SAFE✌SAY SOMETHING™

Frequently Asked Questions

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.

How does S2SS work?

1. **Will there be a response form sent with initial contact to district or will we have to make first contact back to crisis center after we are alerted?**
   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.

2. **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.

3. **Are your app developers working on a way to make alerts bypass vibrate or do not disturb settings on mobile phones?**
   Currently this is not a feature of the App, however, we will be showing you how to use your phone to bypass do not disturb functions in order for you to be alerted of text, email and phone calls.

4. **You keep referring to phone and PC - 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. **What if a tipster is in a Non-District/Charter (or Virtual School) with information about a student in an SD (or vice Versa) are both location- based SD and Charter informed?**
   No – only the impacted School / District will be notified. Anyone submitting a tip using the S2SS platform is anonymous, therefore, we will not be able to determine if the tipster is submitting from inside or outside their School / District.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. **Does the closeout with S2SS need to be done by one of the 3-5 users or can anyone from the school who works on the resolution of the situation complete the closeout process?**
    Closeout must be completed by someone from the 3-5 member team because they are authorized to access and use the S2SS platform.

9. **If the 3-5 team members are in different locations - is there a part of the notification process that indicates that one of the members has responded to S2SS or do we have to call one another?**
    Yes – there is an audit function where you can go to view who has read and responded to a submitted tip.

10. **If we have an Alternative School in our system, with already identified at risk students, should we also roll this out to these students?**
    Yes – the program is mandated for all schools … K-12 regardless of being an Alternative School or other school type.

11. **Is there a way for schools to get more information from a report? Meaning if a report comes in and we need more information is there a way to communicate with the original reporter to get more information?**
    Yes – Schools / Districts have the ability to have 2-way anonymous dialog with a tipster at any time. This information, depending on the tipsters availability to answer, can be instant. This information is also shared instantly across the platform so your teammates can see the information the same time as you – keeping all well-informed.

12. **Do we need to run tips provided through our own system through the Safe2Say Something system?**
    This is not a requirement. It is up to the School / District.

13. **What other states have implemented this program as we are interested in reaching out to any contacts you can provide?**
    Nevada, Oregon and Colorado have implemented similar programs utilizing the same software. We have an extensive list of School Districts as well for your reference. Please keep in mind that each state and district may setup and use the system differently from how the Office of the Attorney General and PA State Policy mandated.

Existing Anonymous Reporting System

1. **Our District currently has a TIPS line. Would this replace our current system? It seems to us that one reporting system would be best and help avoid confusion.**
    All schools and school entities are required by law to participate in the Safe2Say Something program. We understand that some schools and/or districts are already utilizing a tip line program. It is up to the

individual school and/or district to determine whether or not they want to continue using what they have in addition to providing a contact and participating in the Safe2Say Something program.

False Reporting and Breaking Anonymity

1. **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, Staff and Parent Training

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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 school students and the adults around them will be trained in the S2SS program.

5. **If we wanted to train all staff on January 18 could we roll out with students on January 22 with students?**
   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.

6. **What date should we have the student training on? By and after January 14?**
   Additional information will be coming out regarding the coordination of student training by Sandy Hook Promise in the near future.

7. **If it is a life/crisis situation, why wouldn't the crisis individual just call 911?**
   Not all individuals are comfortable calling 911 (or talking to a trusted adult). As a result, an alternative platform, like S2SS, is needed.

Community Training

1. **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. Additionally, other community members may submit tips, although the number will be very low as this is a school-driven program.

School / District 3-5 Member Teams

1. **When will you be releasing the regional training schedule?**
   The regional training schedule will be released within 14 days of when you participated in the School / District Kickoff Webinar.

2. **Will there be information sent as to setting up training dates and where to send contact information?**
   Training dates, locations and times will be sent 14 days from the date you attended the School / District kickoff Webinar. Contact information will be collected approximately 14-21 days from the School / District kickoff Webinar. You will receive an email providing training information and requesting contact information.

3. **Will there be a training at the Safe Schools conference in Hershey on November 8-9?**
   No – this session is already scheduled and agenda complete. There is no time for training, however, there will be a presentation on the program to reinforce its presence and anticipated impact in the state of PA.

4. **What happens in the summer?**
   There is a significant drop-off of tips, however, you will receive submissions that will need to be acted upon …. Primarily life safety, but again the number of submissions is very low.

5. **What level of training should a school team member have to handle the life safety tips? Should our SRO be a team member?**
   All School / District Teams will be trained on how to receive and review tips. S2SS recommends that members of your current school safety / discipline team be assigned this program – including Principals, Assistant Principals, Counselors, Social Workers, and/or School Resource Officers (SRO). All should have 24/7 access to your School / District Student Directory to be able to provide a student address to police (as needed) for life safety issues.

6. **When a safety tip comes in that is life threatening do all team members get contacted 24/7 or just the lead? Can we designate certain people be contacted based on grade level?**

   All tips will be sent to the 3-5 team members – this includes both life safety and non-life safety tips. The life safety tips will be sent 24/7 and non-life safety tips will be sent between 6am – 6pm daily. At this time, we are suggesting that all members receive tips as you get used to the system. Post initial use, S2SS District Leads can designate people to receive either both life safety and non-life safety tips OR just life safety tips. We STRONGLY encourage you to have at least 3 team members receiving tips to ensure tips are received and acted upon.

7. **Is the S2SS School / District Lead part of the 3-5 crisis team?**

   We recommend yes, but it is optional. If you decide not to be the lead for the team, then you will need to assign a lead post-launch, so the Office of the Attorney General has an ongoing contact to communicate with.

8. **Can you have more than 5 individuals?**

   We recommend only 5 members per team in order to ensure seamless management of tips – more than 5 members can begin to be confusing with "too many" responses and coordinated responsibilities to manage. That said, the decision rests with the School / District.

9. **Are these 3-5 member teams per school or per school district? Would that include all Catholic private school?**

   The 3-5 member teams are per district. They will represent and manage all tips for all schools within a district. All public, charter, and private schools are required to participate in and will be supported by this state-mandated program.

10. **What is the process to change team members? Maybe we have a school psych on the team, but they don't work during the Summer. Can we change the team member for the summer?**

    The S2SS School / District Lead will be the administrator for her/his team. In this role, they will be able to make additions/deletions/changes to any team member.

11. **Do we select which of the options (call, text, email) we receive? Or can we choose to receive any mix or match of them?**

    Additional information about this will be provided soon.

12. **Can a school have 2 lead contacts?**

    Yes – we suggest distinct and defined roles and responsibilities to ensure there is no team, dispatch/police, and/or interaction with the OAG confusion.