



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

# NEWSLETTER



## PURPOSE

OK2SAY encourages **confidential** tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools.

## OK2SAY-RECORD NUMBER OF TIPS

2018 has been another record-breaking year. Suicide threats remain one of the top reported tip categories followed by bullying and planned school attacks. Program awareness and student vigilance has contributed to the increase in tips. More tips means OK2SAY is helping more students get the support they need before a situation turns into a tragedy.

## OK2SAY TIPS

Category	May 2018	9/1/2014 - 5/31/18
Alcohol	11	182
Assault	13	236
Bullying	129	3,100
Cyberbullying	24	1,013
Child Abuse	12	360
Dating Violence	8	97
Domestic Violence	0	18
Drugs	77	1,030
Explosives (bomb)	1	14
Fighting	16	166
Fire Starting	0	1
Gangs	0	11
Guns	6	67
Human Trafficking	1	4
Kidnapping/Attempted Kidnapping	1	5
Knives	1	26
Planned Fights	10	114
Planned School Attack	18	528
Self Harm	47	1,129
Sexting	17	406
Sexual Assault	12	137
Sexual Misconduct	37	373
Stalking	3	37
Stealing	7	39
Suicide Threats	184	3,039
Threats	20	427
Unsafe Driving	0	16
Vandalism	3	12
Weapons Possession	8	102
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	41	1,498
<b>Total Tips</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>14,187</b>

## OK2SAY SUCCESS STORIES

OK2SAY received a tip that a student was planning a school attack. The student's home was searched, guns were confiscated, and the student was taken into custody.

Acting on a tip about a student wearing a medallion that contained a concealed knife, school officials investigated, found the knife, and the student was suspended.

A tip involving five students sharing sexually inappropriate images of teens was turned over to the school and local law enforcement. The phones were searched and the teens were in fact sharing sexually inappropriate images of themselves and their peers through social media.

After a tip to OK2SAY, a suicidal student received inpatient counseling services.

## MONTAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



School bus drivers show their OK2SAY pride. From the time the students start their day until they end their school day, bus drivers are

doing their part to promote the student safety program. Every month, drivers wear their OK2SAY t-shirt to remind students to speak up and speak out.

## OK2SAY POSTERS



*Staff at Life Skills of Pontiac School showcase the importance of Speaking Up with new OK2SAY posters.*

OK2SAY has new posters to help educate students, faculty, and staff on ways they can make a difference in their school. The poster dimensions are 16" x 20." Order your free posters today ([mi.gov/ok2saypromo](http://mi.gov/ok2saypromo)).

## OK2SAY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



OK2SAY has a new ambassador program ([mi.gov/ok2sayambassador](http://mi.gov/ok2sayambassador)).

This inclusive program provides teachers, counselors, and motivated individuals with ideas to promote student safety. Take the pledge and learn how you can use OK2SAY to bring kindness, inclusion, and awareness activities and ideas into your school.

Stay tuned for more.

## TECHNICIANS' CORNER

OK2SAY technicians continue to adapt to the ever-changing safety concerns of young people everywhere. Students need to know there is always someone they can rely on; someone who will listen to their concerns and make it OK2SAY for students throughout the State of Michigan.

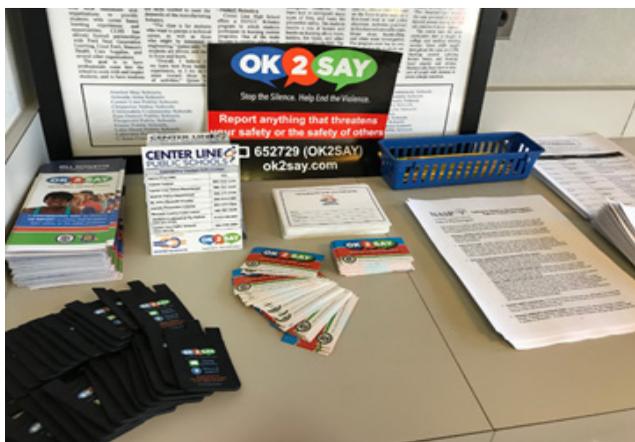
The recent school shooting in Florida is an example of how adept the OK2SAY technicians are at adjusting to the needs of these ever-changing safety concerns. Following the tragic event, there was an exponential uptick in the number of planned school attack tips. When threats came in by the hundreds, the technicians quickly recognized and responded to the trend by streamlining procedures, making appropriate staffing changes, and building new relationships with local law enforcement agencies and school administrators.

In so doing, the OK2SAY technicians further refined their skills and solidified OK2SAY's vital role in keeping Michigan's school safe.





Center Line Public Schools Superintendent Eve Kaltz shows her support for OK2SAY.



Center Line Schools is stepping up and speaking out by aggressively marketing OK2SAY using social media. They placed a link on the school district's website, distributed materials, hosted a community forum on safety, and created magnets with OK2SAY contact information for every classroom.



OK2SAY partnered with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters to help reach students.

In March, radio stations throughout Michigan featured various OK2SAY public service announcements. When students were getting ready in the morning, making their commute, or doing household chores, they could hear their peers talk about the importance of reporting school violence threats. Popular radio personalities have taken a personal interest and are helping deliver the message on the air during their shows.



## STOMPING OUT BULLYING

Sorority sisters from Cody High School won second place "Stomping out Bullying" at the 6th Annual Youth Step Show and Community Resource Fair—Stomping Away Various Epidemics by Teaching Health Education and Mentoring (S.A.V.E.T.H.E.M!). The team, youth affiliate members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Zeta Nu Zeta Chapter, combined dance and creative drama in their powerful OK2SAY anti-bullying performance.



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