



**South Butler County
School District**

Educational Vision
one student at a time

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January 15, 2019

South Butler County School District Families,

The purpose of this communication is to introduce the Safe2Say Something Program. In accordance with Act 44 of 2018, the Attorney General's Safe2Say Something Program has been launched throughout the state of Pennsylvania and will further support the safety of each student and staff member within the South Butler County School District.

Safe2Say Something is a school safety program that teaches students, educators and administrators how to (1) recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others and (2) anonymously report this information through the Safe2Say Something app, website or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline.

In order for this program to be effective within the South Butler County Schools, administrators and the South Butler School Police will be training all students in grades 6-12 during the week of January 21st. Training will include a video and dialogue with the School Police and administration focused upon the key components of the app/website/Crisis Center system and the importance of reporting issues of concern.

To better understand the program and how it may provide additional safety throughout the South Butler Campus, please see the Safe2Say Something Program Overview. Additional information will be shared once students have been thoroughly trained on how to utilize the Safe2Say Something Program.

Respectfully,

David Foley, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Program Overview

In 2018, the General Assembly passed Act 44 mandating the establishment and use of the “*Safe2Say Something*” (S2SS) *Anonymous Reporting System* by every Pennsylvania school entity by Jan. 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 following provides an overview of how the program works and will be implemented in schools:

- S2SS works through five easy steps:
 1. A tip is submitted via mobile app, website or by calling the PA-based 24/7 Crisis Center.
 2. The tip is then triaged by the crisis center to gather enough information to act on it.
 3. The tip is then delivered to the impacted school and, as needed, local law enforcement.
 4. The school and, as needed, local law enforcement assess and intervene with the at-risk individual.
 5. The school then closes out the tip and reports actions taken as a record for their school.
- The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has established S2SS and will manage and maintain the program. The OAG, in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise – a leader in anonymous reporting systems – is building out the app, website and PA-based 24/7 Crisis Center platform.
- PA Crisis Center analysts are being trained to receive and triage tips to: (1) ensure there is enough information to act upon, (2) conduct two-way anonymous dialogue with tipsters to gather missing information, (3) categorize the tip into “life safety” or non-“life safety” for ease of prioritization by recipients and (4) deliver the tip to the impacted school and, where needed, its local law enforcement.
- The S2SS platform allows the official users (Crisis Center analysts, school entities and local law enforcement) to view and act against tips using their PC or mobile device. Additionally, the platform allows for real-time, two-way dialogue with a tipster and the viewing and sharing of attachments (such as screen shots and videos) that a tipster has submitted. The platform permits communication between the official users on each tip, allowing for up-to-the-second information sharing and action that all see and read at the same time.
- A district, charter school, cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic school, intermediary unit and/or area vocational-technical school will form a team of 3-5 members to receive, view and act upon the tip. These members will be alerted via phone call, email and text for life safety tips and email and text for non-life safety tips. These 3-5 member teams will be trained to view and act on tips using the above online platform. Training takes two hours and is delivered by external experts.
- A district, charter school, cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic school, intermediary unit and/or area vocational-technical school must have a S2SS Lead to coordinate the establishment and training of a 3-5 member team who will have the responsibility to receive and act upon tips. Additionally, the team will help maintain and sustain S2SS long-term in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise local coordinators who will in-turn support the efforts of the S2SS Lead.

- County-based 911 dispatches will, as needed, receive life safety tips from the Crisis Center via phone call. Like the 3-5 member school team outlined above, the dispatchers will use the platform to view and act upon the tip, conduct two-way dialogue with a tipster and, as needed, communicate with the school team. Training takes two hours and is delivered by external experts.
- Once a tip has been acted against, the 3-5 member school team will then close out the tip and briefly describe the actions taken. Districts, charter schools, cyber charter schools, private schools, nonpublic schools, intermediary units and/or area vocational-technical schools can then run reports to analyze the types, times, etc. of tips received, and, over time, view trends to demonstrate where change is taking place or is needed.
- Students, educators and administrators will 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. Training takes one hour and will be made available via an interactive training video, the downloading of materials to self-lead and/or direct S2SS-certified trainers.
- *Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System* will be sustained via support by Sandy Hook Promise's School Outreach Coordinator, in-school awareness materials (at no cost), annual training of new incoming classes and educators/administrators and, critically, establishment of in-school student clubs (existing or new clubs) to empower students to create sustained change.
- S2SS is mandated to launch Jan. 14, 2019 – therefore, trainings for schools and dispatches will take place in October, November and December, followed by a statewide test to ensure all are ready to go LIVE. Finally, students will be trained (starting Jan. 14) given that “once you train, you are live and students will start submitting tips.”
- As reference – The OAG has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) to rollout the S2SS program. SHP is a national non-profit committed to creating safe schools and communities through their four evidenced-based *Know the Signs* intervention programs. To date, SHP has delivered its programs to 7,000+ schools and trained 3.5 million youth and adults in every state, resulting in countless suicide, school shooting and firearm threat interventions and countless interventions on bullying, drug use and other acts of violence and victimization interventions.