

Safe2Help Illinois 2025 Annual Report

Safe2Help is an effective, free, non-punitive, state-wide program that seeks to help students and those who care about them by addressing bullying, mental health struggles, threats of violence, and anything impacting school safety. It provides a safe, confidential environment for students to share information through a tipline that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, via phone, text, website, email, and app. The website provides mental health information for students, promotional information for local law enforcement officials, school officials, families, caregivers, and the public regarding the program.

A School Safety Initiative

Establishing a school helpline was recommended by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (now Homeland Security Advisory Council – HSAC) School Safety Working Group following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy in Parkland, Florida. Due to the collaborative efforts of the School Safety Working Group, the Student Confidential Reporting Act (Public Act 102-0752) was signed into law in May 2022.

A collaboration between the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, State Board of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services, and the Illinois State Police, Public Act 102-0752, authorizes the creation, operation, and staffing of a helpline that does the following: Operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; Protects the confidentiality of the reporter's identity; and, Safeguards report information from Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA).

As of 2023, Public Act 102-0416 requires contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988), the Crisis Text Line, and either the Safe2Help Illinois helpline or a local suicide prevention hotline or both on the back of any issued student identification cards, student handbooks, and any student planner that is custom printed and distributed for students in grades 6 through 12.

Mission

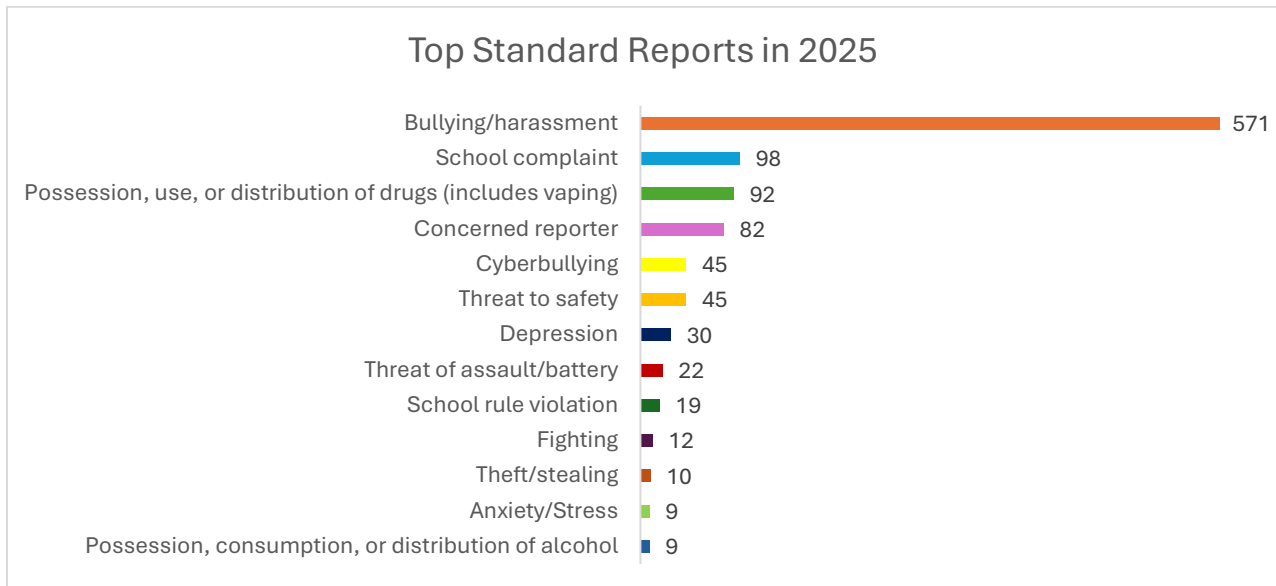
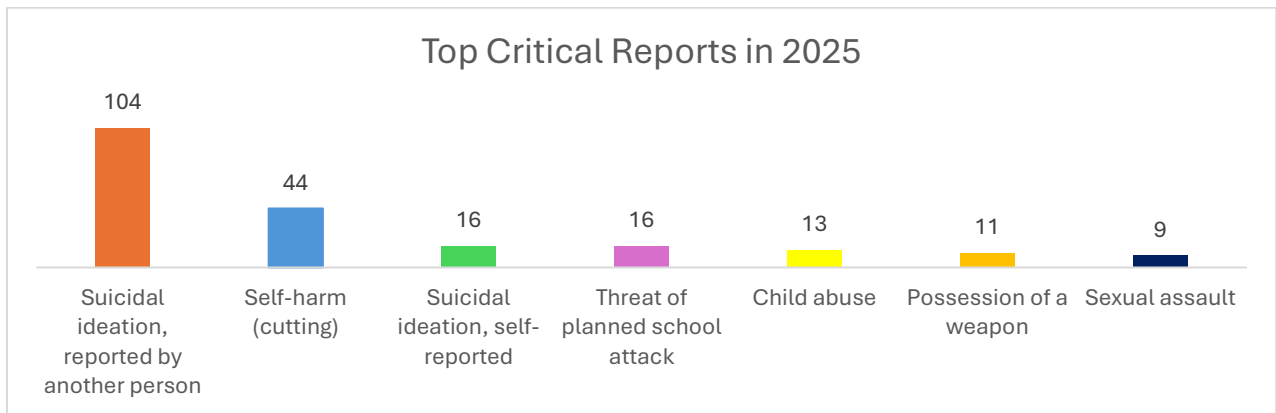
In the absence of a trusted adult, Safe2Help offers students a safe, confidential way to share information that might help prevent suicides, bullying, school violence, or other threats to school safety. This program is not intended to suspend, expel, or punish students. Rather, the goal is to encourage students to “Seek Help Before Harm.”

Submitting & Receiving Tips

Students can confidentially send information on anything that impacts their safety or wellbeing. A confidential tip is submitted via call, text, email, web, or via the app to Safe2Help call-takers who receive, analyze, and share information with school and district officials. Depending on the nature of the information received, 9-1-1 call centers will be contacted to dispatch the appropriate response. The tip is investigated and resolved.

Safe2Help 2025 Summary

- 396 registered school districts
 - 1,813 total schools registered
 - 214 reports forwarded to law enforcement officials
 - 1,215 reports forwarded to school officials
 - 263 critical reports
 - 1,238 standard reports
 - 2,094 total reports received
- Total reports received includes duplicate reports, insufficient information provided, and misuse of system (i.e. spam prank, accidental contact) which account for 643 reports.*



The nature of the reports and information submitted to the program are in categories established by the Illinois State Police.

Definitions

- **Critical:** Involves immediate or imminent threats of violence or potential self-harm such as, but not limited to, threats of suicide and threats of planned school attack.
- **Standard:** May include, but are not limited to, bullying, cyberbullying, vaping, or substance abuse.
- **Other:** May include but are not limited to, false reports, prank reports, requests for information, or misapplication of system.
- **Non-safety concern:** A question, statement, or media file submission that is not a school safety concern. Example: A student is having a difficult time with friends and wants to talk to someone.
- **Concerned reporter:** Reporting about suspicious activity or reporting about a friend/student/staff member someone is worried about.

Example: A student perceives a friend is upset and does not know how to help them. Concern about a teacher who is receiving mean comments from students.

- **School complaint tips:** Complaints about school or school staff.

Example: A student does not like to run and is complaining about having to do the activity. A teacher is assigning homework that is difficult. The teacher favors one student over the other.

- **False Reports:** Non-actionable reports received with malicious intent. They may include false information to harm, injure, or bully another person.