Background: Safe2Tell Wyoming

The State of Wyoming, as a result of Sandy Hook and other school tragedies, passed legislation critical to creating safe schools and communities for Wyoming’s youth. In 2016, SF-0097 was passed, which created a tip line for students, educators, parents and the community to relay information confidentially concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent or criminal activities, or the threat of such activities, to appropriate law enforcement and public safety agencies and school officials. Recognizing information sharing between law enforcement and schools is the key to prevention and intervention the bill allows for the delivery of the information to law enforcement, emergency response personnel and school district officials as necessary for coordination to address concern expressed in the tip. Also passed by State legislature in 2014 for Wyoming schools is the option for schools to twice yearly execute their crisis management plan as a safety drill or and organized practice event conducted under W.S. 35-9-505.

Safe2Tell Wyoming was designed to help schools identify youth who are struggling in order to prevent violence and tragedies from occurring. Tips submitted to Safe2Tell Wyoming provide schools a way to gather key information about safety concerns within their schools or communities and use this information to create effective interventions in the lives of students. A key component to the Safe2Tell model in schools is educating and engaging students on what to watch for and what to report while equipping them with the resources to confidentially report concerns. Safe2Tell Wyoming provides trainings, presentations, resources, promotional and marketing materials to Wyoming schools to increase awareness around the Safe2Tell model, promoting responsible use of the confidential reporting system.

State law protects the confidentiality of the person who reports in the tip. During an investigation, efforts are made to protect this confidentiality. Tips received from the tip line are often forwarded directly to school officials, so schools may proactively intervene before a criminal incident or potential tragedy takes place. The Safe2Tell model is a tool all schools can use, by giving students, parents and others a means to report anything that concerns their safety.

If a school is dealing with an ongoing problem or a specific incident, they can advertise the tip line, web reporting and mobile app to students to report any concerns, which helps reduce the time and effort needed to resolve the situation. The very existence of Safe2Tell in schools is a deterrent and can inhibit troublesome behavior from happening in the first place. Safe2Tell Colorado provides effective safety model allowing schools to focus on educating children and providing a safe learning environment for kids to develop life skills.

Safe2Tell Wyoming offers schools timesaving resources to easily participate and educate students, parents and staff about the prevention model. Safe2Tell is available to all Wyoming students and community members, regardless of their individual school’s participation.

Key Benefits for School Using the Safe2Tell Model:

Proactive intervention prevents incidents before they happen.

Confidential tip line saves time investigating incidents.

The tip line’s existence inhibits & deters troublesome behavior.

24/7 forwarding of tips enables prompt action & reduces liability.

Safe2Tell Wyoming materials support quick & easy implementation.