



## OK-2-SAY Program Overview

### Introduction

Attorney General Bill Schuette, the Office of the Governor, the Michigan State Police, and the Michigan Department of Education are taking action to improve the safety of Michigan schools for our children. Their new student safety initiative is currently called OK-2-SAY.

### Goal

The goal of OK-2-SAY is to create a comprehensive communication system that empowers students, parents, school personnel, and law enforcement officials to share tips that help prevent dangerous behavior and deter escalation.

### Rationale

In many schools, a culture of silence is reinforced among students who consider it intrusive or “uncool” to report (“snitch”) threatening behavior for fear of retaliation and stigmatization. Research indicates that in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker had knowledge of the attacker’s plan but failed to report it.

### Features

OK-2-SAY opens the lines of communication among students and caring, professional adults through:

- **Confidential Reporting:** Reporter confidentiality will be statutorily guaranteed.
- **Comprehensive Technology:** Tip submission mechanisms will include 24/7 telephone, website, e-mail, text, and multimedia options.
- **Coordinated Intervention:** The Michigan State Police will field initial reports and promptly provide the information to appropriate local law enforcement agencies and school districts.
- **Complete Disposition:** To promote accountability, program operators will complete disposition reports detailing the nature of the tip, the action taken in response, the outcome achieved, and suggestions for improvement.

### Benefits

Key benefits of the OK-2-SAY program include:

- **Increased Safety:** facilitates responses to harmful behaviors like bullying, substance abuse, weapons possession, and suicide threats.
- **Collaborative Support:** empowers students to dialogue with adult authorities, transforming the culture of silence into a collaborative support system.
- **Timely Response:** encourages prompt responses to submitted reports through police coordination, disposition filings, and 24/7 availability.
- **Improved Academic Performance:** creates a safer learning environment where students can reach their full academic potential.

### Proven Success

Other states have successfully implemented similar student safety programs, including:

- **Colorado:** Program has prevented 28 planned school attacks, 890 suicides, 1,636 bullying instances, 442 sexual offenses, and 275 gun / weapon reports.
- **Missouri:** Key successes include tip submission through downloadable mobile app; 1,000+ cases fielded in 2011; and 80% of law enforcement surveyed believe the hotline promotes cooperation between law enforcement agencies and school officials.

### Timeline

The target is to establish an operational program by September, 2013, to coincide with the start of the 2013-2014 academic year.

| Organizations in Support of the OK-2-SAY Program             |
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| American Federation of Teachers Michigan                     |
| Cadillac Area Public School                                  |
| Governor's Office  |
| Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police                     |
| Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators   |
| Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools                   |
| Michigan Association of School Administrators                |
| Michigan Association of School Boards                        |
| Michigan Association of School Social Workers                |
| Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals          |
| Michigan Catholic Conference                                 |
| Michigan Department of Education                             |
| Michigan Education Association                               |
| Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association |
| Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association                  |
| Michigan Sheriff's Association                               |
| Michigan State Police  |
| Middle Cities Education Association                          |
| Oakland Schools  |
| Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan                |