



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



# 2020 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

- 3,743 tips in 2020
- 26,692 total cumulative tips

## TOP 5 TIP CATEGORIES IN 2020

1. Suicide threats
2. Drugs
3. Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)
4. Cyberbullying
5. Sexual misconduct

## OK2SAY ADMINISTRATION NOW PART OF MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

On October 1, 2020, OK2SAY's administration and promotional functions moved from the Department of Attorney General (AG) to the Michigan State Police (MSP) Office of School Safety, Grants and Community Services Division. The operational side of the OK2SAY tipline will remain with the MSP, Intelligence Operations Division. The duties were transferred after a recommendation by Governor Whitmer and the signing of Public Act 166 of 2020 on September 30, 2020. Public Act 401 of 2020 consolidated all OK2SAY functions to the MSP.



## OUTCOME REPORTS FROM SCHOOL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

- 90% believe the tip information was sufficient.
- 73% unaware of the problem before the tip.
- 92% find OK2SAY to be a useful service.



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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 the attack in 93% of the incidents. And in 81% of violent school incidents, someone other than the attacker knew about the plan but did not report it. Knowing that, the Michigan Student Safety Act (Public Act 183 of 2013) was signed into law in December 2013.

Public Act 401 of 2020 requires the MSP, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan Department of Education, to establish, operate, and staff a hotline that:

- Provides for confidential reports of potential self-harm, harm to others, or criminal acts including, but not limited to, sexual abuse, assault, or rape, directed at students, school employees, or schools in this state;
- Protects the confidentiality of a reporter'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

The purpose of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior. OK2SAY empowers Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to safety threats.

The MSP has primary responsibility for developing, implementing, and reporting on Michigan Student Safety Act initiatives.

## GOAL

The goal of OK2SAY is to knock down barriers so a student who is struggling can get needed help before a situation turns into a tragedy.

## 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 MDHHS receive, and investigate the tips.

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

**4** Outcome report completed



## 2020 OK2SAY TESTIMONIALS

“The OK2SAY program is truly a lifeline between our students and school officials. The information received from OK2SAY is usually the first time we have heard of the situation. This is a fantastic tool.”

» MR. MARSHALL PERKINS, Lead Principal  
Traverse City East Middle School

“I love OK2SAY. I recommend it to all of my students here. Kids do not want to tell adults and this tip line really helps. This is such a powerful and essential program.”

» MS. JENNIFER HILLER, Principal  
Scranton Middle School

“I continue to find this service highly useful. During this time where students are not in a physical school setting, the service provides a great resource for students to report concerns of others.”

» MR. KENNETH VOAKES, Assistant Principal  
Heritage Junior High School

“Thank you for the amazing work you do for children! We appreciate this program and all of the work of the Michigan State Police. You make the world a better place.”

» MS. LIZA KELLY, Executive Director of Labor Relations & Personnel  
Howell Public Schools

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

Here are a few examples of OK2SAY's work in 2020:

- **Tip:** A student stated he was planning to vandalize other student's cars at the prom. He stated that “anyone who snitches would be shot.”  
**Result:** OK2SAY technicians used open sources to secure two specific threats on social media. The tip and the screenshot of the threats were sent to law enforcement. The student was arrested and pled guilty for using a school computer to threaten violence against students and staff.
- **Tip:** A student was selling drugs at school.  
**Result:** Law enforcement and school officials investigated the tip. A search of the locker resulted in the confiscation of drugs and drug paraphernalia, a weapon, and over \$700 in cash.
- **Tip:** A student made suicidal/homicidal threats.  
**Result:** The school's multidisciplinary assessment team set up a meeting with the student and his parents. Based upon an assessment, the student was taken to the emergency room for an evaluation. The parents signed a release form allowing the school's mental health care manager to talk with other community agencies. Based upon the information obtained, the school learned that there had been a previous incident with the student involving a weapon. The police were looking into the matter.
- **Tip:** A student stated he was going to bring a gun to school to shoot his ex-girlfriend.  
**Result:** Law enforcement interviewed the student with the parents present. The student's parents agreed to remove the weapons from the home. The school reached out to the student and the ex-girlfriend's parents. The student was suspended while charges were filed. A safety plan was created for the ex-girlfriend.



# METRICS/ANALYSIS

## TIPS VS. INCIDENTS

For metrics, analysis, and reporting purposes, OK2SAY records and tracks 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. 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 2020, OK2SAY logged 3,743 tips, but only 3,692 incidents.

## COVID-19 IMPACT

- With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, OK2SAY experienced a 42% decrease in tip volume in 2020 compared to the previous year as schools transitioned to distance learning.
- Despite the global impact, OK2SAY is still available 24/7 for any student needing help for themselves or anyone they know.

## 2020 REFERRALS

When tip information comes in, OK2SAY technicians forward information to appropriate resources. In some cases, the tip is sent to multiple agencies. In other cases, the tipster does not provide enough information to the technician for them to forward or refer the tip.

**In 2020, OK2SAY technicians forwarded or referred:**

- **1,004 incidents to school officials;**
- **460 incidents to law enforcement;**
- **379 incidents to online resources, counseling, or crisis lines;**
- **95 incidents to Child Protective Services; and,**
- **1 incident resulted in a referral 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 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 2020

Category	Number of Tips
Suicide threats	896
Drugs	456
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	436
Cyberbullying	387
Sexual misconduct	339
Bullying	328
Threats	208
Self-harm	160
Child abuse	134
Sexting	62

### TOP TEN CUMULATIVE TIP CATEGORIES (9/1/14 - 12/31/20)

Category	Number of Tips
Suicide threats	5,939
Bullying	4,900
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	2,555
Drugs	2,418
Self-harm	1,872
Cyberbullying	1,871
Planned school attack	1,046
Threats	1,030
Sexual misconduct	1,012
Sexting	779

## 2020 OUTCOME REPORTS

Schools and local law enforcement are asked to complete an outcome report to let us know how the process worked. MSP adds outcome report information to its database to compile:

- 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 785 outcome reports in 2020. 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.

Based upon the outcome report, school personnel and law enforcement would have investigated the situation to resolve it and tip issues. Most often the tip involved multiple interventions.

### TYPES OF INTERVENTION

Parents notified	368	46.9%
Monitor the situation	237	30.2%
School counseling	208	26.5%
Law enforcement involved	87	11.1%
Ongoing investigation	72	9.2%
School disciplinary action	53	6.8%
Outside resources recommended	46	5.9%
Not enough information provided	33	4.2%
Detained/taken into custody	2	0.3%



As a result of an OK2SAY tip, school operations were impacted two times. This included a school cancellation and an evacuation.

- **10 tips involved the confiscation of weapons.**
- **42 tips involved the seizure of drugs/alcohol.**

## FINANCIALS

Total combined 2020 expenditures for the AG and the MSP were \$1,113,625.79.



The AG incurred \$283,468.26 in costs in 2020 under the Act. Itemized costs included:

- \$174,395.63 in department salaries, wages, and benefits;
- \$108,659.76 for departmental services, supplies, and maintenance; and,
- \$412.87 in department travel.



The MSP incurred \$830,157.53 in costs in 2020 under the Act, including administering the hotline. Itemized costs included:

- \$774,825.77 in department salaries, wages, and benefits;
- \$54,949.76 for departmental services, supplies, and maintenance; and,
- \$382 in department travel.



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OK2SAY App available.  
Search "OK2SAY"

ok2say.com



## 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.

Tip category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alcohol	3	5	2	1	3	3	3	9	2	8	1	0	<b>40</b>
Assault	10	12	5	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	6	0	<b>45</b>
Bullying	88	98	57	6	6	3	8	2	20	17	17	6	<b>328</b>
Child abuse	20	15	18	11	13	7	10	8	14	8	5	5	<b>134</b>
Cyberbullying	27	50	29	38	39	27	23	32	44	29	30	19	<b>387</b>
Dating violence	1	8	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	<b>18</b>
Domestic violence	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Drugs	107	166	44	14	10	13	9	21	24	25	18	5	<b>456</b>
Explosives (bomb)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Fighting	6	31	8	1	0	0	3	1	2	3	0	0	<b>55</b>
Fire starting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Gangs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Guns	5	4	3	5	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	<b>28</b>
Hate crime	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Kidnapping/attempted kidnapping	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Knives	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Planned fights	12	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>25</b>
Planned school attack	14	15	8	0	2	0	0	1	2	4	5	1	<b>52</b>
Self-harm	42	28	16	18	13	5	4	3	14	10	5	2	<b>160</b>
Sexting	14	19	8	3	3	2	3	0	1	3	4	2	<b>62</b>
Sexual assault	1	3	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
Sexual misconduct	36	73	24	41	32	16	7	17	34	16	28	15	<b>339</b>
Stalking	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	<b>15</b>
Stealing	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	<b>13</b>
Suicide threats	101	241	168	54	51	45	25	28	41	53	56	33	<b>896</b>
Threats	39	32	33	16	22	15	6	10	10	7	10	8	<b>208</b>
Unsafe driving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Vandalism	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
Weapons possession	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	<b>10</b>
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	59	65	66	25	28	19	22	14	39	24	47	28	<b>436</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>3,743</b>