

# STUDENTS PREVENTING VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL

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Preventing school violence: Getting help  
is just a conversation away.

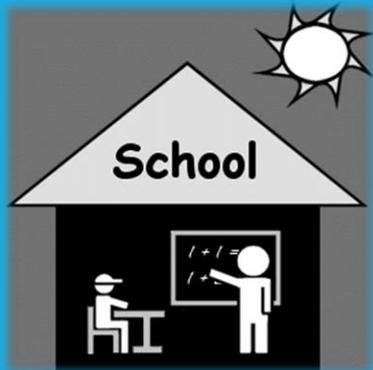


<https://tes.pasco.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/tes/2013/10/Students-Banner.png>

# CONTENTS

- Why talk about school violence?
- Pennsylvania Law
- What is a threat?
- What can we do to help prevent acts of violence?
- Where do we go to get help?
- Where and how to report a concern?
- Summary
- Resources

# WHY TALK ABOUT SCHOOL VIOLENCE?



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Each day, we hear and read about acts of violence that occur in schools.

Serious incidents of school violence are terrible and frightening. Fortunately, they are rare. But it's natural to worry about whether something may happen to you or your friends.

For every tragedy, there are many ways that students, school staff and communities work together to prevent these acts of violence.

Pennsylvania has enacted laws that help to protect students and prevent violence from occurring.

# PENNSYLVANIA LAW



Pennsylvania coat of arms (public domain image on [Wikipedia](#))

In June of 2019, Pennsylvania passed a law that requires schools to establish threat assessment teams [See [Article XIII-E, Threat Assessment](#) of the [Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949](#)].

Each school entity is to create a threat assessment team. This team is to assess and intervene with students when threats are being made.

**The goal of the team is to keep everyone safe and work with the student making the threat before they act.**

Threats can be made by someone who wants to:

- Harm themselves
- Harm other students
- Harm school staff members
- Harm the school building
- Bring harm into the community

# WHAT IS A THREAT?

According to [Merriam Webster Dictionary](#), a **threat** is defined as:

1. an expression of intention to inflict evil, injury, or damage
2. one that threatens
3. an indication of something impending

So what does that mean?

There are 2 main components of the definition.

- One is that someone has the intention of doing something that will cause injury, and the other is that it is impending and hasn't occurred yet.
- **The second part is crucial. It means that you can prevent an act of violence before it occurs.**

# WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP PREVENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE?

The first thing to do is to be aware of what is going on at school.

Are there signs to look for in others?

YES. Many times there are signs that other students are having problems in their lives and need assistance. Sometimes just reaching out as a friend will help someone feel better. Other times you'll see some behaviors that change over time. When you notice something going on that doesn't seem right, it's best to get some help.

You can speak with a staff person that you know and trust, the school counselor, or an administrator, in confidence.

There are teams of staff members who work to help students. Many times it's about knowing what is available in your school.

# WHERE TO GO TO GET HELP

Your school has trusted adults who are there to help you.

Your school also has several teams of school staff that work with students to get them the help they need before their problems escalate to an act of violence.

Each school has representation on the District threat assessment team. Its role is to assess and be informed of the threats, determine the level of the threat and any response that's necessary so that no harm occurs, and ensure that the student gets help.

Who's on the team?

- Typically, the following people will be on the team:
  - School nurse
  - School counselor, psychologist or social worker
  - School administrator or principal

All school staff will be able to speak with you and can share your concerns with a team member.

# HOW TO REPORT?

Students should feel comfortable  
in voicing their concerns.



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## **There are many ways that you can report a threat.**

- **Your school has its own reporting process:**
  - You can speak with any teacher or trusted adult.
  - Some schools have selected staff members that have stickers on their doors or something identifying them as a go-to person when you see or hear something that could be a threat.
  - Some schools have a telephone number you can call or send a text message.
  - You can share it in an email.
  - Some schools have written forms.
- **All students have access to the Safe2Say Something Hotline.**



Tip Line: 1-844-SAF2SAY  
723-2729

The Safe2Say Something safety program is available to all students. It's a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

The Safe2Say Something system teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and say something, using our anonymous reporting system, BEFORE it is too late.

**The Safe2Say system is an anonymous way for you to submit a tip to your school.** You do not need to share your name, phone number or anything unless you want to.

**What types of things should I report?** If something makes you uncomfortable, submit a tip. It will be up to your school to determine what the next steps are. Do you think someone is going to harm themselves? Did you see something scary that concerns you online? Submit this kind of information.



Tip Line: 1-844-SAF2SAY  
723-2729

Safe2Say Something is an easy way to let someone know that there is a problem and let them handle it. You can call, text, or email. It's that simple.

Here's how it works:

- Submit an anonymous tip report through the Safe2SaySomething system
- Crisis center reviews, assesses and processes all submissions
- Crisis center sends all submissions to school administration and/or law enforcement for intervention
- If needed, crisis center may contact tipster anonymously through the app

You can find out more about the Safe2Say Something program by clicking on this:

[Safe2Say Something Link](#)

# SUMMARY



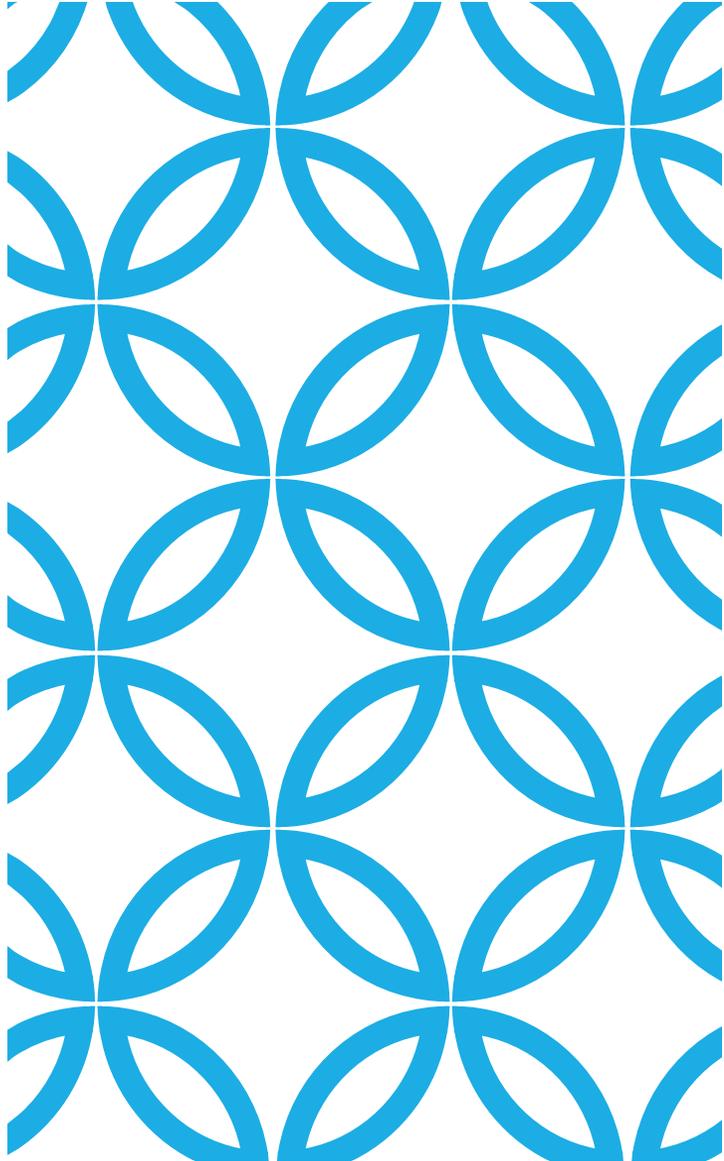
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[CC BY](#)

We all play a role in school safety. Be observant and let a team member or other school staff member know if you see or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened.

There is a difference between reporting, tattling or gossiping. You can provide important information that may prevent harm either directly or anonymously by telling a trusted adult what you know or hear.<sup>1</sup>

**Your reporting might save a life or many lives!**

1© 2019, National Association of School Psychologists, 4340 East West Highway, Suite 402, Bethesda, MD 20814, 301-657-0270, [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)



# RESOURCES

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Videos, websites, downloadable materials on how to help prevent school violence.



## Resources to Work with Students in Elementary School

***Start With Hello*** is Sandy Hook Promise's program with activities and curricula available for grades K-5 that can be used to teach students the skills they need to create a culture of inclusion in their school and community.

*Start With Hello Elementary* is a digital program that includes an interactive storybook, videos, activities and projects. Participants also receive an educators' guide with comprehensive lesson plans based on social-emotional learning to help students build empathy, healthy relationships and social awareness.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is working with Sandy Hook Promise to provide this program in schools. A train the trainer model will be introduced in the Spring of 2020. Contact the Office for Safe Schools at (717) 783-6612 for more information.

View the *Start With Hello* video, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSamNz489ag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSamNz489ag), for a brief clip of students, families and community members demonstrating this program and promoting it for students.



## Resources for Students in Middle and High School



With Sandy Hook Promise's ***Start With Hello*** program for grades 6-12, their free training program empowers students to end social isolation by teaching them three easy steps:

- *See Someone Alone*: how to recognize the signs of loneliness and social isolation
- *Reach Out and Help*: what students can do to help others feel included
- *Start With Hello*: how to break the ice and strike up a conversation

*Start With Hello* includes activities and lesson plans that can be used to teach students the skills they need to create a culture of inclusion in their school and community.

PDE is working with Sandy Hook Promise to provide this program in schools. A train the trainer model will be introduced in the Spring of 2020. Contact the Office for Safe Schools at (717) 783-6612 for more information.



## Resources for Students in Middle and High School



**Start with Hello** video featuring Middle School Students:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzMVHl4f13o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzMVHl4f13o)



**Safe2Say Something** Video Contest for High School Students, Poster, and other Resources can be found at:

<https://s2ss.knack.com/s2ss#schools/>

# Suicide Prevention



Mission: To support those who are affected by suicide, provide education, awareness, and understanding by collaborating with the community to prevent suicide, and reduce the stigma associated with suicide.

**IN CRISIS? CALL 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

Information on Student Education Resources, Trainings for Schools, PA Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative and other helpful information regarding suicide prevention can be found at Prevent Suicide's website:

[www.preventsuicidepa.org/Act71](http://www.preventsuicidepa.org/Act71)

**CRISIS TEXT LINE |**

**Text PA to 741741**  
Free, 24/7, Confidential

In crisis? Text anytime, from anywhere, about any kind of crisis and a live, trained Crisis Counselor will receive and respond to your text within just a few minutes, via a safe, secure platform connection.