical Contact	57

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	336
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	169
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	134
Threat Against School	131
Cutting / Self-Harm	124
Drug Distribution / Possession	105
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	97
Threat Against Person	90
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	77
General Student Concern	58

Berks County Intermediate Unit 14

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	142
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	106
Drug Distribution / Possession	79
Cutting / Self-Harm	72
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	71
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	47
Threat Against Person	39
Threat Against School	37
General Student Concern	32
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	29

Capital Area Intermediate Unit 15

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	390
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	151
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	114
Cutting / Self-Harm	112
Drug Distribution / Possession	102
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	79
Threat Against Person	78
Threat Against School	67
Depression / Anxiety	50
General Student Concern	47

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	139
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	72
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	60
Drug Distribution / Possession	52
Cutting / Self-Harm	49
Threat Against Person	41
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	36
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	25
Domestic Violence / Child abuse (Verbal or Physical)	23
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	18

BLaST Intermediate Unit 17

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	195
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	66
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	64
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	57
Cutting / Self-Harm	45
Drug Distribution / Possession	43
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	34
Threat Against Person	30
General Student Concern	25
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	23

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	152
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	69
Cutting / Self-Harm	67
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	51
Threat Against Person	38
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	36
Threat Against School	31
Drug Distribution / Possession	30
Depression / Anxiety	25
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	20

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	179
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	57
Drug Distribution / Possession	56
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	52
Cutting / Self-Harm	51
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	47
General School Complaint	44
Threat Against School	34
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	29
Threat Against Person	28

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	321
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	202
Drug Distribution / Possession	177
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	132
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	129
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	110
Cutting / Self-Harm	96
Threat Against Person	80
Threat Against School	71
General Student Concern	65

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	302
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	166
Drug Distribution / Possession	143
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	138
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	101
Cutting / Self-Harm	96
Threat Against Person	76
Threat Against School	76
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	61
Depression / Anxiety	44

Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	370
Drug Distribution / Possession	176
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	138
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	118
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	106
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	106
Cutting / Self-Harm	103
Threat Against Person	81
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	72
General Student Concern	63

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	455
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	175
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	164
Drug Distribution / Possession	149
Threat Against Person	100
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	96
Cutting / Self-Harm	96
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	88
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	81
Threat Against School	77

Chester County Intermediate Unit 24

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	269
Drug Distribution / Possession	177
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	144
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	116
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	111
Cutting / Self-Harm	102
Threat Against Person	75
Threat Against School	55
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	54
Depression / Anxiety	47

Delaware County Intermediate Unit 25

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	257
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	76
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	73
Cutting / Self-Harm	69
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	60
Drug Distribution / Possession	59
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	44
General School Complaint	44
Depression / Anxiety	38
General Student Concern	36

Philadelphia Intermediate Unit 26

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	88
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	35
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	34
Drug Distribution / Possession	31
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	23
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	21
Cutting / Self-Harm	17
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	16
Threat Against School	14
Depression / Anxiety	14

Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 27

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	64
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	39
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	34
Cutting / Self-Harm	31
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	25
Drug Distribution / Possession	23
Threat Against Person	19
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	17
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	16
General Student Concern	16

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	94
Cutting / Self-Harm	45
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	43
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	41
Drug Distribution / Possession	39
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	27
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	25
Threat Against Person	21
Sharing Inappropriate Photos / Sexting	16
General Student Concern	14

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	87
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	38
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	34
Drug Distribution / Possession	32
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	31
Cutting / Self-Harm	25
Substance Abuse (Alcohol, Drugs)	19
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	14
Threat Against Person	13
Disorderly / Dangerous Conduct	11