



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is SAY SOMETHING?

SAY SOMETHING is a youth violence prevention program from Sandy Hook Promise – a national violence prevention organization. SAY SOMETHING Anonymous Reporting System allows youth and adults to submit secure & anonymous safety concerns to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals BEFORE they hurt themselves or others. The system enables school administrators and law enforcement to create effective interventions and to help prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm and other forms of threatening behavior. With our Anonymous Reporting System, it's easy and completely confidential to report safety concerns to help prevent violence and tragedies.

2. How can I submit a tip?

Tips can be submitted 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week by telephone, mobile app, or via the SAYSOMETHING.net website. Multimedia attachments and links to additional information are encouraged.

3. How does SAY SOMETHING help prevent harmful student-related behavior?

At present, a “culture of silence” permeates the American educational landscape. In this culture, threats of retaliation and stigmatization often discourage students from reporting the dangerous behaviors of their peers. Based on research from the U.S. Secret Service, in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew about the attacker’s plan but failed to report it. SAY SOMETHING aims to eliminate this culture of silence by

providing a confidential, collaborative communication system where students and authorities can work together to respond to safety threats.

4. How does the confidentiality work? Who is informed when a tip is received?

What information is shared? With whom?

SAY SOMETHING is a confidential communication system in which the identity of the reporting party is statutorily protected. Initial tips will be fielded by SAY SOMETHING technicians trained to filter the information to local law enforcement agencies, school officials and community mental health services.

5. Who keeps records of the tips that are submitted?

SAY SOMETHING technicians keep tip records. To promote program accountability, existing school personnel (likely the SAY SOMETHING contact designee), local law enforcement, or community mental health service personnel will be asked to submit outcome reports detailing how incidents are handled.

6. How is the validity of a tip established? Is there a filtering system in place to prevent program abuse?

SAY SOMETHING is a resource that individuals must use responsibly. Practical jokes and prank tips will not be tolerated. The program will remind users that reporting a tip is a serious action that will result in a response from the appropriate authorities. SAY SOMETHING technicians use their professional expertise to assess the validity of reports and determine whether further action is appropriate.

7. What happens to the tip if the individual reporting is threatening to hurt him/herself?

SAY SOMETHING technicians address the immediate need, and as necessary, forward the call to the appropriate responding agency. The technicians are specifically trained to recognize mental illness and emotional disturbances, and manage crisis situations. All psychiatric emergencies are additionally referred to the appropriate community mental

health services psychiatric crisis line. Law enforcement may be called to conduct a welfare check.

8. What is the appropriate action when a tip is received?

Because the content and circumstances of each tip will vary, the appropriate follow-up action will likewise vary. However, in each case, the emphasis is not the arrest of the person against whom a tip is offered. Rather, the goal of the program is to prevent harm and get students the support they need.

9. How does a school implement SAY SOMETHING?

SAY SOMETHING is free. To learn how SAY SOMETHING can be implemented in your school contact us at programs@sandyhookpromise.org.

10. What are SAY SOMETHING's hours of operation?

Tips can be submitted to SAY SOMETHING 24-hours-a-day, 7-days- a-week.

11. Are anonymous reporting programs working?

Yes, these programs have been very successful because once the appropriate responding parties have received the tip information, they take action to eliminate the threat. Cases of peer mistreatment have been reduced, weapons have been removed from schools, and students who were threatening suicide received the support they need.

12. What about parents? To what extent are they involved in responding to potential threats?

While the identity of the person submitting the tip will remain confidential, parents can be notified of the existence of a potential threat if the situation demands that they be contacted.

13. How will SAY SOMETHING be promoted?

Sandy Hook Promise has developed a presentation to teach and train middle and high school students about SAY SOMETHING.