



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



Annual Report

OK2SAY is Michigan's
student safety program.

2022



2022 Annual Report

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

Anyone can report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools. **TIPS ARE SUBMITTED, REVIEWED, AND ANALYZED 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR.**

NUMBER OF TIPS

- 7,415 tips in 2022
- 40,342 cumulative tips since 2014

TOP 5 TIPS CATEGORIES IN 2022

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

OK2SAY CONDUCTS TRAINING AND OUTREACH

OK2SAY conducted 389 virtual and in-person seminars reaching 84,198 attendees in 2022. According to the feedback from school personnel, 94% would recommend an OK2SAY presentation to others.

OUTCOME REPORTS FROM SCHOOL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

- 90% believe the tip information was sufficient.
- 68% were unaware of the problem before the tip.
- 90% find OK2SAY to be a useful service.

For more information visit us at www.ok2say.com



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.**

Based in part on this study, the Michigan Student Safety Act (Public Act 183 of 2013) was signed into law in December 2013. Public Act 183 of 2013 required the Michigan Department of 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 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.

Public Act 401 of 2020 amended Public Act 183 of 2013 and consolidated all OK2SAY functions into the MSP.

* [The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States.](#)

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 providers, and law enforcement officials to share and respond to safety threats.

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

Michigan Student Safety Act

Goal

The goal of OK2SAY is to eliminate 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 tip

RESPOND & REPORT

Schools, law enforcement, community mental health, or the MDHHS receive and investigate the tips.

3 Officials investigate, respond to, and resolve tip

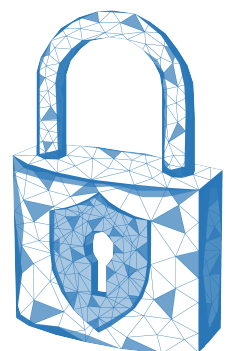
4 Outcome Report completed

Tipster's Identity Is Protected By Law

The Student Safety Act generally prohibits the disclosure of tipster information.

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

The identity of the tipster is statutorily protected. It can only be released with permission of the tipster or the tipster's parents if they are a minor, or through a court order. This information is also specifically exempt from the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.



When you stop the silence, you help end the violence.

Examples of OK2SAY's work in 2022.

Tip: A student threatened to shoot up the school on a specific date and stated they had a gun.

Result: The threat was reported to the school and law enforcement. The police investigated and obtained a search warrant for the student's residence. Numerous firearms and ammunition were seized by the police. Three students were detained as juveniles. An adult was arrested and charged with illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition.

Tip: A student stated on social media that they intended to commit suicide and "would do it that night."

Result: Law enforcement performed a welfare check. The student told an officer they were suicidal and couldn't decide whether they wanted to live or die. Another law enforcement agency had conducted a welfare check on this student earlier that day. At the time, the student was left in the care of their family. Only after the second welfare check did the student admit to having suicidal thoughts and request help. The student's mother drove them to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Tip: A student drew illustrations of guns and shootouts and posted gun photos online.

Result: Law enforcement and school officials conducted a joint investigation and completed a behavioral threat assessment. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was contacted and assisted with the investigation. A search warrant request was initiated and executed based on the perceived risk. As a result, items from the student's home were removed, and the parents were advised to secure the guns in the house. The student was suspended while the case was investigated.

Tip: A student told a classmate that they were thinking about suicide and that they might miss school the next day because they planned to "do something bad" that evening.

Result: The school liaison officer conducted a welfare check. The student admitted they had attempted to overdose on medications. The student was transported to the hospital.

Tip: A student was selling drugs and vapes at school.

Result: After conducting a search, the school discovered that the student was in possession of a variety of narcotics and drug-related paraphernalia. The student's parents were notified and the student was issued a citation as well as a school suspension.

Tip: A student threatened to shoot up the school. The student also posted a video of guns on the bus.

Result: The threat was investigated by the school and local law enforcement. Following the inquiry, the student was detained and taken to a local crisis center.

Tip: A student had posted images of self-harm.

Result: A school counselor met with the student. The student had cuts on their arms and legs and admitted having suicidal thoughts. The school contacted the student's parents, who agreed to immediately take the student to the hospital.

Financials

The MSP incurred \$1,272,766.05 in costs during 2022 under the Michigan School Safety Act, including operation and administration of the 24/7 tipline. Itemized costs included:

- \$1,024,841.31 in department salary, wages, and benefits;
- \$247,189.88 for department services, supplies, and maintenance; and
- \$734.86 in department travel.



Metric Analysis

Tips for the 2022 calendar year INCREASED MORE THAN 19% compared to 2021.

Top Five Tip Categories in 2022

Category	Number of Tips
Bullying	1,344
Suicide threats	1,017
Drugs	786
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	645
Threats	633

Top Five Cumulative Tip Categories (September 1, 2014 through December 31, 2022)

Category	Number of Tips
Suicide threats	7,456
Bullying	6,777
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	3,832
Drugs	3,617
Planned school attack	3,262

Tips Versus Incidents

For metrics, analysis, and reporting purposes, OK2SAY records and tracks incoming contacts with the hotline as “tips” and “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 in order 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 tipsters report the same incident. Duplicate tips about the same incident indicate a healthy reporting culture within a community.

In 2022, OK2SAY logged 7,415 tips and 6,068 associated incidents.

2022 REFERRALS

When a tip is received, OK2SAY technicians route the information to the appropriate agency. In some cases, the tip is shared with multiple agencies. Occasionally, the tipster does not provide enough information to the technician, making it impossible for OK2SAY to pass on or direct the tip to the appropriate school or agency.

In 2022, OK2SAY technicians forwarded or referred:

- 3,066 incidents to school officials;
- 787 incidents to law enforcement;
- 373 incidents to online resources, counseling, or crisis lines;
- 85 incidents to Children’s Protective Services; and
- No tips were referred to mental health services.



Outcome Reports

The number of Outcome Reports has increased by 114%, from 885 in 2021 to 1,895 in 2022.

Schools and local law enforcement are asked to complete an Outcome Report after each investigated tip to provide feedback on how the process worked. The MSP adds Outcome Report information to its database to compile:

- Number of tips received;
- Number of tips forwarded;
- Nature of the tips received;
- Recipient of the forwarded tips;
- Details of the response; and
- Effectiveness of the response.

“In many cases, the most effective intervention for a student is realizing that an adult in their life notices and cares.”

Nancy Buyle
School Safety and Student Assistance Consultant
Macomb Intermediate School District



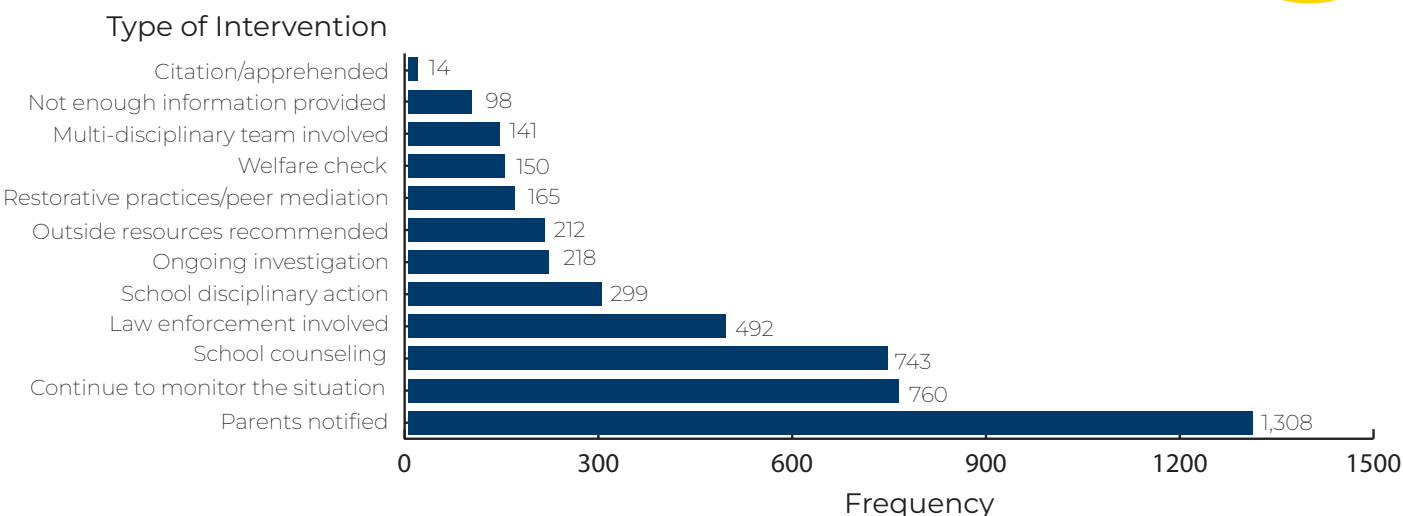
The information collected in these Outcome Reports plays an integral part in assessing the program’s overall effectiveness and has resulted in program changes.

As a result of an OK2SAY tip, school operations were disrupted 20 times across the state. This included school closure, lockdown, shelter-in-place, early dismissal, evacuation, and the cancellation of after-school activities.

- 26 tips involved the seizure of weapons.
- 42 of the tips involved the seizure of drugs or alcohol.



Based upon the 1,895 submitted Outcome Reports, most tips resulted in multiple interventions.



Student Safety Presentations

Students play a critical role in helping to keep schools safe.

Students often know about school safety concerns before adults. Educating students on how to recognize and report potential threats and risky behavior helps ensure early intervention and prevention.

In keeping with the provisions of the Student Safety Act, section 7(5)(c), MSP offers free, age-appropriate instruction about the OK2SAY tipline in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the state. The OK2SAY presentations teach students how to “break the code of silence” around reporting safety concerns. Specifically, the students learn the purpose of the OK2SAY tipline, how to submit a tip, how tips are processed, and what will happen with the tip. The presentations also highlight many of the issues affecting students. Most importantly, the students are empowered to use their voice to speak up for their safety or the safety of others.

Four independent contractors, trained and proficient in presenting the Student Safety Program, conducted 389 virtual and in-person seminars with 84,198 attendees. The presentations were well received, with 94% of school personnel saying they would recommend an OK2SAY presentation to others.

There is both empirical and anecdotal evidence that students begin to utilize OK2SAY almost immediately after attending a presentation. The OK2SAY program has taken note of this by considering both the comments from school administrators and the timing of Outcome Reports that followed a presentation.



Quotes From School Personnel

- “Thank you for presenting to our students and staff. I have received questions and heard comments that show the presentation was impactful and students appreciated hearing the information. I appreciate the time and energy you and all of the employees put in at OK2SAY!”
- “Thank you for the presentation. Great message. The kids have a lot to think about!”
- “Thank you for a fabulous presentation. The presenter really helped our students absorb the critical messages that OK2SAY promotes.”
- “I appreciate so much having OK2SAY as a resource. I could tell you about all the things I have dealt with this year that were part of that presentation.”

Expos and Speaking

Engagements

The OK2SAY team made a significant impact by actively participating in 26 expo events across Michigan, effectively spreading awareness about the program to vast audiences. These events were thoughtfully selected to engage with diverse communities across the state, aiming to enhance OK2SAY's presence and foster its seamless integration into numerous school systems.

Michigan High School Athletic Association

OK2SAY partnered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to promote the student safety program at high school sports tournaments.

- Nearly three million individuals viewed the OK2SAY advertising on the MHSAA website.
- Approximately 1.3 million people heard the OK2SAY message at sport tournaments.
- Thousands of OK2SAY promotional materials were distributed to students and their parents during the various finals.
- An OK2SAY ad was included in 15,000 printed and digital game programs.

Operation Backpack

The MSP Grants and Community Services Division supported the Volunteers of America (VOA) Operation Backpack. By donating backpacks, school supplies, and OK2SAY promotional items to VOA for at-risk and homeless students across Michigan, nearly 2,000 students benefited from the partnership.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan

The public-private school-based initiative supports children's health. It provides teachers, administrators, and students with the resources, curriculum, equipment, and professional development to create healthier school environments. The initiative also helps prevent childhood obesity, reduce chronic disease, improve academic achievement, and address mental health and well-being. All of these efforts are aimed at improving the overall health and well-being of schoolchildren. The initiative utilized OK2SAY resources and messaging as part of the program.

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.

2022 Tip Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alcohol	12	5	9	2	4	6	3	6	3	9	8	2	69
Assault	19	12	21	20	28	6	2	3	19	38	15	15	198
Bullying	116	137	192	136	132	61	2	9	91	188	145	135	1,344
Child abuse	17	20	25	16	21	18	5	4	26	19	26	17	214
Cyberbullying	68	49	40	67	24	34	11	16	18	52	40	46	465
Dating violence	1	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	13
Domestic violence	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Drugs	72	73	122	83	70	26	13	7	51	108	94	67	786
Explosives (bomb)	3	3	3	2	8	2	0	1	1	11	4	5	43
Fighting	5	7	8	6	9	2	0	0	6	10	9	5	67
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	15	19	11	4	18	6	3	1	12	16	23	15	143
Hate crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnapping/attempted kidnapping	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	7
Knives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned fights	5	11	14	13	16	3	1	1	7	14	12	18	115
Planned school attack	21	15	22	19	51	27	1	3	46	38	150	37	430
Self-harm	47	41	44	34	39	11	5	5	19	42	33	24	344
Sexting	7	11	22	16	10	1	3	3	11	20	12	18	134
Sexual assault/ misconduct/ exploitation	56	60	64	73	41	35	9	28	45	63	55	50	579
Stalking	2	1	1	3	6	1	0	1	4	1	4	2	26
Stealing	1	1	5	2	6	1	0	1	1	7	4	3	32
Suicide threats	108	78	127	87	97	47	23	34	50	133	134	99	1,017
Threats	67	77	69	52	54	27	8	11	54	68	84	62	633
Unsafe driving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	3	6	8	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	4	31
Weapons possession	7	3	8	5	12	1	1	0	7	12	10	3	69
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	83	84	70	63	85	37	10	33	59	61	35	25	645
Total	739	720	889	708	737	355	100	170	533	912	899	653	7,415



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