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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear school safety advocates and partners,

Safe2Tell is a youth-centered harm prevention and intervention resource for Colorado students and residents, dedicated to improving school and community safety across Colorado since 2004. Safe2Tell’s mission is to encourage and empower youth to make a report when a trusted adult isn’t available.

Colorado students faced unique challenges again in the 2021-2022 school year, as school districts balanced integrating students back into the classroom and COVID safety protocols. As schools returned to in-person learning, new stressors emerged, emphasizing the value of Safe2Tell.

Safe2Tell saw near pre-pandemic report volume during the 2021-2022 school year, with a 70% increase when compared with the previous school year. Safe2Tell also surpassed 100,000 reports in December 2021. This milestone represents 100,000 times a young person felt comfortable speaking up to prevent harm.

To support the increase in reporting, Safe2Tell redeveloped the program’s website. The new site includes a contemporary and inclusive design that is easy to navigate, has a highly visible link to the report form, contains valuable resources, is translatable into dozens of languages and includes several pages thoughtfully developed for Spanish speakers.

Our commitment to being a youth-centered resource for all Colorado students included the launch of a student ambassador program this school year. Safe2Tell student ambassadors represented nine different school districts across Colorado. Ambassadors completed projects designed to “break the code of silence” in their school or community and empower their peers to report concerns. Safe2Tell ambassadors surveyed over 1,000 students, contributed ideas for social media messaging and awareness materials, and conducted peer-to-peer presentations in their schools. Safe2Tell ambassadors also provided recommendations based on the information they learned while working on their projects, like increasing awareness about how Safe2Tell works, which has become a priority for Safe2Tell in the upcoming school year.

As we navigate our new normal, we remind students if they see something harmful, say something helpful. Safe2Tell is a way to report anonymously any time, any day.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy 2022-2023 school year.

Sincerely,

Stacey Jenkins,
Safe2Tell Program Director
HISTORY & PURPOSE

2004
Safe2Tell began operations as a non-profit organization in close collaboration with Colorado government.

2007
First Safe2Tell legislation is passed to establish anonymous reporting, known as the "Safe2Tell Act 24-31-601.

2014
As part of Senate Bill 14-002, Safe2Tell is incorporated into the Colorado Office of the Attorney General.

2016
Senate Bill 16-193 appropriated funds for training and outreach materials and a training specialist position.

2018
Safe2Tell received an appropriation of funds for a second training specialist, a data analyst, and additional training materials from Senate Bill 18-1434.

2019
The Colorado Information Analysis Center began to handle reports.

2020
Senate Bill 20-1113, Safe2Tell began sharing Colorado Crisis Services contact information on every report.

2021
Senate Bill 21-081, created measures to prevent the misuse of Safe2Tell.

2022
House Bill 22-1052 requires each student identification card issued to a public school student to contain the phone number, website, and text talk number for the 24-hour telephone crisis service center (Colorado Crisis Services) and Safe2Tell.
SAFE2TELL PROVIDES

Safe2Tell is a statewide tool for Colorado youth and community members to anonymously report concerns about their own and others' safety. The program promotes early intervention by relaying information between people who submit reports and local teams that include schools, law enforcement agencies and, sometimes, mental health resources. Safe2Tell encourages the use of mental health and/or other early intervention partners. Our program provides, free of charge to all all:

- An anonymous resource for students, parents, school staff, and community members to report safety concerns.
- Marketing materials for schools and communities to build awareness and educate on the use of Safe2Tell.
- Technical assistance to schools and law enforcement regarding the Safe2Tell technological platform.
- Training for report recipients on best practices for responding to Safe2Tell reports.
- Training and outreach to encourage youth to speak up about safety concerns and to break the “code of silence,” which is withholding important information out of fear of being perceived as a “snitch” or that speaking up will not help.
- A student ambassador program to elevate student voices across Colorado and to provide an avenue for students to make a difference in their communities and within Safe2Tell.
- Aggregate monthly, mid-year, and annual data reports. To see one of our monthly reports, click here.
SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

The statistics below include data from Aug. 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022.

Safe2Tell experienced a 70% increase in report volume compared to the previous school year as most schools transitioned back to in-person learning. Suicide threats remained Safe2Tell’s most frequently reported category, accounting for 14% of all reports made in the 2021-2022 school year. Other top report categories included bullying, welfare checks, drugs, and school complaints, which together account for 26% of all reports. See Appendix A and B for report totals by category and month.

Self-reports

Reporting parties can report to Safe2Tell about themselves or on behalf of someone else. 96% of reports received were bystander reports while the other 4% were self-reports. They are composed of the following categories:

2021-2022 Self-report categories

- Anger issues
- Self harm
- Sexual misconduct
- Assaults
- Welfare check
- School complaint
- Duplicate report
- Harassment
- Bullying

Number of reports
19,364 reports were received during the 2021-2022 school year. Of these reports, 5% were documented to have had some form of social media involvement.

Valid reports accounted for 97% of all reports the program received during the 2021-2022 school year.

False reports are non-actionable reports received with malicious intent may include false information to harm, injure, or bully another person. Safe2Tell provides comprehensive training about the proper use of the program and collaborates with local partners to reduce false reports. See Appendix C, D, and E for more information on report types.

70% increase in reports compared to the 2020-2021 school year.
SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

Top report categories

- 14% of reports relate to suicide threats
- 7% of reports are about bullying
- 7% of reports are welfare checks
- 6% of reports are drug-related
- 6% of reports are school complaints

2,102
Reports made regarding a concern already reported. Duplicate reports are indicators of a healthy reporting culture within a community.

Senate Bill 21-081
During the 2021 Legislative session, lawmakers passed a bill to reduce misuse of the Safe2Tell program that took effect during the 2021-2022 school year. Senate Bill 21-081 outlines specific situations where either a court of law or the attorney general may order the program to disclose information. Instances of false reporting are rare and comprise approximately 2% of the reports received by Safe2Tell. Safe2Tell always welcomes reports intending to prevent, protect, or help.

Mental Health-Related Self-Reports
Safe2Tell received 84 mental health-related self-reports during the 2021-2022 school year. These are reports that people have made for themselves in the following categories: depression, suicide, and self-harm. Of these reports, Safe2Tell offered all reporters the option to connect with Colorado Crisis Services (CCS) and we transferred six; 28 received counseling services, and 10 resulted in holds or hospitalization. The average time for Safe2Tell to gather information and deliver/transfer those who submitted a report about themselves was 2.3 minutes.
"Our Centennial Prevention Team appreciates the opportunity to be Safe2Tell Trainers. Safe2Tell is a great complement to our work in suicide and substance use prevention, as well as promoting safe schools and wellness skills. We consistently promote that youth have trusted adults in their lives, as well as trusted resources such as Safe2Tell for reporting concerns that may cause harm to others or themselves."

"A parent shared how much she valued Safe2Tell, which assisted her son, who was on a ‘hit list’ of students to be assaulted and harassed. When students learned of the list, they called Safe2Tell and the matter was resolved - safely."

“Safe2Tell plays an integral role in weapon and threat mitigation at JEFFCO Public Schools. In the 2021-22 school year, all but one of the firearms found on a JEFFCO campus were reported through the Safe2Tell program. That’s a huge celebration and something our community should embrace at every level as it highlights student bravery in using the Safe2Tell program and welcome it as part of our culture.”

Jeff Pierson Executive Director, Department of School Safety, JEFFCO Public Schools.

“"
Safe2Tell received a report of a student selling drugs and vapes to other students. The student was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The student was issued a citation as well as a school suspension.

A student reported another student threatening to cause harm to the school. Local teams spoke with the parent and searched the student's backpack. It was found that the student was carrying an illegal weapon. The student was charged with possessing an illegal weapon and is not allowed to return to school until a threat assessment is completed.

A student reported that another student was harming themselves. Local teams conducted a welfare check and the student was connected with their therapist.
During the 2021-2022 school year, Safe2Tell administered 175 training sessions. Safe2Tell saw fewer training requests in the first quarter of the school year as many schools prioritized adjusting to in-person schooling. Safe2Tell staff conducted fewer training sessions in the fourth quarter of the school year, with the training specialist position vacant.

Despite these challenges, outreach and training numbers were similar to previous years. Safe2Tell conducted 90 school and district training sessions, hosted two statewide Train the Trainer sessions, and visited six law enforcement agencies. Safe2Tell shared materials and/or presented at 18 resource fairs and conferences. The conferences included the Public Safety Answering Point Conference, Colorado Parent Teacher Association Convention, Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado School Counselor Association Conference, Colorado League of Charter Schools Conference, and the Colorado Migrant Family Academy. Individuals certified as Safe2Tell trainers through the Train the Trainer program conducted 43 training sessions across Colorado. Finally, local schools downloaded the on-demand Safe2Tell curriculum activities 18 times for classroom use.

With the continued effects of the pandemic and the establishment of online learning as part of the new normal, Safe2Tell conducted some training sessions remotely throughout the 2021-2022 school year. This included two statewide webinars in the fall and spring, with a record number of 85 participants at the spring Train the Trainer training. We reached 537 school administrators, counselors, school resource officers, and other multidisciplinary team members from all regions in Colorado. Attendees from rural regions had a larger geographic impact than urban participants because they serve multiple counties and/or districts in their role; Safe2Tell only recorded these participants once in the map below.
At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, Safe2Tell developed an avenue for students to influence the daily and long-term processes of Safe2Tell, through the student ambassador program.

Every school year, students from across the state of Colorado apply to participate in this year-long program. Safe2Tell recruits students through outreach to partners from diverse schools and backgrounds. Ambassadors serve as positive role models for their peers, share Safe2Tell resources with their schools, and help the program relate to students through engaging in creative projects.

Safe2Tell selected 10 high school students from across Colorado to be a part of the first ambassador program. We tasked this class of ambassadors with developing a project to “break the code of silence” around reporting concerns, to be completed throughout the 2021-2022 school year. They worked in their communities to encourage their peers to speak up when they have concerns about their safety or the safety of others. Their work involved survey creation and distribution, peer-to-peer presentations, poster creation/awareness campaigns, and improving the impact of Safe2Tell through social media. The 2021-2022 ambassadors identified various places of growth and improvement for Safe2Tell that will continue to be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year. This includes updating current awareness materials, providing more education on how to make a Safe2Tell report, and the life cycle of a report. Ambassadors also gave recommendations on how to improve the Safe2Tell student ambassador program.

**Student ambassador program recommendations**

CONTINUE

- Being supportive and flexible
- Offering resources from various angles (trainer presentations, data, etc.)
- Checking in with ambassadors

RECONSIDER

- Timing of project (set an earlier presentation date)
- Providing hard and soft deadlines so ambassadors know how they should pace themselves
- Meeting structures (create opportunities for ambassadors to interact with each other outside of the project)

**Our 10 student ambassadors come from across the state**

1. from Boulder Valley School District
2. from Yuma 1 School District
3. from Lewis-Palmer School District 38
4. from Cherry Creek School District
5. from Montrose County Re-1J School District
6. from Mapleton Public Schools
7. from Denver Public Schools
The Safe2Tell website provides community members with access to the program and serves as a resource for all stakeholders, including students, parents, schools, and law enforcement. However, our stakeholders identified that the previous Safe2Tell website needed to be redeveloped to increase the accessibility of the program. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, Safe2Tell worked to redevelop the website, improving the user experience throughout the website and effectively communicating the program functions to the public. Safe2Tell focused on increasing visual representation of the diverse populations the program serves.

Similar to the previous site, users can submit online reports, file disposition reports, and find information about the internal and external operations of the program. The site’s various pages are designed specifically for students, parents or families, schools, law enforcement, and the general community.

In addition, users can now easily access forms to request presentations or training, request training curriculum, apply for the Train the Trainer program, update Safe2Tell report recipient contacts, request materials to be mailed directly to schools, and inquire about general information or how to apply to the student ambassador program. The new Safe2Tell website also contains best practices for report responses, as well as statewide data and other published reports regarding school safety. Marketing and training resources are easily accessible to all. Lastly, new pages include a Frequently Asked Questions page and a page dedicated to the student ambassador program.
With the new website, accessibility to all stakeholders included the implementation of translation services for every page. Safe2Tell also developed certain pages specifically for the state’s Spanish-speaking community. The program focused on creating pages that reflected cultural and language differences in Spanish to be more inclusive of those for whom English is not their first language.

Safe2Tell partnered with the website developers, various state agencies such as the Department of Law and the Office of Information Technology; the Colorado Commission for Deaf, Blind, and Deaf-blind; and the Colorado School for Deaf and Blind to prioritize accessibility and to make the newly established Safe2Tell website compliant with ADA standards.

Website Data

Safe2Tell had 597,545 users on the website during the 2021-2022 school year. 95% of website visitors were first-time visitors. Safe2Tell had the most website visits in April and May, likely due to marketing and the launch of the new Safe2Tell website.
In addition to the Safe2Tell website, the Safe2Tell program uses various social media platforms to engage outside of the classroom with stakeholders. The consistent messaging, information, and resources shared complement both youth and adult interests. Safe2Tell is active on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

During the early part of the 2021-2022 school year, Safe2Tell identified the need for increased presence and visibility on social media. This led the program to establish a TikTok account. TikTok is a video-sharing social network and entertainment application that became especially popular in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. The application is one of the fastest growing in the U.S. and is especially popular with younger digital audiences. This is the social media platform that Safe2Tell’s main stakeholder—students—is involved the most in today.

TikTok influences purchasing trends, music, social challenges, and more. Safe2Tell’s presence, with thoughtful and creative videos on the application, emphasizes program perception and provides awareness of Safe2Tell as a resource to Colorado students.
What happens when I submit a Safe2Tell report?

1. You see a safety concern and submit a report to Safe2Tell via phone, safe2tell.org, or the app.

2. A person who analyzes the reports for Safe2Tell may ask you follow-up questions to learn more.

3. Once the information is collected, it is sent to the team in the school district where the report is from.

4. You remain anonymous, and your information is not collected by Safe2Tell.

5. The local team that receives the report always includes school district employees and law enforcement, and can also include mental health professionals.

6. That team will decide the response to a Safe2Tell report, whether it’s about someone who needs mental health support or who may pose a threat to their school community.

7. Teams then tell Safe2Tell what happened. The most common results of a report include mental health counseling, parent notification, or check-ins that are made to make sure the person is okay.
OUTCOMES

What happens after the recipient team looks into a report?

2021-2022 Report outcomes for each event type

Note: See Appendix F for report outcomes resulting in a suicide or threat assessment only.

Does Safe2Tell decide how multidisciplinary teams respond to a report?

No. Safe2Tell serves as a relay of information between concerned parties who wish to make a report and local teams who respond to the information. Safe2Tell does not dictate report response methods. Local multidisciplinary teams have jurisdictional control over report investigation and response. Local multidisciplinary teams also are responsible for entering outcome data into the Safe2Tell database.

Safe2Tell analysts at the Department of Public Safety

The Colorado Information Analysis Center, in the Colorado Department of Public Safety, partners with the Colorado Department of Law to answer and disseminate every Safe2Tell report. Safe2Tell analysts effectively engage reporting parties in a two-way dialog to maximize the information available for follow-up. Analysts directly connect or refer to the appropriate mental health partners as needed, including Colorado Crisis Services. The average hold time for all transfers made to CCS, including mental health-related self-reports, was 3.8 minutes. Safe2Tell sends reports regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s COVID-19 hotline for follow-up.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from the 2021-2022 School Year

Based on a review of the data, Safe2Tell has identified the following recommendations for improving the Safe2Tell program:

- Redevelop presentations for school staff, law enforcement, primary and secondary students, conferences, and partner groups.
- Increase virtual, on-demand, and asynchronous training options for school teams and law enforcement agencies statewide on understanding Safe2Tell best practices, identifying the differences between unfounded and false reports, using the Safe2Tell digital platform, and educating students on the proper use of the program.
- Encourage local school districts to nominate a liaison to Safe2Tell. The liaison can help coordinate training with students and Safe2Tell teams, provide technical assistance support on reports, and increase collaboration between all partners.
- Continue to promote Safe2Tell as a resource for students during summer and planned school breaks, including times when students are engaged in online learning, through updated social media messaging.
- Implement recommendations from the 2021-2022 student ambassadors.
- Encourage collaboration between school teams, law enforcement agencies, and mental health partners by providing resources for developing and maintaining high-functioning multidisciplinary teams.
- Restore Safe2Tell staffing to include a Law Enforcement Trainer position. This hiring process is underway.
- Develop a P3 Working Group of recipients comprising law enforcement, district security, and school administration officials.
- Minimize instances of false reporting and misuse of the program by providing school teams and law enforcement agencies resources to cultivate a healthy Safe2Tell culture.
- Expand the reach of the student ambassador program by increasing the number of ambassadors accepted into the program, while continuing to seek representation from students in all regions of Colorado.
- Update Safe2Tell awareness materials and messaging to align with feedback from student surveys.
- Update monthly reports to include more information regarding aggregate data.
- Review event types on the report form to be representative of concerns received. Add outcomes to the disposition form to give responders options that represent common outcomes.
- Reorder the disposition form for ease of use by recipients.
APPENDIX A

Number of reports by category and month - 2021-2022 school year

Note: Of the 19,364 reports received by the program in 2021-2022 school year, 841 were self-reports. Of those, 84 were mental health-related, and 757 were other concerns.
APPENDIX B

Number of reports by month

Note: This visual shows the number of reports submitted to Safe2Tell by each month compared to the previous school year.
Safe2Tell received 84 mental health-related self-reports during the 2021-2022 school year. These are reports that people have made for themselves in the following categories: depression, suicide, and self-harm. Outcomes above are non-exclusive; i.e. more than one outcome could have occurred for any given report.
Note: This visual is an example of the subcategories that were reported within the “misuse” category. The “other” category comprised of instances when a report was submitted 1 or 2 times in categories that include the following: animal cruelty, fireworks, unsafe driving, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, harassment, gangs, extremism, pranks at school, alcohol, assault, depression, sexting, threats, bullying, child abuse, blackmail, noise complaints, anger issues, and requesting info. Additionally, when analysts/report recipients did not have enough information to place the report in another subcategory, those were placed in "other". Although Safe2Tell does take reports on sexual assault, alcohol, depression, etc., these reports did not pertain to the safety of students or schools and therefore were marked as misuse.
2021-2022 Report type examples

Valid example

A student reported that another student was talking about self-harm and using drugs. Local teams spoke with the Crisis Response Team, the student, and family, and the student was transferred to a hospital.

A student reported that another student had a knife with them at school. Local teams investigated and confirmed that the student had a knife. The school contacted the students' parents and school disciplinary action was taken.

Misuse example

A student asked Safe2Tell to call their school and let them know that the roads were dangerous due to snow. The student was encouraged to go directly to the school with this concern.

A person reported their concerns regarding a school district employee's qualifications. This person was encouraged to contact the school district in the future.

False example

A student reported that another student was being abused at home and self-harming. Several reports had previously been made about this student before which all have been unfounded.

A student reported that another student was drinking to cope with depression. Several reports had been previously made about this student before which all have been unfounded.

Note: This page is an example of types of reports that have been submitted to Safe2Tell in the 2021-2022 school year. Valid examples are reports that are submitted in good faith for early intervention and prevention, misuse examples are reports received with non-malicious intent (includes prank calls and hang-ups) that don’t pertain to early intervention or prevention, and false examples are reports that were made with malicious intent that may include false information to harm, injure, or bully another person. All report examples have been anonymized.
Note: Total number of suicide and threat assessments completed for all reports that were submitted to Safe2Tell.