

Safe2Say Something

Western Area CTC is always looking at ways to make our school safe from intruders. In conjunction with that effort, we have joined the rest of Pennsylvania in conducting a new initiative called *Safe2Say Something*, a program started by two parents who lost children at the Sandy Hook shootings.

Facts clearly show that:

- 80% of school shooters told someone of their violent plans.
- 59% of school shooters told more than one person.
- 70% of people contemplating suicide tell someone of their plans or give other warning signs.

And a national study found that:

- 37% of threats of violence and bullying were sent electronically, and
- 28% used social media.

Western Area has trained staff members who will be on the front lines to help prevent some of these things from happening in our school. The staff will have an App on their cell phones that will alert them of any student that has reported problems. These tips can be done anonymously.

How it works There is a Tip Line - 1-844-SAF2SAY - or a web site - www.safe2saypa.org - or a mobile App available for Apple and Android devices. Calls are received 24/7. A crisis center analyst receives the call. Then the tip is triaged and categorized as either life threatening or non-life safety and sent to the school officials and law enforcement via text, email, or phone in a matter of seconds. The student then gets the help he or she needs.

This program was thoroughly explained to all staff at our recent in-service. All students will be taught how to use this program at their home schools before January 14, 2019. Western Area will not be training students since the home schools wanted that opportunity.

We are hoping this new program will keep us current on bullying, harassment, and life threatening events that occur at the home schools, on the school bus, and at our own school. We have had several tests of the system recently and have seen that it does work.

Again, our primary concern is student safety. We have always taken an active approach to ensure a safe and secure environment for every student attending Western Area CTC. The *Safe2Say Something* initiative provides a means to enhance our efforts.

Note: For more information on *Safe2Say Something*, go to <https://www.education.pa.gov> and click on "Safe2Say Something" found under Popular Topics.