



School Community Announcement

Dear Madison County School Community,

Everyone deserves to feel safe and supported while they are on our campuses every day. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority that requires a proactive approach to preventing violence and self-harm.

That is why we are happy to introduce the [Say Something Anonymous Reporting System](#) to our district. We will be training our middle and high school students on when and how to use it later this week. This program will further enhance the student protections we already have in place.

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is a research-based violence prevention program offered by Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization. It teaches the warning signs of potential violence or self-harm and provides students and staff with secure ways to share safety concerns through a mobile app, website, or phone call.

Millions of youth and adults nationwide have been trained to recognize warning signs and report them via the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System. Participating school administrators and staff report their students feel safer and lives have been saved.

We have included information about what the app is, how students can use it, and why we are adopting it in our schools below.

***Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System FAQ**

What is the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System?

It is an age-appropriate, evidence-informed program that trains youth and adults to recognize warning signs and threats of potential violence and to tell a trusted adult or use the anonymous reporting system via app, website, or telephone hotline. This empowers students, parents, staff, and community members to securely share safety concerns, helping school administrators and local response teams prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm, and other dangerous behaviors.

How does the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System work?

Students and staff can submit a tip about concerning or threatening behaviors through the app, website, or a telephone call, 24/7/365. Every submission goes directly to a highly trained crisis counselor at Sandy Hook Promise's National Crisis Center. There, counselors vet all tips, gather details, then share the information and next steps with the District and School teams, along with law enforcement (as needed). The team steps in to address the threat and provide solutions. Every school system team has a trained *Say Something* response staff that includes social workers, counselors, and administrators.

Say Something is proven to prevent school shootings, suicides, and gun threats, as well as help reduce other acts of violence and victimization like bullying/cyberbullying, self-harm like cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and more.

How does the system work?

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System can be used to report threatening or harmful behavior, harassment, and more. For example, imagine that a student, Thomas, is worried about a friend, Mary, who has been harming herself. Thomas isn't sure who he should tell and is afraid of being labeled a "snitch" or, worse, losing his friend. Thomas can anonymously report the concern through the *Say Something* app, website or through a phone call. He can

even share screenshots of social media posts that he may have seen about this. Highly trained crisis counselors immediately take action to ensure Mary is safe and getting the help and support she needs.

What happens to the tip if the individual reporting is threatening to hurt themselves?

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System's National Crisis Center and local *Say Something* team members are specifically trained to recognize mental and emotional disturbances and effectively manage crisis situations. All psychiatric emergencies are referred to the appropriate community mental health services. Law enforcement may conduct a welfare check.

Do I have to use the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System? Does my student?

Using the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is completely voluntary.

Who is running this program?

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is offered at no cost to schools by [Sandy Hook Promise \(SHP\)](#), a national nonprofit that was founded and is led by family members whose loved ones were killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in 2012.

How much are we paying for this program?

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is provided at no cost by Sandy Hook Promise, thanks to the charitable donations of their national grassroots network and philanthropic partners.

What about privacy?

Our school system has been working with our school board's legal team to ensure that all key privacy standards are maintained. All data from our school community within the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is owned by the district.

Who can I talk with to get more information?

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