



2023 Annual Report

Safe2Help is a free, non-punitive, effective state-wide school safety program that seeks to prevent bullying, mental health struggles, threats of violence, and anything impacting school safety. It provides a safe confidential environment for students to share information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Incidents

- 1,646 incidents in 2023
- 3,156 cumulative incidents since 2021

Top 5 Incidents in 2023

- Bullying/Harassment
- Suicidal Ideation- Reported by another student
- School Complaint
- Drugs
- Concerned Reporter

34.0%
Districts
Registered

290
School
Districts
Participating

769,400
Students
Served

A SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

Safe2Help was a recommendation provided by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force's School Safety Working Group following the Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy in Parkland, Florida.

Due to the collaborative efforts of the School Safety Working Group, the Student Confidential Reporting Act (Public Act 102-0752 of 2022) was signed into law in May 2022.

Safe2Help is a collaboration between the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, State Board of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services, and the Illinois State Police. Public Act 102-0752 of 2022, authorizes the creation, operation, and staffing of a helpline that:

- Operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year;
- Protects the confidentiality of the reporter's identity; and,
- Safeguards report information from Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA).

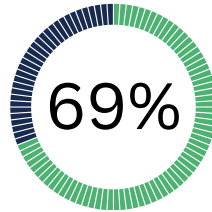


The Research

The 2021 United States Secret Service's Averting Targeted School Violence Report:



94% of the plotters shared their intentions about carrying out an attack through verbal statements, electronic messaging, and online posts



In 69% of the cases, communications about an attack plot were observed by friends, classmates, or other peers of the plotter.

Mission

In the absence of a trusted adult, Safe2Help offers students a safe, confidential way in which to share information that might help prevent suicides, bullying, school violence or other threats to school safety. This program is not intended to suspend, expel, or punish students. Rather, the goal is to get students to "Seek Help Before Harm." Safe2Help has developed a Mental Health Toolkit aimed at changing the culture in Illinois schools while also providing the resources to help parents and educators reinforce the components of this program.

Goal

The goal of Safe2Help is to end the culture of silence so a student who is struggling can get needed help before a situation turns into a tragedy.

A SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

How to Share Information

Submit and Receive

Students can confidentially send information on anything that impacts their safety or wellbeing.

- 1 Confidential Information Submitted
- 2 Safe2Help technicians receive, analyze, and share information

Respond and Report

Information is shared with school and district officials. Depending on the nature of the information received, 9-1-1 call centers will be contacted to dispatch the appropriate response.

- 3 The information is investigated, and resolved
- 4 Outcome is provided to Safe2Help

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



Safe2Help offers the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as a resource for students through the helpline and website.

Safety is in Your Hands

Success Stories

Suicidal Ideation- Self Reported.

A student contacted Safe2Help with thoughts of depression and harming themselves. The student had concerns over sharing this information. Safe2Help provided comfort and confidentiality to this student. School officials were able to provide a social worker and counselor to meet with the student and provide immediate intervention.

Self-Harm

A student shared information concerning another student engaging in self-harm. Safe2Help shared this information with school officials as well as local law enforcement. A social worker was able to meet with the student and their parents.

Threat of Planned School Attack

Safe2Help Illinois received information regarding a student bringing a weapon to school with the intention of harming others. The information was substantiated by school officials and referred to law enforcement. The school intervened and enacted a safety plan before students returned to school.

THE DATA

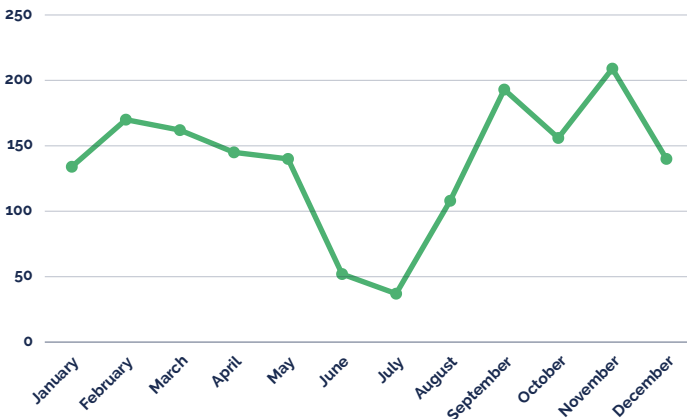
Public interactions for calendar year 2023 INCREASED MORE THAN 68% compared to 2022.



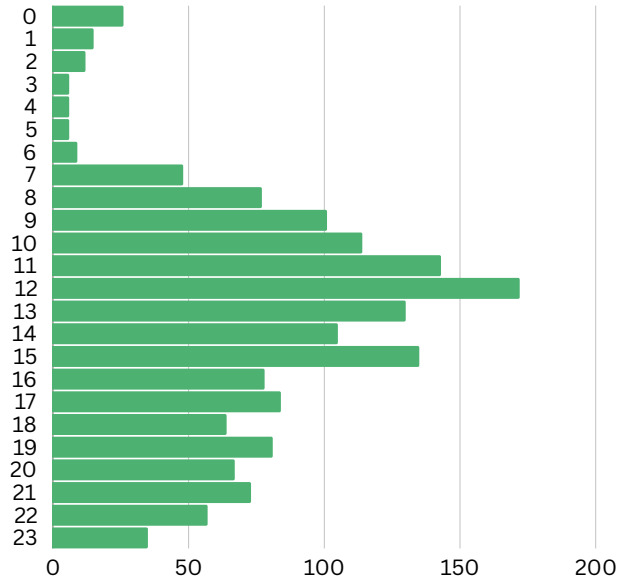
The increase in public interactions is likely attributed to several factors.

1. Increased program marketing efforts on platforms such as Spotify, YouTube, Facebook and Snapchat.
2. Safe2Help saw a 12% increase in school districts registrations.
3. Students were more inclined to share information after learning about Safe2Help.

Incidents by Month



Incidents by Time of Day



Dispositions



Schools are asked to share information to let us know how the process worked to evaluate the effectiveness of the response. This is a voluntary process.

DATA & TESTIMONIALS

Preferred Method of Sharing Information



39.4% Web Form



36.1% Text Message



5.2% Mobile Application

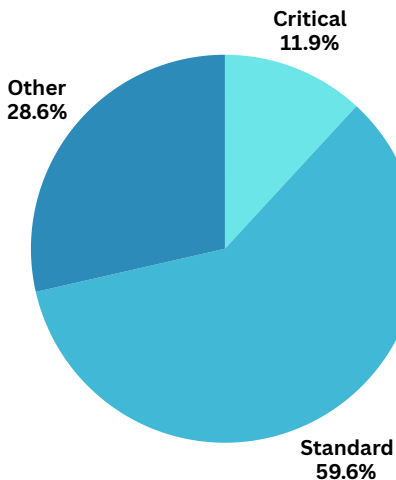


13.7% Email



5.5% Phone

Incident Level



Definitions

Critical: Involve immediate or imminent threat of violence or potential self-harm such as but not limited to, threats of suicide and threats of planned school attack,

Standard: May include, but are not limited to; bullying, cyberbullying, vaping, or substance abuse.

Other: May include but, are not limited to; false reports, prank reports, requests for information, or misapplication of system.

Testimonials

"Safe2HelpIL is an important part of the support system that we have in place for our students to confidentially share information and receive appropriate assistance. Having a platform that is available 24/7, inclusive of all grade levels, and with the ability to communicate with multiple administrators and law enforcement means students receive timely help. We have the Safe2HelpIL app installed on student iPads district-wide, which allows our students immediate and consistent access. We truly appreciate being a part of this state-wide initiative to help support our school safety measures."

Tony DeMonte , Director of
Technology & Media Services
Wilmette District 39

"Safe2Help has provided our students with access to tools and resources necessary to increase social-emotional competency and accessing mental-health support for themselves and friends. Safe2Help has allowed students to access mental-health support quickly and confidentially. Safe2Help has ignited many conversations with students, staff and families to address the growing challenges that our students are facing in and out of school."

Dr. Marie K. Stover, Asst.
Superintendent of Student
Services, Morris Elementary SD 54

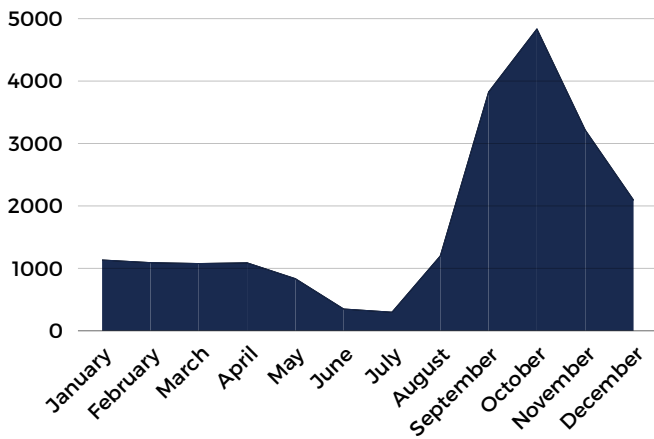
WEBSITE

Safe2Help Website

The Safe2Help website provides self-help resources for students and educators with activities, exercises, and videos to help address what students or their friends may be struggling with.

Student focus groups are utilized to drive topic and content creation. Currently, the Safe2Help website features eleven self-help topics and ways students can help a friend. Content is developed in collaboration with mental health professionals and West 40 ISC #2, specifically for K-12 students.

2023 Website Sessions



20,905

Total Website Sessions

Wednesday

Popular day of week for website visits

Top 5 Topics

Topic	Views
Make a Difference	6,177
Ways to Get Help	1,438
Bullying	724
Self-Injury	389
Depression	223

Video Content

In partnership with the University of Illinois Springfield, Safe2Help has created promotional and topic specific videos for students and educators to reinforce key messages and learnings from website self-help topics.



OUTREACH & TRAINING



Safe2Help Training

In 2023, Safe2Help offered free virtual and in-person presentations and trainings to schools and districts upon request.



Conferences & Events

Safe2Help participated in approximately 64 conferences and other events.



Digital Marketing

Safe2Help has invested in statewide digital marketing efforts through Spotify, YouTube, Facebook and Snapchat to educate parents, community members, and educators on the availability of Safe2HelpIL as a resource.



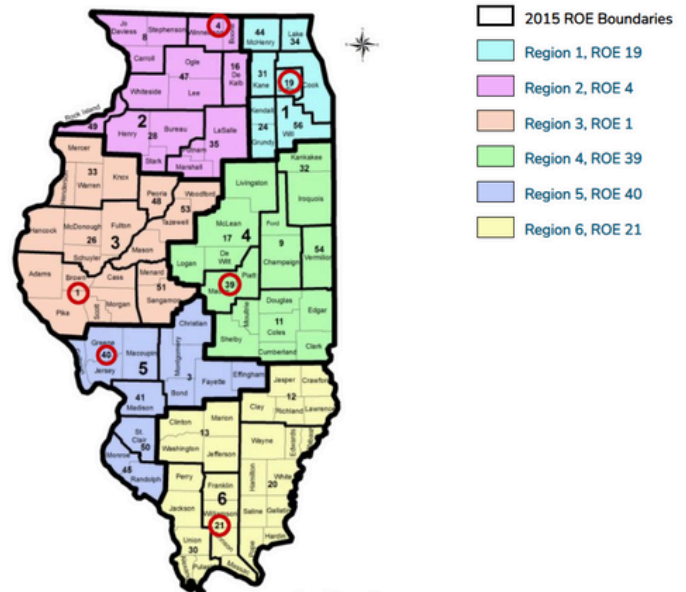
Student ID Card Act

As of 2023, Public Act 102-0416 requires Safe2Help or a local suicide prevention resource number to go on the back of any issued student identification cards, student handbooks, and any student planner that is custom printed and distributed for students in grades 6 through 12.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) HUBS

SEL Hubs are providing free professional development, training, and support to districts in their region to establish and expand SEL programs in Illinois schools. They are assisting school-community leadership teams to implement data-driven strategies to address student trauma and mental health needs and build resilient communities.

Each SEL Hub provides training on Safe2Help, the Safe2Help Mental Health Toolkit, Digital Literacy, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and more! Contact to schedule training for your district or school.



Contact Information

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DEFINITIONS

Non-safety concern – A question, statement, or media file submission that is not a school safety concern.

Example: A student is having a difficult time with friends and wants to talk to someone.

Concerned reporter: Reporting about suspicious activity, or reporting about a friend/student/staff member someone is worried about.

Example: A student perceives a friend is upset and does not know how to help them. Concerned about a teacher who is receiving mean comments from students.

School complaint tips: Complaints about school or school staff.

Example: A student does not like to run and is complaining about having to do the activity. A teacher is assigning homework that is difficult. The teacher favors a student over the other.

False Reports: Non-actionable reports received with malicious intent. They may include false information to harm, injure, or bully another person.

The Time to Register is NOW!

If you are a K-12 school or district administrator and would like to participate in Safe2Help, contact us at:



Info@Safe2HelpIL.com



(217) 782-2700



HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN SAFE2HELP ILLINOIS



Is your District or School Participating?

Who can Participate?

All K-12 schools in Illinois can participate in Safe2Help. Public, charter, private, vocational, or other alternative learning schools are encouraged to register.

How can my District or School Participate?

Safe2HelpIL offers virtual and in-person training opportunities. District and school administrators can contact Safe2HelpIL at Info@Safe2HelpIL.com to learn more about the program and how to register.

It is not a matter of if your school or district will receive a report from Safe2HelpIL, but when.

Why should my District or School Participate?

In our statewide marketing efforts we are experiencing increased usage and brand awareness. By participating in the program, your district or school will be able to address in a timely manner student struggles and concerns.