



Board of Education

Barbara Schulman, President · Dr. Edward Wong, Vice President ·
Suzie R. Schwartz, Clerk · Amanda Morrell, Member · Dan Walsh, Member

Crystal Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Saddleback Valley Unified School District Families:

As a school district, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our students, educators, administrators, and the community at large.

To do this, we believe this must involve community-wide programs and initiatives involving parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, mental health and wellness professionals, and elected officials to take meaningful action to protect our students.

Today, I am happy to announce the district-wide launch of the *Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS)*. This program teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signals and threats, on social media, in school, or in their community, 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 students and adult participants to:

- Recognize the signs and threats of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously and act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult, OR
- Report it anonymously to the SS-ARS 24/7/365 Crisis Center via a mobile app, website, or telephone hotline
- Respond to and manage the submitted tips using a tip management system overseen by a designated school team
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities and call-to-action weeks

Our students are often aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to recognize the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations are taking place on social media, therefore it is critical that we teach our students to look out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place. SS-ARS teaches them what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student. The program also teaches students to recognize at-risk behaviors in friends and classmates at school and in their local community

The SS-ARS program is provided by Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP's programs are in 50 states – with 14,000+ schools and over 12 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. To date, SS-ARS and other SHP prevention programs have helped stop multiple school shootings, suicides, and gun threats, the program has reduced bullying and cyberbullying, intervened upon cutting, drug use, and other violent acts. We know this program will do the same for our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Stanfield', with a stylized, cursive style.

Justin Stanfield
Director, Student Services
Saddleback Valley Unified School District

How the

SAYSOMETHING

Works

ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM

STEP 1

SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP



Call the tipline:
1-844-5-SAYNOW



Use the Website:
www.saysomething.net



Use the Mobile App:
Available for Apple
and Android devices

STEP 2

ALL CALLS AND TIPS SENT TO A 24/7/365
MULTILINGUAL CRISIS CENTER

1

A Crisis counselor 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/or 911 Dispatch
(as needed) via text, email
and phone call within
moments of being received

STEP 3

SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND/OR 911 DISPATCH
INTERVENE AND GET HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS

1

School officials and 911
Dispatch (as needed) act
immediately to investigate,
assess, and intervene/provide
support to reported at-risk
individuals

2

The at-risk individual receives
the help he or she needs
BEFORE they ever get to the
point of hurting themselves
or others

3

School officials report their
outcomes into the SS-ARS
platform and close out the
tip, ensuring accountability
for every tip submitted

How is the program

DELIVERED & SUSTAINED?

SS-ARS is delivered through our:

- Team of certified trainers who will train students, school personnel, and 911 Dispatch
- Interactive training video and support curriculum and resources available through the Sandy Hook Promise Digital Learning Center

SS-ARS is sustained through our:

- Annual refresher trainings for students, along with annual call-to-action weeks
- Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Clubs that reinforce program themes and empower students to carry them forward and keep awareness high within district schools
- Dedicated SS-ARS Sustainability Team that provides ongoing support, adult trainings, professional development opportunities, newsletters featuring best practices, and more
- In-school awareness materials — posters, floor stickers, table tops, etc., to gently remind students of the app, website and 24/7/365 telephone hotline