

# safe<sup>2</sup>tell™ Colorado

## Safe2Tell Fall Newsletter

September 2020

[Visit the Safe2Tell CO Website](#)

Welcome to Safe2Tell's (S2T) fall newsletter.

Much has unfolded since we published our February 2020 newsletter. As it turned out, less than a few weeks later, Colorado, like the rest of the country, essentially shut down due to COVID-19. The pandemic took front and center on the world stage and prematurely ended all in-person student academics in the state. The adoption of virtual learning for the remainder of the school year meant that peers lost daily access to each other, which ultimately lowered their ability to identify safety concerns.

S2T took a proactive approach to connecting with students in the wake of school closures. In May, we launched a statewide, marketing campaign. For six weeks, S2T utilized a digital platform to promote use of the program and to remind students that S2T is open 24/7, 365 days a year.

As the pandemic continues to fluctuate and force communities and school districts to adjust to new realities, there is encouraging news to share. In June of 2020, S2T was awarded assistance through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act, which will allow our program to conduct additional, targeted statewide outreach. Stayed tuned for the roll out of new public service announcements and promotional ads, launching later this month.

Thank you for supporting our program! We appreciate and welcome your questions, comments, and ideas pertaining to this newsletter as well as future editions. Please submit feedback [here](#). For more detailed information on the operations side of the S2T program, check back [here](#) later this month when we release the 2019-2020 Legislative Annual Report. Thank you and stay safe!



### Meet S2T Intern Karina Gonzales

Meet Karina Gonzales. She was born and raised in Colorado and is a first generation college student at Colorado State University, majoring in ethnic studies with minors in political science and interdisciplinary law.

This summer, while serving as one of our interns, Karina analyzed Safe2Tell's marketing materials as well as our social media platforms and made recommendations based on her experiences as both a Colorado K-12 student and as an undergrad. One of the perspectives that Karina shared with our team was that she wished her high school teachers had made more of an effort to get to know her as a person and not just as a student. Karina elaborates

more on this in a short, thoughtful essay that she wrote, found [here](#).

*Every semester and throughout the summer months, the Colorado Department of Law has a long standing tradition of utilizing college interns. Despite the pandemic, this summer was no exception. The S2T program was fortunate enough to recently work with several of those interns, many of whom grew up learning about S2T in their K-12 schools. Throughout the summer, they went above and beyond helping to provide our team with valuable program insight about*

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## S2T Refresher for Schools

### **Every Colorado School is Part of the S2T Program**

- Each school predetermines the members of their S2T team (those who are listed as contacts in the P3 system and receive the S2T tips).
- S2T school teams are typically comprised of school administrators, counselors, resource officers, and personnel from the district security and mental health units.
- School teams view every S2T tip and determine a course of action.
- Changes or updates to school team membership can be requested [here](#).

### **S2T School Team Disclosure**

- Schools may disclose to involved parties that they received anonymous information about a safety concern.
- Schools may disclose to involved parties the nature of the safety concern.
- Schools are not required to disclose that the information came from a S2T tip.

### **S2T School Tip Handling**

- Schools may not print or make a copy of the S2T report.
- Schools may not email a copy of the S2T report to anyone, including to other members of the authorized S2T school team.
- Schools may not put a copy of a S2T report into a student's academic file.
- Schools may not show the report to anyone outside of the authorized S2T school team, including students and parents/guardians.
- Schools may initiate a student threat assessment based on information received via a S2T report, but the actual S2T tip and its content may not be included in the student's threat assessment, IEP or academic records.
- Schools may share any new and revealing information that surfaces during the S2T tip investigation process, as that information is not protected by anonymity.

For additional information and guidance, S2T school teams should access the **P3 Recipient User Guide**, found [here](#).

### **S2T Program Administration Role**

- S2T is the conduit of information between the reporting party to a school's predetermined S2T team and/or law enforcement.
- S2T does not investigate the tips or regulate how schools and/or law enforcement conduct their investigations.
- S2T does not categorize tips but instead relies on S2T teams and/or law enforcement to categorize each tip based on its nature and the outcome of the subsequent investigation.
- S2T collects data for each school year, which begins August 1 and ends on July 31 the following year.
- S2T does not publicly share data pertaining to school districts or individual schools.
- S2T does publish aggregate data that encompasses the entire state. Monthly and annual data reports can be found [here](#).

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***Congratulations to Littleton Public School District Director of Security, Guy Grace, on his retirement! He has been a strong advocate for S2T since our inception and we wish him and his family all the best ! The Centennial Citizen recently published a nice article about Guy, found [here](#).***



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## **Attention!! School Safety, Law Enforcement, Mental Health and Early Intervention Partners**

On July 8, 2020, Governor Polis signed into law **HB20-1113** "Concerning mental health educational resources, and, in connection therewith, making enhancements to the S2T program."

In response to this statutory change and to best serve youth and stakeholders across Colorado, S2T will be convening a series of stakeholder webinars/meetings. Through

these meetings and in collaboration with local partners, we will “devise a process and develop standardized protocols so that any communication related to mental health or substance use received by Safe2Tell, including any communication related to another person, may be transferred, as appropriate, to the statewide behavioral crisis response system created pursuant to section 27-60-103.” C.R.S. § 24-31-603(3).

During these meetings, stakeholders and community members will have the opportunity to learn more about S2T and inform new processes to further align with K-12 early intervention best practices. We will welcome feedback after the initial webinar, prior to conducting subsequent meetings and discussions.

**You MUST register in advance for this webinar using the link below.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the webinar. If you wish to invite peers and/or other stakeholders, please forward this email so that they may complete the registration process.

**Topic:** HB20-1113 Mental Health Educational Resources Stakeholders Webinar

**When:** September 17, 2020 from 2:00PM – 3:00PM Mountain Daylight Time (US and Canada)

**How to Register:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xtzWSqIRtACInL9Ln5gPkQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xtzWSqIRtACInL9Ln5gPkQ)**

As a vital member of the Colorado community supporting youth safety, we welcome your participation and feedback.

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### Did You Know?

- You can have the Safe2Tell logo or QR code printed on the back of your student ID's. Click [here](#) to request more information.
- You can request a staff or student Safe2Tell training [here](#).



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### Helpful Information, Articles & Blogs

#### S2T Conversation Jumpstarts Classroom Discussions

<https://safe2tell.org/conversation-jumpstarts-classroom-discussions>

#### School Mental Health Resource Bank

Colorado's Youth Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention Act, **HB 19-1120**, directs the Colorado Department of Education to create and maintain a mental health education literacy resource bank for Colorado with assistance from the Colorado Department of Human Services' Office of Suicide Prevention, the Suicide Prevention Commission and the Colorado Youth Advisory Council.

[Explore the Mental Health Resource Bank](#)

#### Helping Children Cope (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/for-parents.html>

#### Students Poetry Offers Beautiful and Surprising Perspective On Pandemic by Lauren McAlpine

<https://blog.ed.ted.com/2020/06/23/students-poetry-offers-beautiful-and-surprising-perspective-on-pandemic/>

#### How To Be Kinder To Yourself by Susan David

<https://blog.ed.ted.com/2020/03/09/how-to-be-kinder-to-yourself/>

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*Safe2Tell Colorado is a state-funded program of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General, with support from the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Information Analysis Center.*

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**STAY CONNECTED**

