



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

“Support for strong minds...
...Is the foundation for our future”

There are occasionally times when students or parents would like to provide information to a school but hesitate because they do not want their identities known. Providing open, direct communication with the community has long been a basic practice for all schools. The Montgomery County Community Mental Health Board (708 Board) will again provide funding for all Montgomery County area public and private schools (Hillsboro School Dist., Litchfield School Dist. Nokomis School Dist., Panhandle School Dist., Regional Office of Education #3 alternative junior high and high school in Raymond, Mid-State Cornerstone Academy in Nokomis, Zion Lutheran School in Litchfield and St Louis Catholic School in Nokomis) to utilize the Safe School Helpline®, a proven method to allow parents and community to provide input.

The Safe School Helpline first went online here late last school year and students began using it right away, which reinforced the need for such a great resource. The 708 Board, area law enforcement, County EMA, and the Schools have all partnered with a nationwide company to allow students to anonymously report bullying, abuse, threats or suicidal concerns.

Whether it is a student who fears being called a ‘snitch’ or ‘narc’ by peers, or a resident who worries about vandalism in retaliation for reporting a crime, possession or use of drugs or alcohol, reckless driving, or any other illegal activity. Safe School Helpline® provides a solution.

The Safe School Helpline® utilizes a unique, automated telephone service which allows callers to report an allegation, concern, or suggestion confidentially and anonymously. The caller’s identity is protected. He or she is never asked to give a name. The voice message is typed then faxed to school officials. In this way, no one except an operator hears the voice. Calls are made through a 800 number. If the caller would prefer to speak with a live mental health counselor, they can do so by selecting option ‘3’. For those who prefer reporting via the Internet, reports can be made by logging onto www.safeschoolhelpline.com. You can also text 66746 then type TIPS and follow the prompt

Each call is assigned a case number. The caller can then call back to the Helpline to check the school’s progress on the call, or to provide more information.

A caller (student, parent, or staff or member of the community) may make a report 24/7 and the schools will be notified the next school day. Ordinarily, the principal of the school, where the alleged offense occurred, will investigate. Should a crime, threat, or crisis such possession of a weapon be reported, the superintendent will be notified immediately, day or night, and he or she can contact the police department. As with any allegation against a student of staff member, no public action would be take until guilt is proven.

The Helpline is live and available 24/7, posters promoting the Safe School Helpline® will be located in the schools. Specific information will soon be sent to parents through school mailing.

Safe School Helpline® is operated by Security Voice, Inc., a Columbus corporation which also offers proprietary automated telephone service to businesses which allows employees to confidentially report wrongdoing and illegal activities in company work place.

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