



2024 Annual Report

Safe2Help is an effective, free, non-punitive, state-wide program that seeks to help students and those that care about them address bullying, mental health struggles, threats of violence, and anything impacting school safety. It provides a safe, confidential environment for students to share information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tips

- 2,107 tips in 2024
- 5,650 cumulative tips since 2021

Top 6 Tips in 2024

- Bullying/Harassment
- School Complaint
- Suicidal Ideation – Reported by Another
- Possession/Distribution of Drugs
- Concerned Reporter
- Threat of Planned School Attack

40.3%
Districts
Registered

368
School
Districts
Participating

882,900
Students
Served

A SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

Establishing a school helpline was a recommendation provided through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force 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).

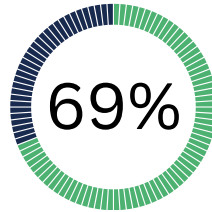


The Research

The 2021 United States Secret Service's Averting Targeted School Violence Report:



94% of the plotters shared their intentions about carrying out an attack through verbal statements, electronic messaging, and online posts



In 69% of the cases, communications about an attack plot were observed by friends, classmates, or other peers of the plotter.

Mission

In the absence of a trusted adult, Safe2Help offers students a safe, confidential way in which 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.”

ANALYSIS

Statistically our data has shown that Safe2Help is a very effective program. The number of tips increasing annually and volume of students that are served throughout the state of Illinois displays that this program is an integral tool for school safety. Additionally, the Safe2Help website has been utilized increasingly more by students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

A SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

How to Share Information

Submit and Receive

Students can confidentially send information on anything that impacts their safety or wellbeing.

- 1 Confidential tip is Submitted
- 2 Safe2Help call-takers receive, analyze, and share information

Respond and Report

Information is shared 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.

- 3 The tip is investigated and resolved
- 4 Outcome is provided to Safe2Help

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



Safe2Help offers the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as a resource for students through the helpline and website.

Safety is in Your Hands

Success Stories

Threat to safety

Possession of a weapon – A parent reported their son had recently been threatened and robbed by multiple subjects outside of school. The reporter stated the subjects hide weapons in their clothing to bring them to school without detection. Based on the submitted information, the school's Principal was able to coordinate with the School Resource Officer to increase the search protocol for improved school safety.

Self-Harm

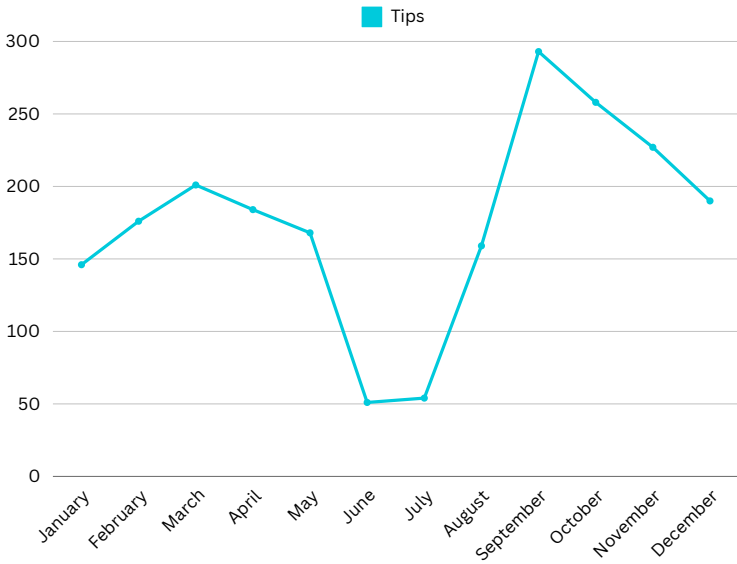
A friend of the subject submitted a tip stating they saw a peer pull up their sleeves to show scars from self harm. A S2H point of contact for the school provided an update after they spoke with the subject's mom. The mother was not aware of possible self harm and the notification created the opportunity for the mother to speak with the subject about getting help. Student services were also scheduled to follow up with the student.

Suicidal Ideation

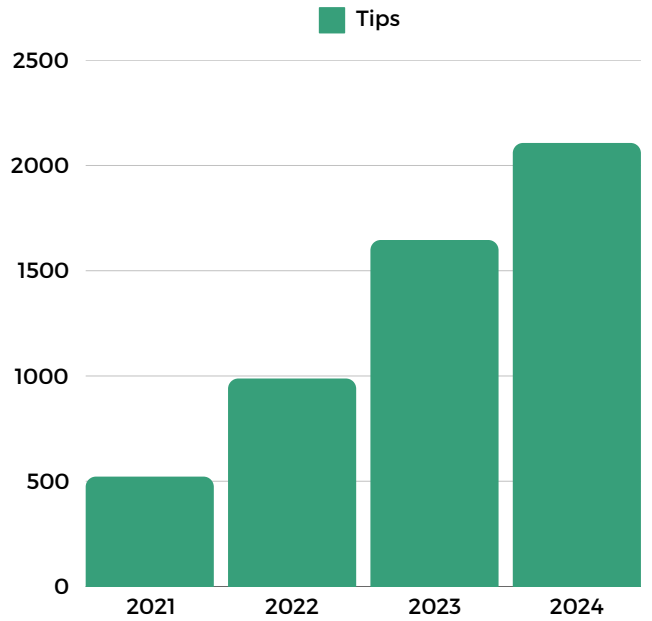
A student reported that her boyfriend threatened to kill himself after she ended the relationship. Notifications were made to the school officials and local law enforcement. Contact was made with the family, and the student is safe.

THE DATA - 2024

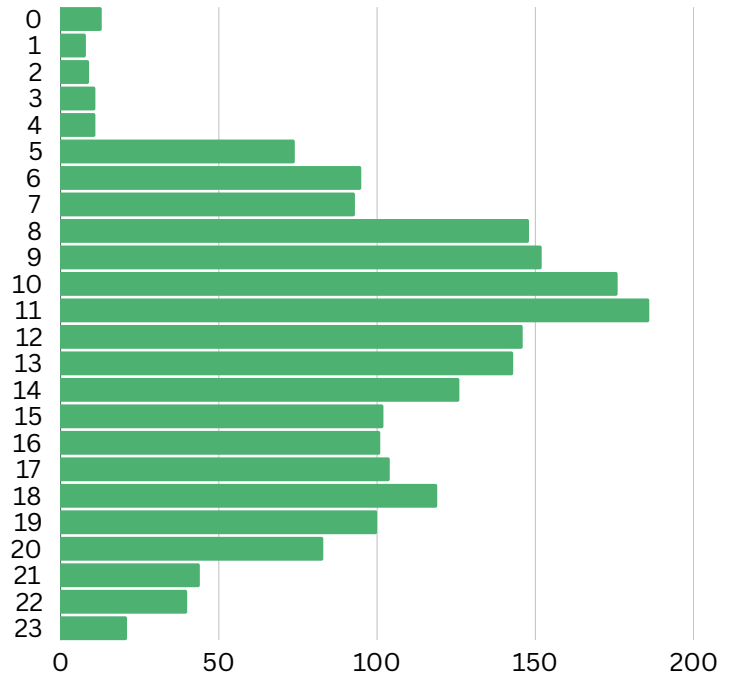
Tips by Month



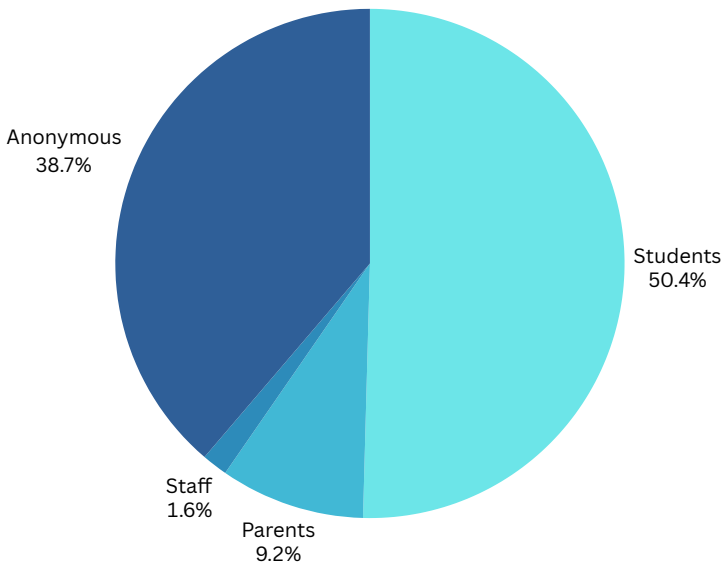
Annual Increase



Tips by Time of Day



Who Is Reporting?



Dispositions

Schools are asked to share information to let us know how the process worked to evaluate the effectiveness of the response. This is a voluntary process.

DATA & TESTIMONIALS

Preferred Method of Sharing Information



41.9% Web Form



36.1% Text Message



8.8% Mobile Application

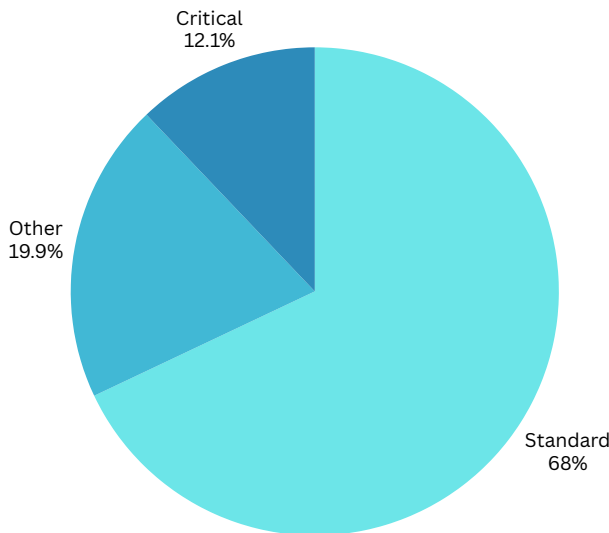


8.9% Email



4.5% Phone

Incident Level



Definitions

Critical: Involve immediate or imminent threat 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.

Testimonials

"Safe2HelpIL is an important part of the support system that we have in place for our students to confidentially share information and receive appropriate assistance. Having a platform that is available 24/7, inclusive of all grade levels, and with the ability to communicate with multiple administrators and law enforcement means students receive timely help. We have the Safe2HelpIL app installed on student iPads district-wide, which allows our students immediate and consistent access. We truly appreciate being a part of this state-wide initiative to help support our school safety measures."

Tony DeMonte , Director of
Technology & Media Services
Wilmette District 39

"Safe2Help has provided our students with access to tools and resources necessary to increase social-emotional competency and accessing mental-health support for themselves and friends. Safe2Help has allowed students to access mental-health support quickly and confidentially. Safe2Help has ignited many conversations with students, staff and families to address the growing challenges that our students are facing in and out of school."

Dr. Marie K. Stover, Asst.
Superintendent of Student
Services, Morris Elementary SD 54

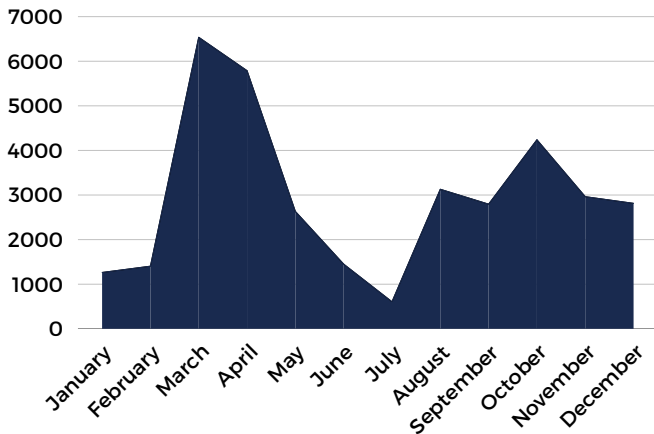
WEBSITE

Safe2Help Website

The Safe2Help website provides self-help resources for students and educators with activities, exercises, and videos to help address what students or their friends may be struggling with.

Currently, the Safe2Help website features eleven self-help topics and ways students can help a friend. Content is developed in collaboration with mental health professionals and West 40 ISC #2, specifically for K-12 students.

2024 Website Sessions



34,516

Total Website Sessions

Wednesday

Most popular day of the week to visit the website

The Safe2Help Helpline was viewed

62,798

times in 2024

Video Content

In partnership with the University of Illinois Springfield, Safe2Help has created promotional and topic specific videos for students and educators to reinforce key messages and learnings from website self-help topics.

Our campaign efforts have generated nearly 15 million impressions spanning these tactics: Facebook, SnapChat, YouTube, LinkedIn, Spotify and Geofencing. The demographic audience has been individuals aged 13-17 years and their adult parents/influencers.



OUTREACH & TRAINING



Safe2Help Training

In 2024, Safe2Help offered free virtual and in-person presentations and trainings to schools and districts upon request.



Conferences & Events

Safe2Help participated in approximately 54 conferences and other events.



Digital Marketing

Safe2Help has invested in statewide digital marketing efforts through Spotify, YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn and Snapchat to educate parents, community members, and educators on the availability of Safe2HelpIL as a resource.



Student ID Card Act

As of 2023, Public Act 102-0416 requires Safe2Help or a local suicide prevention resource number to go 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.

DEFINITIONS

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. Concerned 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 a 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.

The Time to Register is NOW!

If you are a K-12 school or district administrator and would like to participate in Safe2Help, contact us at:



Info@Safe2HelpIL.com



(217) 782-2700



Is your District or School Participating?

Who can Participate?

All K-12 schools in Illinois can register for Safe2Help. Public, charter, private, vocational, or other alternative learning schools are encouraged to register.

How can my District or School Participate?

Safe2Help offers virtual and in-person training opportunities. District and school administrators can contact Safe2Help at Info@Safe2HelpIL.com to learn more about the program and how to register.

Why should my District or School Participate?

Through our statewide marketing efforts we are experiencing increased usage and brand awareness. By registering with Safe2Help, your district or school will be able to better address student struggles and concerns in a timely manner.

**It is not a
matter of IF
your school or
district will
receive a report
from Safe2Help,
but WHEN.**