



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

OK2SAY is Michigan's most effective prevention-based reporting system established in response to the mandate of the Student Safety Act of 2013. It is designed to **EMPOWER MICHIGAN STUDENTS TO HELP PREVENT VIOLENCE AND MAKE THEIR SCHOOLS SAFE** by confidentially reporting threatening behavior.

Anyone can report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees or schools. **TIPS CAN BE SUBMITTED 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

## NUMBER OF TIPS

- 5,742 tips in 2019
- Nearly 23,000 tips overall

## TOP FIVE TIP CATEGORIES

1. Suicide threats
2. Bullying
3. Drugs
4. Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)
5. Self-Harm



In September 2019, OK2SAY updated the mobile app and website design to improve and enhance the ease of submitting a tip, ensuring both the app and website are fully accessible on any device or platform.

- **Nine percent increase on mobile app usage submitting tips**
- **130 percent increase on submitting tips through the website**



## OUTCOME REPORTS FROM SCHOOL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

- **90 percent believe tip info sufficient**
- **69 percent unaware of problem before tip**
- **89 percent find OK2SAY useful**



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# MICHIGAN STUDENT SAFETY ACT

## HISTORY

The United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Education, in a joint study on school violence, reported that perpetrators exhibited concerning behavior before they attack in 93 percent of the incidents. And in 81 percent of violent school incidents, someone other than the attacker knew about the plan but didn't report it. Noting that, the Michigan Student Safety Act (PA 183 of 2013) was signed into law in Dec. 2013.

The Act requires the Attorney General to collaborate with the Michigan State Police (MSP), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to establish, operate and staff a hotline that:

- Provides for confidential reports of potential harm or criminal activities directed at school students, school employees or schools;
- Protects the confidentiality of a tipster's identity;
- Operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and
- Promptly provides tip information to appropriate school officials, law enforcement or other agencies.

## PURPOSE

OK2SAY is more than a hotline. OK2SAY empowers Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to safety threats.

The Department of Attorney General currently has primary responsibility for developing, implementing and reporting on Michigan Student Safety Act initiatives.



## OK2SAY TIP STEPS

### SUBMIT & RECEIVE

Students, parents, teachers, or concerned individuals can confidentially report potential harm or criminal activities.

**1** Confidential tip submitted

**2** OK2SAY technicians receive, analyze, and forward tips

### RESPOND & REPORT

Schools, law enforcement, Community Mental Health, or the Department of Health and Human Services receive and investigate the tips.

**3** Officials investigate, respond, and resolve tips

**4** Outcome report completed



## 2019 OK2SAY TESTIMONIALS

“OK2SAY works because you can report anything from anywhere. With just a text or a message sent, threats of any sort can be reported confidentially and the person sending their message in can be confident that it will be taken care of.”

» BELLA LEE, Student, Eisenhower High School

“Thank you to OK2SAY for providing us the tip information. It was very helpful and potentially could head off a dangerous situation based on all the information we had in front of us and collected. We appreciate everything you do and the quick action that was taken to help the situation.”

» JUSTIN B. DICKERSON, High School Principal,  
Bentley Community Schools

“This is a fantastic service provided and a great resource for students to use when they feel uncomfortable speaking to someone directly.”

» KENNETH VOAKES, Assistant Principal, Heritage  
Junior High School

“Great program which is continuing to provide good intelligence to both the school and law enforcement personnel.”

» MICHAEL CLUSTER, School Resource Officer, New  
Buffalo Area Schools

## WHEN YOU STOP THE SILENCE, YOU HELP END THE VIOLENCE.

Here are a few examples of OK2SAY's work in 2019:

- OK2SAY received a tip that a 14-year-old student was suicidal. She posted a message stating that she had relapsed into cutting herself with razors and was trying to distract herself from thinking about suicide. OK2SAY referred the information and screenshots of the student's messages to local law enforcement. An officer contacted the student and she was transported to the hospital.
- When a high school student was selling drugs at school, a text to OK2SAY alerted authorities. The school searched the student's locker and found drugs and weapons.
- OK2SAY received a tip about a student who posted a video of himself holding an assault weapon and bragging about shooting up the school. OK2SAY contacted the school and local law enforcement who investigated the tip. The student had put together a hit-list and had access to several weapons. The guns were removed from the house for safekeeping. The student was expelled from school and faced criminal charges.
- When a middle school student was planning to run away with a 26-year-old man from another state, a tip to OK2SAY alerted her school. The school immediately contacted the student's parents. A meeting was held with the students, parents and school counselor. The phone was confiscated with the father's permission and turned over to the police department.



## TIPS VS. INCIDENTS

For metrics, analysis and reporting purposes, OK2SAY technicians and the Department of Attorney General record and track incoming contacts with the hotline as “tips” and as “incidents.”

An OK2SAY “tip” is information provided through communication with OK2SAY technicians. Generally, when a tip is submitted it may involve multiple communications between the individual and the technician to gather enough information to forward to the appropriate responding party. Often these communications are counted as a single tip.

An OK2SAY “incident” is a specific, singular event. Many individuals report about the same incident. Duplicate tips about the same incident are an indicator of a healthy reporting culture within a community.

In 2019, OK2SAY logged 5,742 tips and 4,645 specific incidents.

## 2019 REFERRALS

When tip information comes in, OK2SAY technicians forward information on to appropriate resources. Some cases, to multiple resources. In other cases, there may not be enough information provided to the technicians for them to forward or refer.



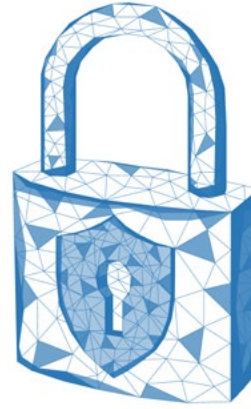
### In 2019, OK2SAY technicians forwarded or referred:

- 2,501 incidents to school officials;
- 637 incidents to law enforcement;
- 253 incidents to online resources, counseling or crisis lines;
- 112 incidents to Child Protective Services; and
- 270 incidents that resulted were ultimately referred to mental health services.

## TIPSTER'S IDENTITY IS PROTECTED BY LAW

The Student Safety Act generally prohibits disclosure of tipster information.

Confidentiality of the tipster's identity is a hallmark of OK2SAY and without it, tipsters would not be as willing to come forward and share tips.



The identity of the tipster party is statutorily protected and can only be released with permission of the tipster, the tipster's parents if he/she is a minor, or through a court order.

This information is also specifically exempt from the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

## TOP TEN TIP CATEGORIES IN 2019

Category	Number of Tips
Suicide Threats	1,198
Bullying	1,001
Drugs	624
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	383
Self-Harm	368
Planned School Attack	341
Cyberbullying	307
Threats	257
Sexual Misconduct	218
Sexting	207

## 2019 OUTCOME REPORTS

Schools and local law enforcement complete Outcome Reports detailing the nature of the tip, how the tip was handled, and whether the situation was completely resolved or requires ongoing attention. Outcome Reports provide local entities with an opportunity to show they take student safety threats seriously and track them.

MSP adds outcome report information to its database to identify:

- The number of tips received;
- The number of tips forwarded;
- The nature of the tips received;
- The recipient of the forwarded tips;
- The details of the response; and
- The effectiveness of the response.

Tip recipients submitted 1,824 Outcome Reports in 2019. The information collected in these reports plays an important part in assessing the overall effectiveness of the program and has resulted in changes to program categories.

Most tips resulted in multiple response actions to help the individual involved.

Parents Notified	1,090	60%
Continue to Monitor the Situation	669	37%
School Counseling	644	35%
School Disciplinary Action	234	13%
Ongoing Investigation	202	11%
Prevention	162	9%
Community Mental Health Counseling	125	7%
Not Enough Information Provided	100	5%
Other (e.g, restorative justice, notified another school)	81	4%
Citation	20	1%
Detailed/taken into custody	16	1%



As a result of OK2SAY tips, school operations were impacted 14 times. This included school cancellations, lockdowns and early dismissals.

- **50 tips involved confiscation of weapons.**
- **96 tips involved seizure of drugs/alcohol at school.**

## FINANCIALS

Total combined 2019 expenditures for the Department of AG and MSP were \$2,174,408.65.



The Department of AG incurred \$1,489,628.97 in costs in 2019 under the Act. Itemized costs included:

- \$1,228,228.29 services, supplies and maintenance;
- \$260,111.25 salary, wages and benefits; and
- \$1,289.43 travel.



MSP incurred \$684,779.68 in costs in 2019 under the Act including administering the hotline. Itemized costs included:

- \$641,637.45 salary, wages and benefits.
- \$41,654.20 contractual services, supplies and maintenance; and
- \$1,488.03 travel.

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## TOTAL TIP NUMBERS

OK2SAY is shifting attitudes and perceptions about reporting unsafe behavior and situations. OK2SAY is empowering students to be the “heroes in the hallway” and help their struggling classmates get the support they need.

2019	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alcohol	7	10	3	6	17	3	4	1	9	15	22	4	101
Assault	1	7	8	9	11	4	0	4	5	23	11	18	101
Bullying	73	88	100	117	89	34	12	5	82	188	138	75	1,001
Cyberbullying	25	30	28	22	21	24	10	16	30	32	49	20	307
Child Abuse	13	9	14	8	14	10	7	6	17	23	21	21	163
Dating Violence	0	1	5	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	6	1	23
Domestic Violence	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	13
Drugs	49	41	57	55	76	27	12	6	58	88	87	68	624
Explosives (bomb)	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	11
Fighting	9	8	5	5	6	0	0	1	3	17	8	6	68
Fire Starting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gangs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guns	2	3	6	2	4	1	0	0	5	5	16	3	47
Hate Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	7
Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Attempted Kidnapping	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	7
Knives	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Planned Fights	11	9	17	10	13	6	1	1	9	15	16	18	126
Planned School Attack	20	16	12	18	63	2	0	16	61	37	57	39	341
Self-Harm	25	31	47	37	28	14	10	6	39	55	47	29	368
Sexting	13	24	24	23	19	8	1	7	15	23	33	17	207
Sexual Assault	7	10	16	10	7	3	3	0	1	8	6	9	80
Sexual Misconduct	11	13	20	22	19	9	4	6	11	25	49	29	218
Stalking	3	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	3	17
Stealing	2	0	3	0	1	2	1	1	2	3	4	2	21
Suicide Threats	102	104	138	107	113	69	43	41	94	133	123	131	1,198
Threats	20	13	25	17	21	3	2	10	30	38	49	29	257
Unsafe Driving	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vandalism	0	1	1	5	0	2	0	2	7	5	0	0	23
Weapons Possession	3	2	1	0	9	1	1	0	0	5	2	1	25
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	32	21	43	43	31	11	5	7	39	55	44	52	383
Total	429	443	576	524	566	235	119	137	523	807	799	584	5,742