



MISSION STATEMENT: To ensure that every Colorado student, parent, teacher and community member has access to a safe and anonymous way to report any concerns to their safety or the safety of others, with a focus on early intervention and prevention through awareness and education.

“Our lives begin to end
the day we become **silent**
about things that matter.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Code of Silence Statistics

According to the 2008 U.S. Secret Service and Department of Education report entitled: “*Prior Knowledge of Potential School-Based Violence*” it is clear that breaking the Code of Silence by opening lines of communication is imperative for preventing violent acts on school property. The report states the following:

- First, the perpetrators exhibited concerning behavior prior to the attack in 93% of the incidents. This suggests that attacks might have been avoided with proper observation techniques and more open sharing of information
- Second, and more significant, at least one other person had some type of knowledge of the attacker’s plan in 81% of the incidents and more than one person had such knowledge in 59% of the incidents.
- Of those individuals who had prior knowledge, 93% were peers of the perpetrators – friends, schoolmates, or siblings (Vossekuil et al., 2002).

http://www.ustras.gov/usss/ntac/bystander_study.pdf

“Kids often have the best information of what is happening in their schools and in their community. Safe2Tell provides a safe way for kids to pass on this information to adults who can make a difference.”

- U.S. Senator Ken Salazar

Changing the Code of Silence By Making it Safe2Tell

Students most frequently do not tell others of issues they face due to:

- Fear of retaliation
- Fear of rejection and isolation
- Fear they will not be believed

While Safe2Tell provides a way for students to tell of threatening or dangerous behaviors in a way that keeps them safe and ANONYMOUS, it is imperative that adults in the life of each child handle the reports appropriately.

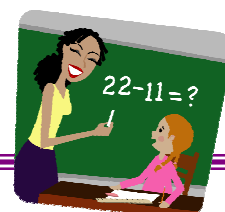
According to the Bystander Report of 2008 “Some bystanders reported that the school climate influenced their decisions to share information with the school staff regarding the threats.

Bystanders who came forward with information commented that they were influenced by positive relations with one or more adults, teachers, or staff, and/or a feeling within the school that the information would be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

Similarly, students who displayed a reluctance to come forward indicated that they anticipated a negative response from the school had they shared information.”

One student who knew of a weapon on school property was reluctant to come forward because he expected a negative reaction: “When you say something, you get in trouble or interrogated by teachers.”

Safe2Tell suggests that adults help create a climate of trust by helping students understand that reports of threats are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly and anonymity is respected, keeping students safe when they choose to do the right thing. http://www.ustras.gov/usss/ntac/bystander_study.pdf



Caring, Committed Adults Make a Difference in Student Success

According to helpingamericasyouth.gov ~ Teachers, school counselors and coaches are examples of caring adults who can connect with teens in schools in the following ways:

- Having a teacher who gives emotional as well as instructional support can buffer the risk of early school failure.
- At the end of first grade, at-risk children whose teachers were moderately to highly supportive had similar levels of academic achievement as their low-risk peers.
- Teachers can play an important role in students' adjustment to middle school, which is an important and challenging developmental period for youth.
- Boys and girls who perceived an increase in levels of teacher support over the middle school years showed corresponding declines in depression and increases in self-esteem.
- When teachers emphasize mutual respect between classmates, middle school students tend to feel more effective in their schoolwork.
- A positive student-teacher relationship has been linked to higher grades and a lower probability of engaging in risky behaviors or being suspended in the subsequent year.

Always remember that you CAN make a difference in the life of a child!

CARE

CONNECT

COMMIT



“You have your *own voice*, you can use it to make the life of someone else better or worse. If you don’t speak up for someone, sometimes *no one else will*. At Safe2Tell we provide a safe, *anonymous* way for you to speak up and make a difference in the life of someone who needs it.”

- Special Agent Susan Payne
Safe2Tell Executive Director

FEATURED TIP STORIES:

- School staff and the SRO are now monitoring hallways, restrooms, the gymnasium and the cafeteria after a fearful 9th grade student reports that he is getting beaten up every day after school and at his locker.
- A middle school principal takes immediate action after receiving a report that a boy is threatening to beat an 8th grade girl up when she gets off the school bus. The principal states, “This was good information that allowed the school administration to intervene and assist in the situation. We are very grateful to Safe2Tell for their preventive program.”

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