



Annual Report
2019 – 2020 School Year



Josh Shapiro
Attorney General

Table of Contents

- I. Safe2Say Something Overview**
- II. Reporting Requirements**
- III. Report Findings for 2019-2020 School Year**
 - 1. Number of tips received, and total number of tips received since the launch of the program**
 - 2. Breakdown of tips by event type**
 - 3. Breakdown of the method by which reports were received**
 - 4. Breakdown of the tips by Intermediate Unit**
 - 5. The total cost to operate the program, including staffing costs, administrative costs and support cost.**
 - 6. The total number of false tips received**
 - 7. The total number of schools and students trained**
- IV. Comparison from Previous Report and the Impact of COVID19**
- V. Conclusion and Recommendation**
- VI. Appendix A: Breakdown of top ten report categories by Intermediate Unit**



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, 2019 through June 30, 2020, related to the following:

1. The number of reports received for the previous school year.
2. The total number of reports received since the program began.
3. A breakdown of reports by type.
4. A breakdown of the method by which the report was received.
5. A breakdown of the reports by Intermediate Unit, utilizing only aggregate data
6. The total cost to operate the program, including staffing costs, administrative costs, and support costs.
7. The total number of false reports received.
8. Any other information the Attorney General deems appropriate.

III. Findings for the 2019-2020 School Year, July 1, 2019 –June 30, 2020

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 **47,239 tips**. This number excludes any false reports received, as well as any test tips to the system.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Safe2Say Something program received **23,745 tips**. This number also excludes false reports 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 3 categories are Bullying/Cyber Bullying, Suicide / Suicide Ideation, and Cutting / Self-Harm. 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 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020	
Event Types	Total
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	3608
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2576
Cutting / Self-Harm	2139
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	2008
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	1557
Depression / Anxiety	1513
Threat Against School	1156
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	931
General Student Concern	695
Threat Against Person	669

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.

TIP SOURCE	TOTAL
Web Site	4,489
Mobile App	19,890
Phone Call	626



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	717
Pittsburgh - Mt. Oliver IU 2 / Allegheny IU 3	2,013
Midwestern IU 4	1,204
Northwest Tri-County IU 5	548
Riverview IU 6	178
Westmoreland IU 7	1,674
Appalachia IU 8	1,187
Seneca Highlands IU 9	316
Central IU 10	514
Tuscarora IU 11	238
Lincoln IU 12	981
Lancaster - Lebanon IU 13	1,129
Berks County IU 14	622
Capital Area IU 15	2,321
Central Susquehanna IU 16	597
Blast IU 17	401
Luzerne IU 18	752
Northeastern Educational IU 19	796
Colonial IU 20	1,636
Carbon - Lehigh IU 21	1,224
Bucks County IU 22	1,540
Montgomery County IU 23	1,453
Chester County IU 24	1,546
Delaware County IU 25	705
Philadelphia IU 26	478
Beaver Valley IU 27	365
ARIN IU 28	473
Schuylkill IU 29	407

*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: **\$1.6 Million.**

6. The total number of false reports received

During the 2019 – 2020 school year, the Safe2Say Something Program has received a total of 1,261 tips that were designated as false reports or prank tips.

There were a total of 761 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 were a total of 500 tips containing the disposition of "Deliberate Abuse of System" which are tips that contain seemingly credible information yet proven untrue upon investigation; or the information was provided with the intention to harm or disrupt.

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. Schools could also use a refresher course to train those students who already received the full training during the previous school year. The number of students that received Safe2Say Something training during the 2019 – 2020 school year, totaled 226,346.



IV. Comparison from Previous Report and the Impact of COVID-19

On March 13, 2020, Governor Wolf announced the closure of all schools for 10 business days, which would go into effect on Monday, March 16, 2020. On April 9, 2020, Governor Wolf extended the order through the remainder of the school year in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many schools at this time made the transition to remote learning. During this time, the Safe2Say Something Program remained open and continued to answer tips 24/7.

While Pennsylvania students were staying at home and attending classes online, Safe2Say saw an increase in Life Safety Tips such as suicide and self-harm. From July 2019 until March, 13 2020, 17% of tips received were designated as Life Safety matters, but starting in March, 37% of tips received were in this category.

Much like Pennsylvania's ChildLine, the Safe2Say Something crisis center saw a significant reduction in the volume of tips received starting March 13, 2020. At the start of COVID-19 health restrictions, Safe2Say was on track to receive approximately 37,000 tips for the entire school year, an increase of roughly 15,000 tips from the previous school year. Instead, Safe2Say recorded 23,745 tips by June, 30 2020.

The top 3 tip categories received by the Safe2Say program were the same as the previous school year, though the increase in life-safety tips during the spring led to change in their rankings. The following chart show a comparison in the top 3 event types received by the program:

Event Types	2018 - 2019	2019-2020	
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	3,558	3,608	+50
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	2,184	2,576	+392
Cutting / Self-Harm	2,529	2,139	-390



V. Conclusion and Recommendation

Two critical facts emerge from the tips received by the Safe2Say program during the 2019-2020 school year. The first is the importance of additional mental health resources for students. The second is the impact of COVID-19 on students' safety.

The importance of improved mental health counseling was the key feature of the 2018-2019 Safe2Say report. In the 2019-2020 school year, the data from Safe2Say once again shows the need for improved mental health resources in our schools. Suicide, self-harm and bullying dominate the tips received by Safe2Say, and improved mental health resources would allow the Commonwealth to help more students address these challenges—many of which are caused by underlying, treatable mental health conditions. With appropriate intervention and treatment, they will be able to focus on their education, which would lead to better outcomes for these students and their community as a whole.

COVID-19 has required separating Pennsylvania students from established support networks that provide nutrition, identify abuse, and help support the child safety net.

This spring, the Attorney General called for funding of innovative approaches to reduce anticipated increases in child abuse and mental health crises during the pandemic. Pennsylvania's Child Advocacy Centers, law enforcement leaders, and medical experts have all called attention to this challenge, which we must face as part of a full response to the COVID-19 public health threat.

The data from Safe2Say's report backs up these expectations —life safety reports such as thoughts of suicide and self-harm have doubled since the start of the pandemic. The Attorney General once again calls on funding of innovative approaches to identify abuse and ensure the safety net reaches vulnerable children and students during the pandemic. If public health requires a continuation of distance learning, government must step up and ensure needed child protection and mental health services also reach students in their own homes.

The Attorney General is mandated by law to issue an annual report, but this report is only as good as actions taken by the General Assembly and the Federal Government when the signs are so clear.



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
Bully /Cyber Bullying	86
Cutting / Self-Harm	73
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	72
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	66
Threat Against School	43
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	40
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	26
Depression / Anxiety	24
General Student Concern	19
General Harassment	17

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

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	335
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	173
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	150
Cutting / Self-Harm	135
Threat Against School	103
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	96
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	87
Depression / Anxiety	82
Threat Against Person	69
General Harassment	53



Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	190
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	102
Cutting / Self-Harm	99
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	97
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	83
Depression / Anxiety	62
Threat Against School	50
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	36
General Student Concern	32
Breaks School District Code	27

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	70
Cutting / Self-Harm	68
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	51
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	49
Depression / Anxiety	40
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	35
Threat Against School	32
General Student Concern	19
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	18
General Harassment	11



Riverview Intermediate Unit 6

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	22
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	21
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	17
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	13
Cutting / Self-Harm	12
Depression / Anxiety	11
Threat Against Person	7
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	7
Threat Against School	5
Animal Cruelty	5

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	237
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	224
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	180
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	116
Cutting / Self-Harm	112
Depression / Anxiety	79
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	70
Threat Against School	53
Threat Against Person	41
General Student Concern	38

Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	173
Cutting / Self-Harm	133
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	117
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	96
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	90
Threat Against School	71
Depression / Anxiety	63
Threat Against Person	37
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	26
General Harassment	17

Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	45
Cutting / Self-Harm	28
Depression / Anxiety	28
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	26
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	22
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	20
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	17
Threat Against Person	13
Distributing Inappropriate Photos	9
Threat Against School	8

Central Intermediate Unit 10

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	76
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	45
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	36
Depression / Anxiety	29
Cutting / Self-Harm	41
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	23
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	16
Threat Against School	16
Verbal Abuse	9
Discrimination	9

Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	37
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	39
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	23
Cutting / Self-Harm	25
Depression / Anxiety	18
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	9
Sexual Assault / Rape	6
Threat Against Person	7
Inappropriate Bus Behavior	5
General Student Concern	5

Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	134
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	119
Cutting / Self-Harm	106
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	77
Depression / Anxiety	66
Threat Against School	46
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	44
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	26
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	13
Disorderly / Dangerous Conduct	13

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	150
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	148
Cutting / Self-Harm	117
Depression / Anxiety	84
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	75
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	40
Threat Against School	38
Threat Against Person	30
General Student Concern	28
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	13



Berks County Intermediate Unit 14

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	87
Cutting / Self-Harm	83
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	70
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	57
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	36
Depression / Anxiety	36
Threat Against School	25
Threat Against Person	19
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	19
General Harassment	16

Capital Area Intermediate Unit 15

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	412
Cutting / Self-Harm	266
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	251
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	142
Depression / Anxiety	122
Threat Against School	85
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	66
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	63
Threat Against Person	42
General Harassment	29

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 16

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	105
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	97
Cutting / Self-Harm	55
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	40
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	28
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	23
Depression / Anxiety	22
Threat Against Person	17
General Student Concern	11
Inappropriate Physical Contact	7

BLaST Intermediate Unit 17

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	60
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	58
Cutting / Self-Harm	45
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	33
Depression / Anxiety	31
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	17
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	16
General Harassment	12
Threat Against School	9
Physical Abuse	5



Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	127
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	88
Cutting / Self-Harm	64
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	60
Depression / Anxiety	46
Threat Against School	34
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	29
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	26
Threat Against Person	22
Weapons / Explosive Device	17

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	131
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	86
Threat Against School	68
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	66
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	46
Depression / Anxiety	27
Cutting / Self-Harm	40
Threat Against Person	18
General Student Concern	15
General School Complaint	13

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

Event Type	Totals
Threat Against School	199
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	192
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	165
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	121
Cutting / Self-Harm	118
Depression / Anxiety	112
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	62
General Student Concern	57
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	47
Threat Against Person	22

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	175
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	153
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	125
Cutting / Self-Harm	112
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	87
Depression / Anxiety	69
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	45
General Harassment	42
Threat Against School	39
Threat Against Person	34



Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	243
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	158
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	154
Depression / Anxiety	108
Cutting / Self-Harm	104
General Student Concern	76
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	70
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	53
Threat Against School	46
General Harassment	36

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

Event Type	Totals
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	191
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	185
Cutting / Self-Harm	129
Depression / Anxiety	102
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	101
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	70
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	65
General Student Concern	42
Threat Against School	38
Threat Against Person	37



Chester County Intermediate Unit 24

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	220
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	196
Depression / Anxiety	141
Cutting / Self-Harm	105
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	101
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	63
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	57
Threat Against School	53
General Student Concern	45
Threat Against Person	29

Delaware County Intermediate Unit 25

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	103
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	90
Cutting / Self-Harm	64
Depression / Anxiety	55
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	48
Threat Against School	44
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	27
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	27
General Student Concern	27
Threat Against Person	21

Philadelphia Intermediate Unit 26

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	63
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	57
Threat Against School	39
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	28
Depression / Anxiety	27
General Student Concern	22
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	17
General School Complaint	16
Cutting / Self-Harm	16
Threat Against Person	13

Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 27

Event Type	Totals
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	56
Cutting / Self-Harm	37
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	34
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	26
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	20
Depression / Anxiety	15
Threat Against Person	14
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	12
Breaks School District Code	11
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	9

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28

Event Type	Totals
Drug Use/Distribution/Possession	49
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	47
Bullying/Cyber Bullying	46
Suicide/Suicide Ideation	43
Cutting/Self Harm	43
Depression/Anxiety	26
Threat Against Person	18
Physical Abuse	10
Planned Attack / Fight / Assault	9
Weapons / Explosive Device	8

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	69
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	44
Drug Use / Distribution / Possession	42
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	41
Cutting / Self-Harm	34
Depression / Anxiety	26
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	12
General School Complaint	11
Threat Against Person	10
Distributing Inappropriate Photos	10