



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



Annual Report

OK2SAY - Michigan's
student safety program

2023



2023 Annual Report

OK2SAY is Michigan's most effective prevention-based reporting system established by the Student Safety Act of 2013. It is designed to **EMPOWER MICHIGAN STUDENTS TO HELP PREVENT VIOLENCE AND MAKE THEIR SCHOOLS SAFER** by confidentially reporting threatening behavior.

Anyone can report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools. The hotline is available for use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

NUMBER OF TIPS

- 9,686 tips in 2023
- 50,048 cumulative tips since 2014

TOP FIVE TIP CATEGORIES IN 2023

1. Bullying
2. Suicide threats
3. Drugs
4. Sexual assault / misconduct / exploitation
5. Threats

K-12 BYSTANDER REPORTING TOOLKIT

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the U.S. Secret Service issued a toolkit in May 2023. Not only was Michigan highlighted in the report, but Michigan State Police (MSP) personnel participated on two national panel webinars as part of the School Safety Virtual Training Series after the report was published.

OK2SAY CONDUCTS OUTREACH

OK2SAY conducted 891 virtual and in-person presentations reaching 141,977 attendees in 2023. According to the feedback from school personnel, 93% would recommend an OK2SAY presentation to others.

OUTCOME REPORTS FROM SCHOOL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

3,468 submitted Outcome Reports showed that:

- 87% believe the tip information was sufficient to initiate an investigation.
- 70% were unaware of the problem before the tip.
- 88% found OK2SAY to be a useful service.

For more information visit us at www.ok2say.com



Michigan Student Safety Act

History

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education, in a joint study on school violence, reported that perpetrators exhibited concerning behavior before the attack in 93% of the incidents. And in 81% of violent school incidents, someone other than the attacker knew about the plan but did not report it.*

Based in part on this study, the Michigan Student Safety Act (Public Act 183 of 2013) was signed into law in December 2013.

Public Act 183 of 2013 required the Michigan Department of Attorney General to collaborate with the MSP, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Michigan Department of Education to establish, operate, and staff a hotline that:

- Provides for confidential reports of potential self-harm, harm to others, or criminal acts including but not limited to sexual abuse, assault, or rape, directed at students, school employees, or schools in this state;
- Protects the confidentiality of a reporter's identity;
- Operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and,
- Promptly provides tip information to appropriate school officials, law enforcement, or other agencies.

Public Act 401 of 2020 amended Public Act 183 of 2013 and consolidated all OK2SAY functions into the MSP.

* [The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States \(2002\).](#)

The MSP is responsible for developing, implementing, and reporting on Michigan Student Safety Act initiatives:

- The Michigan Intelligence Operations Center oversees the day-to-day operations of the OK2SAY tipline.
- The Grants and Community Services Division manages the administrative and promotional aspects of the OK2SAY program.



Michigan Student Safety Act

Goal

The goal of OK2SAY is to eliminate barriers so a student who is struggling can get needed help before a situation turns into a tragedy.

OK2SAY TIP PROCESS

1. An individual observes or is made aware of a safety concern and submits a tip to OK2SAY.
2. A highly trained OK2SAY technician receives and analyzes the tip.
3. The technician may establish an open dialogue with the tipster to gather all crucial information.
4. Once all relevant details are obtained, OK2SAY forwards the tip to the most suitable responding agency such as a school or law enforcement agency.
5. The responding agency investigates the tip and provides any needed interventions.
6. After completing the investigation, the responding agency is encouraged to send an outcome report to OK2SAY.



Tipster's Identity Is Protected By Law

The Student Safety Act generally prohibits the disclosure of tipster information.

Confidentiality of the tipster's identity is a hallmark of OK2SAY. Without it, tipsters would not be as willing to come forward and share information. The identity of the tipster is statutorily protected. It can only be released with permission of the tipster or the tipster's parents if they are a minor, or through a court order. This information is also specifically exempt from the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.



Metrics Analysis

Top Five Tip Categories in 2023

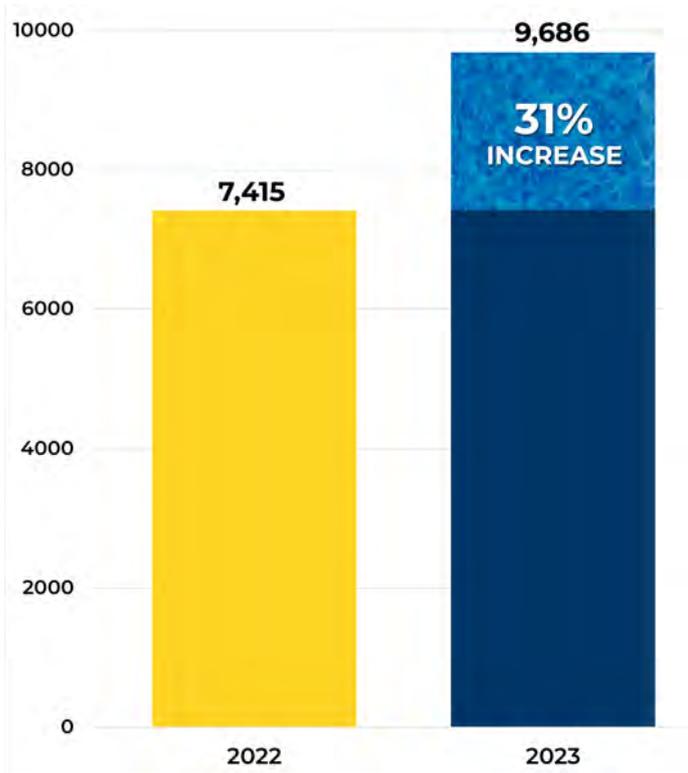
Category	Number of Tips
Bullying	1,769
Suicide threats	1,462
Drugs	1,286
Sexual assault / misconduct / exploitation	815
Threats	741

Top Five Cumulative Tip Categories

(September 1, 2014 through December 31, 2023)

Category	Number of Tips
Suicide threats	8,918
Bullying	8,546
Drugs	4,903
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	4,359
Planned school attack	3,722

Tips for the 2023 calendar year **INCREASED MORE THAN 31%** compared to 2022.



INTERVENTION

Based upon the 3,468 submitted Outcome Reports, most tips resulted in multiple interventions.

Type of Intervention	Number
Citation/apprehended	22
Welfare check	334
Outside resources recommended	351
Restorative practices/peer mediation	423
Ongoing investigation	504
School disciplinary action	598
Law enforcement involved	821
School counseling	1,286
Continue to monitor the situation	1,395
Parents notified	2,361

Highlights of OK2SAY in 2023:

- 24 tips involved the seizure of a weapon.
- 77 tips involved the seizure of drugs or alcohol.



When you stop the silence, you help end the violence.

Examples of OK2SAY's work in 2023:

Tip: A student made online threats explicitly referencing the 2023 Michigan State University shooting. The student stated they would carry out a similar attack at their school.

Result: The tip was forwarded to the school principal and local law enforcement. Based on the initial investigation, the student was suspended and law enforcement secured a court order to seize the student's phone and laptop. A computer forensic examiner discovered concerning evidence including drawings, blueprints of the school, videos focusing on the entrance and exit of the school library, and a close-up of the evacuation plan and shelter-in-place instructions. Additionally, three websites created by the student had documentation on previous school shootings, bomb-making instructions, improvised explosive devices, and gun imagery. As a result, a search warrant for the suspect's house was performed and firearms and drawings were confiscated. The judge authorized the detainment of the student.



Tip: A student was physically abused by their parents.

Result: This information was provided to the school administrators, local law enforcement, and Child Protective Services (CPS). The student was interviewed by the school administrator, who observed physical indicators of abuse that aligned with the information provided to OK2SAY. The school also filed a report of suspected child abuse with CPS that continued to monitor the student's well-being.



Tip: A student said they were going to bring a gun to school and shoot the students and staff.

Result: The school conducted an investigation. The student had significant impairments and had made a total of 33 similar threats that day. The student was evaluated and the school referred the student for further assistance and support.



Tip: A student had been self-harming using multiple types of sharp instruments on their arms and legs while at home and at school. They expressed a desire to die.

Result: The information was referred to both the school and law enforcement. Contact was made with the student's parents who immediately took their child in for a mental health evaluation. The parents were grateful as they had no idea their child ever self-harmed or experienced any suicidal ideation.



Tip: A student was reported to have stolen a saw blade from a classroom and had made threats toward others in the past.

Result: This information was reported to the principal and law enforcement. Officials conducted a search and discovered a four-inch skill saw blade and a THC pen with a charger in the student's possession. The school administrators contacted the student's parents and took appropriate disciplinary action.



Tip: A student sent a text message to friends expressing suicidal thoughts, "I want to kill myself." The student had a recent history of suicide attempts and trauma-related depression.

Result: OK2SAY contacted the school's emergency after-hours contact to obtain the home address of the student. Law enforcement was notified and they conducted a welfare check at the student's residence. The student's parents took their child to the hospital for a thorough mental health evaluation. The school is working with the family to provide additional counseling resources and support.



Tips versus Incidents

For metrics, analysis, and reporting purposes, OK2SAY records and tracks incoming contacts with the hotline as “tips” and “incidents.”

An OK2SAY “tip” is information provided through communication to OK2SAY technicians. Generally, when a tip is submitted, it may involve multiple communications between the individual and the technician to gather enough information to refer to the appropriate responding party. These communications are counted as a single tip.

An OK2SAY “incident” is a specific, singular event. Many tipsters report the same incident. Duplicate tips about the same incident indicate a healthy reporting culture within a community.

In 2023, OK2SAY logged 9,686 tips regarding 7,799 associated incidents.

In 2023, OK2SAY technicians forwarded or referred:

- 5,440 incidents to school officials;
- 1,115 incidents to law enforcement;
- 398 incidents to online resources, counseling, or crisis lines;
- 144 incidents to Child Protective Services; and
- No tips were referred to community mental health services.



Outcome Reports

The number of Outcome Reports INCREASED BY 82%, from 1,895 in 2022 to 3,468 in 2023.

Schools and local law enforcement are asked to complete an outcome report after investigating each tip. This report serves as valuable feedback on the effectiveness of the process. The MSP incorporates the Outcome Report information into its database, contributing to a comprehensive compilation of data and insights, including:

- Number of tips received;
- Number of tips forwarded;
- Nature of the tips received;
- Recipient of the forwarded tips;
- Details of the response; and,
- Effectiveness of the response.

After receiving an OK2SAY tip, 236 schools conducted a comprehensive behavioral threat assessment and/or suicide assessment. These assessments helped identify potential threats or warning signs associated with harmful behavior and suicide risk, enabling the school staff to take appropriate actions and provide necessary support to students in need.



The information collected in Outcome Reports plays an integral part in assessing the program’s overall effectiveness and has resulted in program changes.

School operations were disrupted nine times across the state as a result of an OK2SAY tip. This led to school closures, lockdowns, shelter-in-place orders, early dismissals, evacuations, and the cancellation of after-school activities.

Training and Outreach

Student Safety Presentations

Students play a critical role in helping to keep schools safe.

Students often know about school safety concerns before adults do. Educating students on how to recognize and report potential threats and risky behavior helps ensure early intervention and prevention.

In keeping with the provisions of the Student Safety Act, section 7(5)(c), MSP offers free, age-appropriate instruction about the OK2SAY tipline in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the state. The OK2SAY presentations teach students how to break the code of silence. Specifically, the students learn the purpose of the OK2SAY tipline, how to submit a tip, how tips are processed, and what will happen with the tip. The presentations also highlight many of the issues affecting students. Most importantly, the students are empowered to use their voices to speak up for their safety or the safety of others.

During 2023, ten highly-skilled independent contractors, trained and proficient in presenting the **OK2SAY Student Safety Program, conducted 891 virtual and in-person presentations with 141,977 attendees.**

Empirical and anecdotal evidence shows that students begin utilizing OK2SAY almost immediately after attending a presentation. The presentations were met with great enthusiasm and 93% of school staff expressed their willingness to endorse an OK2SAY presentation to others.

OK2SAY EXPOS

The OK2SAY team made a significant impact by actively participating in 33 conference events across Michigan,

effectively spreading awareness about the program to diverse audiences. These events were thoughtfully selected to engage with a broad range of communities across the state, aiming to enhance OK2SAY's presence and foster its seamless integration into schools.

OK2SAY NEW PARTNERSHIP

OK2SAY has formed a new partnership with the Michigan Trauma Coalition. The coalition plays a crucial role in sharing trauma awareness and education with the public. Their mission is to reduce injuries and enhance trauma care through a statewide system. The partnership will strengthen public education about OK2SAY.

SCHOOL STAFF FEEDBACK

- “I truly appreciate this presentation. I think all students need a steady reminder of the many issues they may face on a daily basis in today’s world and how speaking up can have a positive influence on things.”
- “Great presentation and essential subject matter. Very well put together and delivered.”
- “The presentation was very effective. We had several students report concerns following the presentation. I think the students appreciate having someplace safe to report safety and well-being concerns.”



Outreach Highlights

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

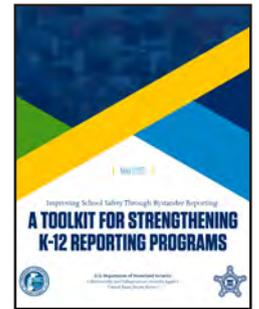
For the seventh year, OK2SAY partnered with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to promote OK2SAY at high school sports tournaments.

- Nearly three million individuals viewed the OK2SAY advertising on the MHSAA website.
- Approximately 1.3 million people heard the OK2SAY message at tournaments.
- Thousands of OK2SAY promotional materials were distributed to students and parents during the various state finals.
- OK2SAY advertising was included in 15,000 printed and digital game programs.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEATURES OK2SAY

In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center released “Improving School Safety Through Bystander Reporting: A Toolkit for Strengthening K-12 Reporting Programs.” The toolkit provided strategies and guidance for K-12 schools and school districts to implement and enhance safety reporting programs, while encouraging bystander reporting among students and other members of the school community. As part of their commitment to sharing school safety materials, CISA hosted two national webinars. A representative of the MSP Michigan Intelligence Operations Center was a featured presenter who emphasized the success of Michigan’s OK2SAY student safety tipline.



BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD (BCBS) OF MICHIGAN'S BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Since fall of 2020, OK2SAY has partnered with the BCBS Building Healthy Communities initiative supporting children’s health. The initiative provides teachers, administrators, and students with the resources, curriculum, equipment, and professional development to create healthier school environments. The initiative utilized OK2SAY resources and messaging as part of the program fitting in with their goal of improving the overall health and well-being of schoolchildren.



Financials

The MSP incurred \$1,525,955 in costs during 2023 under the Michigan School Safety Act, including the operation and administration of the 24/7 tipline. Itemized costs included:

- \$1,233,193 in salary, wages, and benefits;
- \$286,654 for services, supplies, and maintenance; and
- \$6,108 in travel.



Total Tip Numbers

OK2SAY is shifting attitudes and perceptions about reporting unsafe behavior and situations. OK2SAY is empowering students to be the “heroes in the hallway” and help their struggling classmates get the support they need.

2023 Tip Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Alcohol	6	14	7	13	18	10	3	7	9	13	15	14	129
Assault	16	19	41	30	47	10	5	12	37	33	36	26	312
Bullying	115	139	187	169	188	62	17	22	170	267	210	223	1,769
Child abuse	22	24	22	18	20	15	12	8	19	30	32	17	239
Cyberbullying	26	55	49	36	41	41	15	33	84	84	67	66	597
Dating violence	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	3	7	0	17
Domestic violence	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	12
Drugs	110	117	126	111	174	42	14	39	134	163	155	101	1,286
Explosives (bomb)	6	7	2	5	13	1	0	0	8	10	10	2	64
Fighting	5	9	8	7	10	3	0	3	6	7	21	4	83
Fire starting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gangs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guns	18	26	11	13	17	8	5	9	33	23	11	11	185
Hate crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Kidnapping/attempted kidnapping	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Knives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned fights	5	11	14	13	16	3	1	1	7	14	12	18	115
Planned school attack	47	70	38	28	39	6	2	9	32	53	84	52	460
Self-harm	35	34	60	34	40	15	6	9	17	49	44	43	386
Sexting	13	11	17	29	21	20	3	10	22	14	12	21	193
Sexual assault/ misconduct/exploitation	63	62	69	75	92	55	24	25	90	88	101	71	815
Stalking	2	2	2	0	3	2	0	3	1	5	5	5	30
Stealing	6	9	11	5	10	5	1	4	4	2	8	8	73
Suicide threats	132	101	153	143	121	60	56	69	114	183	184	146	1,462
Threats	66	57	86	85	85	36	9	21	98	74	71	53	741
Unsafe driving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	4	3	3	2	4	1	0	0	1	5	5	4	32
Weapons possession	10	10	1	2	10	5	0	3	12	13	6	1	73
Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment)	30	32	34	33	44	21	10	23	51	82	86	81	527
Total	752	813	944	860	1,021	432	183	311	966	1,227	1,200	977	9,686



Michigan State Police

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