



Pocono Mountain School District

PO Box 200 • Swiftwater, Pa 18370 • 570-839-7121

Elizabeth M. Robison, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools erobison@pmsd.org

Fax: 570-895-4768

August 30, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

With the start of school, I wanted to remind you that the most important safety measure we can have in place at our schools is to foster a culture and climate in our schools where our students and parents feel accepted and comfortable reporting concerns to our administrators.

I ask our parents and students to continue to be our eyes and ears in our community. We need you to continue to report to us any safety concerns or possible threats against our schools that you may hear about or see posted on social media. I hope you and your children will continue to trust us to act immediately to investigate and resolve any concern you report to us, whether it is a possible threat to our schools or a concern about the safety and health of another student.

If you or your child are uncomfortable reporting concerns directly to us, then please use Pennsylvania's anonymous tip line, Safe2Say Something to report your concern. The state launched this anonymous reporting system on January 14, 2019. At the start of the school year, our school teams will be training all students in grades 7 to 12 on Safe2Say Something, because not all students are comfortable reporting a concern to a teacher, staff member, or administrator.

This program, which is mandated under PA state law / Act 44, teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and *Say Something* to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system. Specifically, the program educates participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media
- Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR
- Report it anonymously through the Safe2Say Something Office of the Attorney General 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via a school-based multi-disciplinary educator and administrator teams
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities and call-to-action weeks

Safe2Say Something is based on a three-step system:

- An anonymous tip is submitted via one of the following options:
 1. Website: <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>
 2. Tipline: 1-844-SAF2SAY
 3. Mobile App for Apple and Android Devices
- All calls and tips are received by the 24/7 S2SS Crisis Center.

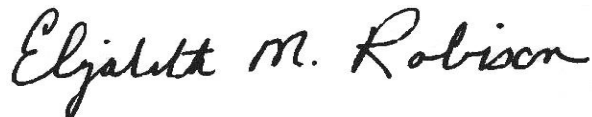
1. A S2SS Crisis Center analyst receives and reviews tip information.
 2. The tip is triaged and categorized as either life safety or non-life safety.
 3. The tip is then sent to school officials and law enforcement (as needed) via text, email, and/or phone call.
- School officials and law enforcement intervene and/or offer assistance
 1. School officials and law enforcement (as needed) investigate, assess, and intervene with reported at-risk individuals.
 2. School officials report their outcomes into the Safe2Say Something platform and close out the tip, ensuring accountability for every tip submitted.

The Safe2Say Something program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP's programs are in 50 states – with 10,000+ schools and over 5.5 million students and adults trained. They have a track record, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and culture. The program is age-appropriate and research-based. They also have funding to provide and sustain the program at NO COST to our school (and all schools statewide).

While Safe2Say Something is an important tool and resource available in Pennsylvania for anyone to use to report a safety concern through an anonymous reporting system, I hope you and our students also know that you can report your concerns directly to our school administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, staff, bus drivers, coaches or directly to me and my Cabinet during school hours for immediate action. If there is a concern after school hours, you may always contact the police through the 9-1-1 system.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me directly.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Robison
Superintendent of Schools