

Louisiana Department of Education: The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is encouraging school systems to adopt the free <u>Crimestoppers GNO Safe Schools Louisiana Program and its Say It Here mobile app</u> for middle and high schools. The LDOE will utilize its regular communications channels and touchpoints through the Department's Office of School System Relations and Office of Career and College Readiness to inform school systems about the benefits of partnering with Crimestoppers.

Crimestoppers GNO: Crimestoppers GNO offers school systems the opportunity to participate in the Safe Schools Louisiana program at no cost. Crimestoppers GNO, Louisiana State Police, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness offer Safe Schools Louisiana to all middle and high schools throughout the state. The reporting app is a free resource. It provides students the ability to communicate anonymously about a pressing school, criminal, or mental health issue.

Louisiana State Police & GOHSEP: Louisiana State Police (LSP) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) partnered with Crimestoppers GNO to make the Safe Schools Louisiana program available to all middle and high schools throughout the state.

Why the need for an anonymous reporting tool?

- In the vast majority of all school shootings, someone other than the attacker knew of the plan before it happened.
- Four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs.
- Safe Schools Louisiana is a safe, easy, and anonymous way for people who see something to say something.

How does the program work?

- Safe Schools Louisiana is a turnkey program provided complimentary to schools. The program's Say It Here mobile app allows users to report bullying, violence, criminal activity, mental health issues, or other incidents they feel could go unnoticed. Users can even upload videos or photos with their anonymous tips.
- Crimestoppers GNO uses professionally trained security operators to field tips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Tips are monitored and, once vetted, the proper representatives are notified for engagement. When there is an emergency, the safe school team will be contacted for immediate response and intervention.
- This service follows best practice procedures for operating anonymous student hotlines on a platform called P3 Campus. P3 Campus is also used by many of the national student reporting programs such as Safe to Tell, Say It Here, and Sandy Hook Promise.
- The Safe Schools Louisiana Say It Here mobile app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play.

How do school systems participate?

- The program can be implemented in less than two weeks; from the initial Memorandum of Understanding signing by the school system, to identification and training of the school system tip administrative team, to student training on the app.
- Crimestoppers GNO provides virtual and online training, as well as posters and other items to promote the resource. They also work with schools to embrace the concept of using the anonymous reporting app during special prevention themed months, such as October's Anti-Bullying and Red Ribbon week.



- All school multidisciplinary teams must include a representative from law enforcement and a lead mental health or behavioral health school leader.
- The multidisciplinary team directs the path for intervention and allows for action on all reported issues, especially if the tip may be considered criminal in nature or referencing threats of self-harm.

About Crimestoppers GNO:

 Crimestoppers GNO has worked for over 40 years operating anonymous criminal reporting resources and has over 18 years working in area schools with their Safe School programs. Following national best practices on the implementation, processing, and prevention programs, Crimestoppers GNO is happy to share its knowledge, proven platform, and relationships with area law enforcement to support this multidisciplinary program. Having a Louisiana-based organization working as a partner statewide, provides a unique opportunity to better understand and embrace the character and needs of Louisiana.

Additional Resources:

- <u>Safe Schools Louisiana App Promotional Video</u> (30 seconds)
- <u>Safe Schools Louisiana App Explainer Video</u> (8 minutes)
- <u>SafeSchoolsLa.com</u>

