



HB 123 – Anonymous Reporting System Requirement FAQs

Q: Where can I find a copy of the legislation?

A: Visit this page to read more about the legislation:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-123>

Q: What schools are required to adopt an anonymous reporting system?

A: The legislation requires each local, city, exempted village, and joint vocational school district to adopt an anonymous reporting system.

Q: We have an existing tip line provider with our local (law enforcement entity or private provider), what are the requirements they have to meet for this legislation?

A: The reporting program must meet the following requirements:

1. Operate twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week;
2. Forward reported information to and coordinate with the appropriate school threat assessment teams and law enforcement and public safety agencies required under the school's emergency management plan developed under section 5502.262 of the Revised Code;
3. Be promoted in each district school to inform students about the reporting program and its reporting methods;
4. Comply with sections 149.433 and 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 20 U.S.C. 1232g;
5. Annually report the number of anonymous reports made through the reporting program and the method by which they were received, disaggregated by school to the Ohio School Safety Center and Ohio Department of Education on a form/method proscribed by these departments.

Q: Is the data submitted either to the state tip line or to my tip line provider a public record?

A: No. RC 3313.6610(C) states that any data collected by the Safer Ohio School Tip Line or an anonymous reporting program or reported to the department of education or department of public safety pursuant to this section are security records and are not public records pursuant to section 149.433 of the Revised Code.

Q: As a vendor, where do I submit this data?

A: The OSSC will provide further guidance towards the end of the school year on the method of submitting this data. For now, please use the data collection worksheet created by the OSSC and Department of Education.

Q: Does the OSSC need to certify my anonymous reporting system provider as eligible under the legislation?

A: No, the vendor must meet the requirements spelled out in the statute but the OSSC will not be certifying companies and providers. Districts and schools will include which provider they have selected on their data collection worksheet and in their emergency operations plan documents. The OSSC will contact schools as needed if providers are identified that do not meet these standards.

Q: As a district, what data am I required to submit annually? When is it due?

A: Districts are required to submit the data requested on the data collection worksheet. Please refer to this worksheet for the exact data fields required. Data will be required to be submitted at the end of each school year when schools are completing their annual certification of their emergency management plan. The OSSC is working on getting changes made to the submission system to allow districts to complete these at the same time using the data worksheet provided. More information will be available closer to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: Does the state have a free anonymous reporting system we can use to meet this requirement?

A: Yes, the Ohio School Safety Center operates the free Safer Ohio School Tip Line. You can find more about this resource and register by visiting the following webpage:

<https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/osscc/pre-k-12-schools/safer-ohio-school-tip-line>

Q: What can we expect when we register for the state's tip line?

A: You will receive an email from OhioSchoolSafetyCenter@dps.ohio.gov confirming your registration and any requests for promotional materials. You will receive links to downloadable graphics to put on your website, in emails, and on internal school systems. You can use these graphics to help advertise the system to your students and school staff. Any print materials requested go out on a monthly basis and there is no cost for these materials. Additional training resources are under development by the OSSC and will be shared when available.

Q: How do I update my contact information for the Safer Ohio School Tip Line?

A: Please keep your Emergency Contact Sheet updated with your school building's emergency operations plan as well as any OEDS contact information from the Ohio Department of Education. These documents are used to identify the appropriate contacts (school resource officer, designated after hours contact, administrator, etc.) depending on the situation.

Q: I think I registered before, how can I confirm?

A: Please email OhioSchoolSafetyCenter@dps.ohio.gov to confirm whether or not your school or district is registered. You will need to provide your school or district name and IRN so we can find you on our roster.