



**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION: SAFE 2 SAY SOMETHING IMPLEMENTATION AT STEEL CENTER TECH**

January 9, 2019

Dear Steel Center Families:

As a school system, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our students, educators and administrators.

To do this, we believe this must involve community-wide programs and initiatives involving parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, mental health & wellness professionals and elected officials to take meaningful action to protect our students.

**Today, I am happy to announce the launch of the “Safe2Say Something” (S2SS) anonymous reporting system.** This program, which is mandated under PA state law / Act 44, teaches students, teachers, and administrators 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* to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system. Specifically, the program educates participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media
- Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR
- Report it anonymously through the S2SS Office of the Attorney General 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via a school-based multi-disciplinary educator and administrator teams
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities and call-to-action weeks

Our students often are aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to know the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations are taking place on social media, therefore it is critical that we teach our students to be looking out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place. S2SS teaches them what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

**Please review the full brochure outlining the S2SS program, which accompanies this letter. Over the course of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, students will learn about S2SS in their respective CTE programs and the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester class meetings.**

The SS-ARS program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP’s programs are in 50 states – with 10,000+ schools and over 5.5 million students and adults trained. They have a track record, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and culture. The program is age-appropriate and research-based. They also have funding to provide and sustain the program at NO COST to our school (and all schools statewide).

We anticipate that S2SS will help stop school shootings, suicides, and gun threats; it will help reduce bullying and cyberbullying; help intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other violent and victimization acts.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me directly.

Yours in Education,

*Robin White*

Robin White  
Assistant Director: Principal  
School Safety Coordinator

**SAFE SAY™**



**SOMETHING**

# SAFE SAY SOMETHING

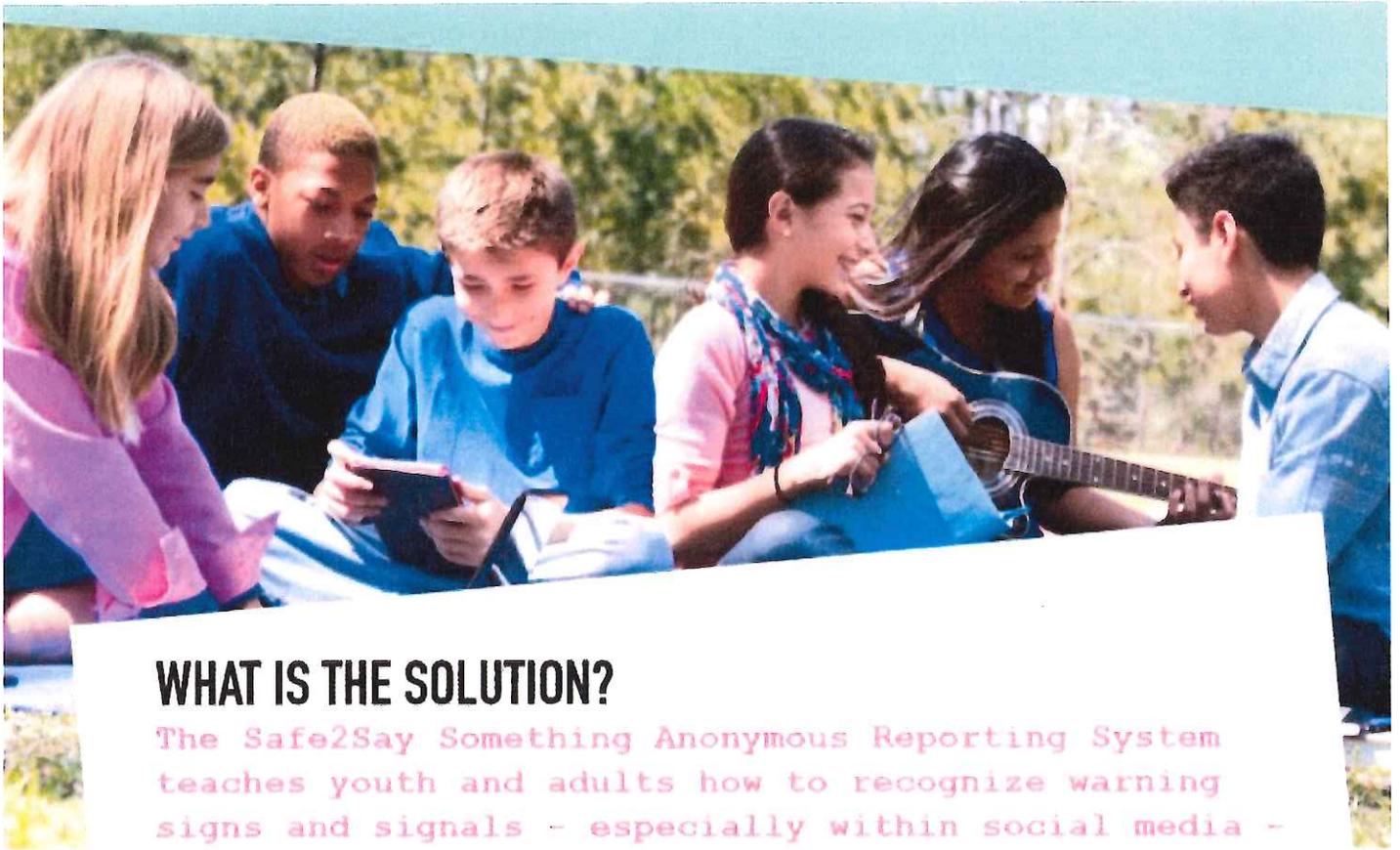


## What is the problem?

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

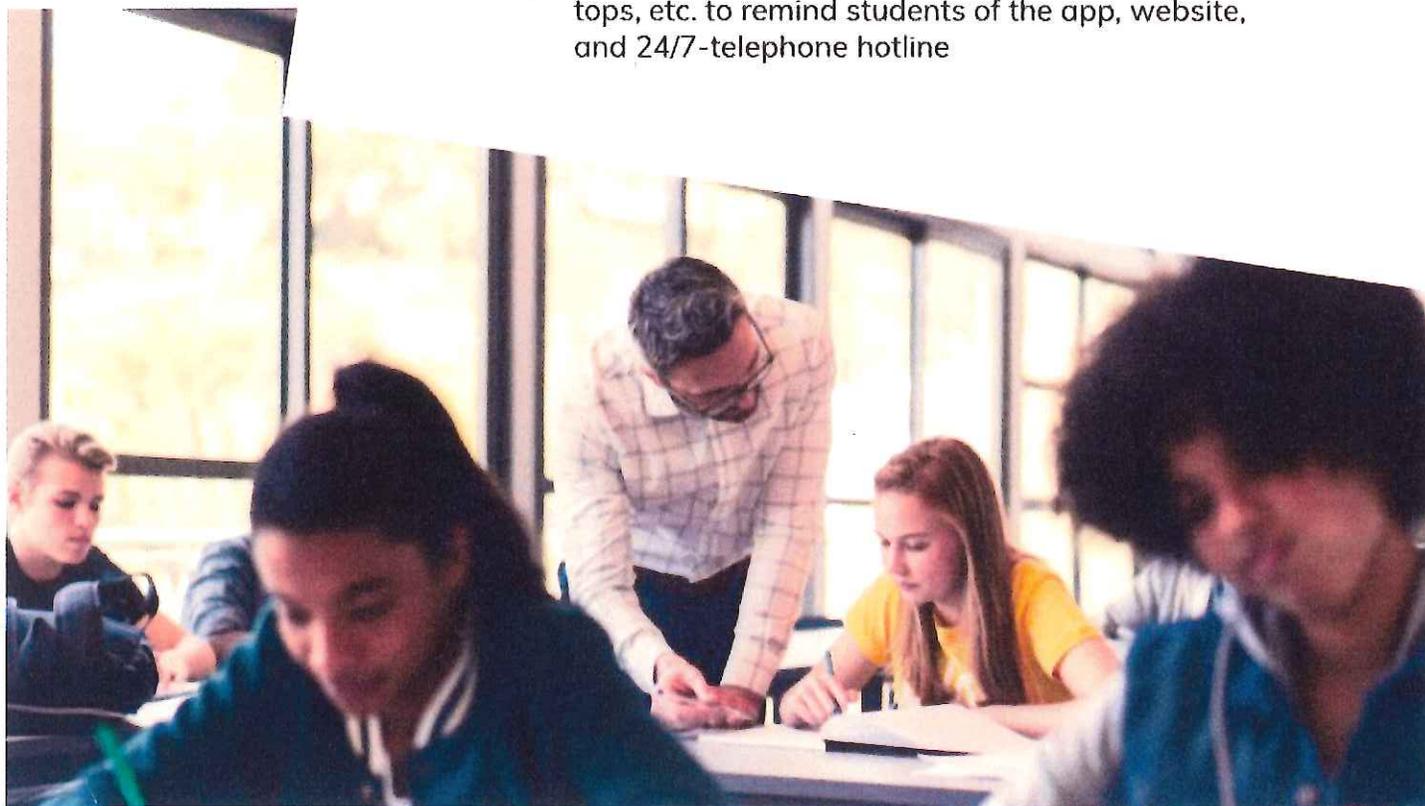
**17.3%**

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.