

Parental Guide to

WHAT IS OK2SAY?

OK2SAY is a state-wide program that allows students, parents or guardians, and other community members to report confidential tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools. The purpose of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs.

EASY TIP SUBMISSION

Tips can be submitted 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

CONFIDENTIALITY

A key feature of the OK2SAY tipline is that the identity of the tipster must be kept confidential by law. The confidentiality of OK2SAY allows students to push back on any pressure they may feel about being the one to speak up about a concerning or threatening behavior.



How do I talk to my child about OK2SAY?

Please remind your child to **immediately talk to a trusted adult or contact OK2SAY if they are worried** about their safety or the well-being of another. Immediate action on a tipster's part can help prevent potential harm or minimize the impact of a dangerous situation.

Assure your child that if they submit a tip to OK2SAY, their **identity is protected** by law. They do not have to worry about retaliation or rejection from their peers. We want students to be advocates for themselves, their peers, and their classmates by speaking up when they know about a potentially dangerous situation.


Remind your child that OK2SAY encourages reporting even if they don't have all the details. Regardless of how small or insignificant they may seem; **all tips are valuable** in creating a safe environment for everyone. OK2SAY would rather get tips that are "no big deal" or a misunderstanding than miss a tip that could have prevented a lot of pain but was never submitted due to student's hesitation.

Emphasize the importance of **using the OK2SAY program responsibly**. Filing a false tip is not only dishonest but can divert resources and attention away from genuine concerns. **Students who maliciously file false tips may face serious consequences.**

Remember, **open and ongoing conversations with your child about their safety and well-being are essential** for building trust and ensuring they understand the importance of reporting concerns.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

 855-565-2729
8-555-OK2SAY

 ok2say@mi.gov

 ok2say.com

 652729 (OK2SAY)

OK2SAY App available.
Search "OK2SAY"



HELPFUL INFORMATION:

- Adults can submit an OK2SAY tip if they have concerns about their own child or another student. Like all OK2SAY reports, the tipster's identity will remain confidential.
- The tipster will not be updated on the outcome of their report. Any information contained in an Outcome Report will be kept confidential, as required by law.
- OK2SAY is unable to enforce a specific outcome, even if an individual is unsatisfied with the resolution of a previously reported situation to their school. They should contact the appropriate person within their school or district to address these concerns.
- OK2SAY acts as an intermediary and forwards tip information to the school and law enforcement. Any relay of safety information to parents would come from the school or law enforcement, not OK2SAY.
- Any OK2SAY reports will not be included in a student's academic record.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) mandates that schools protect student records. Disciplinary information is very sensitive and private and includes behavior problems, reprimands, and misconduct occurrences. As a result, schools are required to keep these details private and are not allowed to share them with outside parties without the parent's express permission.

What if a report is made about my child?

If an OK2SAY tip is made about your child, it is important to approach the situation with understanding and support. Most often the individual who submitted the tip has noticed a concerning behavior and has a genuine interest to help. Instead of viewing it as a negative thing, see it as an opportunity to address any difficulties your child may be facing.

It is important to communicate openly with your child. Let them know about the report and reassure them that it is not a punishment, but rather a sign that someone cares about their well-being. Encourage them to talk about what may be going on and offer a safe space for them to share their thoughts and feelings.

Remember, the goal is to ensure the well-being and safety of your child. By embracing the report as an opportunity to provide additional assistance and support, you can help your child navigate any challenges they may be facing and promote their overall well-being.



What are the top issues reported to OK2SAY?

OK2SAY tracks tips by categories. The top ten tips include:

- | | |
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| 1. Suicide Threats | 6. Cyberbullying |
| 2. Bullying | 7. Threats |
| 3. Drugs | 8. Sexual Assault / Misconduct / Exploitation |
| 4. Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment) | 9. Self-Harm |
| 5. Planned School Attack | 10. Child Abuse |

Tip statistics can be found at www.ok2say.com.



1.) An individual observes or is made aware of a safety concern and submits a tip to OK2SAY.

2.) A highly trained OK2SAY technician promptly receives and analyzes the tip.

3.) The technician may establish an open dialogue with the tipster to gather all crucial information.

4.) Once all relevant details are obtained, OK2SAY promptly forwards the tip to the most suitable responding agency such as a school or law enforcement.

5.) The responding agency investigates the tip and provides any needed interventions.

6.) After completed the investigation, an Outcome Report is sent to OK2SAY by the responding agency.



To learn more about OK2SAY, go to www.ok2say.com.