

Introduction to SafeVoice

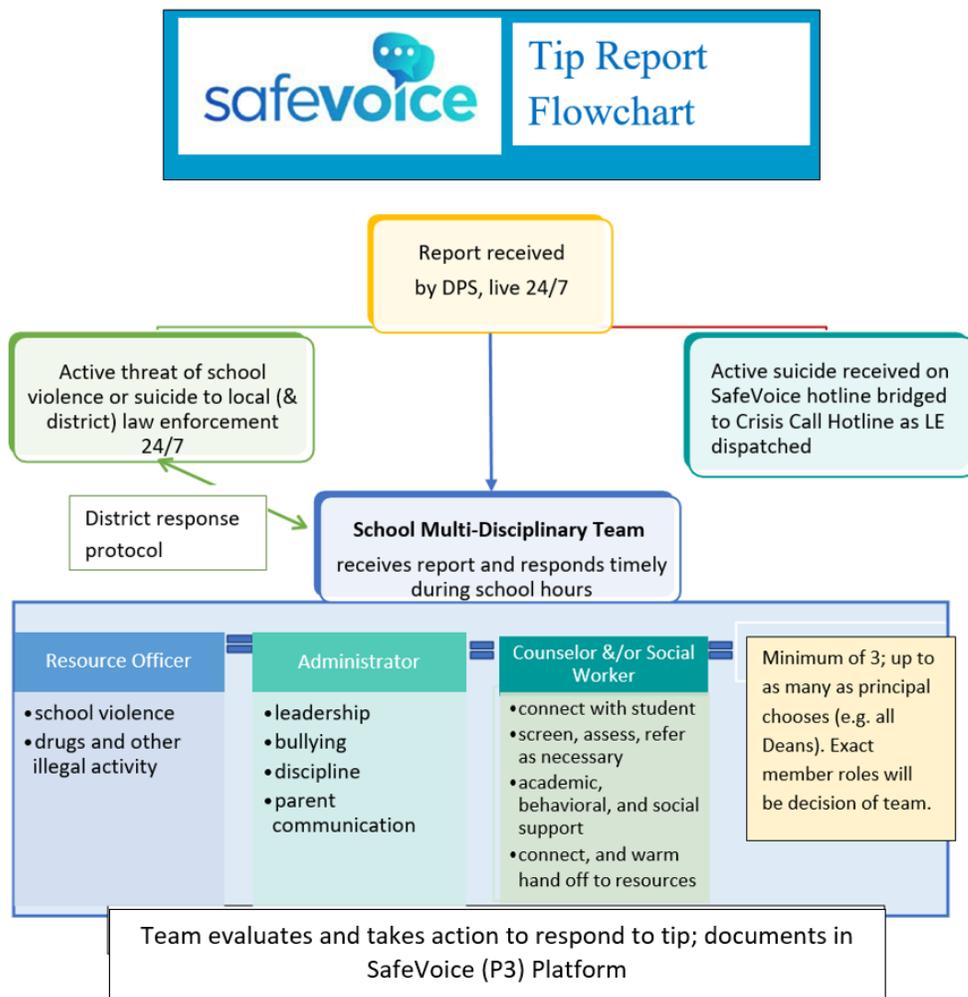
What is SafeVoice?

SafeVoice is a 24-hour tip taking and response system **focused on school safety and student well-being** that relies on key relationships with the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS), local/school law enforcement, designated school teams, and behavioral health response professionals. Tips that indicate the need for immediate intervention are sent directly to law enforcement for emergency response. Tips that are not emergencies are directly sent to school teams for appropriate response. SafeVoice is a statutory responsibility of the Nevada Department of Education (NDE).



The spirit of SafeVoice is a teamwork approach among law enforcement, schools, and behavioral health to ensure that students are safe and that interventions are preventive in nature. Schools and behavioral health professionals have the ability to intervene with students at the first sign of trouble—many times that first sign is bullying either as a victim or aggressor.

How does SafeVoice Tip Reporting Operate?



Who should use SafeVoice? Is it anonymous?

Students, parents, teachers, and community members should use SafeVoice to report student and school safety concerns. They can call a toll-free tip line, submit their concern in an online web report, or upload their concern through a mobile app. In each case, the reporter may choose to remain anonymous, OR reporter may give name and/or contact information in order to allow self-reporting or to be contacted as a friend or witness. SafeVoice should *NOT* be used to voice general school complaints, which should be directed to school officials, or to prank or harass, which may result in an investigation and consequences.

SafeVoice uses the sophisticated P3Campus technology platform. Caller ID, web tracking, geo-location and other means of identifying the tipster are not accessible to SafeVoice Communication Specialists or SafeVoice users. **The reporter's identity is only known if the reporter intentionally shares his or her name and contact information.**

What is the role of Nevada Department of Education?

The Director of NDE's Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE) is charged by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 388.1323-1349) with implementing and administering Nevada's bullying statutes and with establishing and operating a confidential tip reporting system. NDE manages relationships with and training for school districts and schools, including charter schools. NDE is also responsible for education, awareness, and promotion through school and community partnerships, through the SafeVoice website, and through on-going reinforcement at the school level. For general SafeVoice information, technical assistance, and feedback/idea sharing, please contact the NDE SafeVoice Coordinator, at safevoiceinfo@doe.nv.gov or 775.687-9134.

If a report alleges an adult school staff bullying of a child, by law, the NDE OSRLE is also notified. NDE will reach out to the school principal or district officials (depending on district processes) requesting a set of documents/notifications that the report has been investigated.

What is the role of Nevada Department of Public Safety?

The Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS), Investigations Division, has taken on the responsibility for live response of all tip reports, for management of the report data platform, for liaison relationships with local and school law enforcement agencies, and for assisting local jurisdictions with investigations when requested. The Nevada Department of Public Safety manages the SafeVoice Communications and Operations Center 24/7/365. The Center and its Communication Specialists receive, analyze, and vet tips, and dialog with tipsters on a real-time basis. In addition, they deliver tips to school multi-disciplinary teams and Law Enforcement partners and offer continued support in the processing of tips to conclusion. The SafeVoice Communications and Operations Center operates alongside the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (the State Fusion Center) in a collaborative effort to ensure safer schools for Nevada students.

**SPEAK UP FOR SAFETY
STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING**

Use SafeVoice

Students, parents and faculty at this school have access to SafeVoice, a tip system used to report threats to the safety or well-being of students. SafeVoice was established by the Nevada Department of Education in 2018 to protect student well-being, prevent violence, and save lives.

Students can use the SafeVoice tool to report concerns about their friends or themselves with the **OPTION** of remaining **ANONYMOUS**. In partnership with the Department of Public Safety, all tips will be received live by communications specialists 24/7/365. Tips are sent on to a team at your school and to law enforcement when necessary.

Tips Receive Immediate & Confidential Response

SafeVoice follows up on every report to make certain appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the safety of students. By law, the report and reporter remain confidential.

Examples of concerns that can be reported using SafeVoice include:

Bullying	Suicidal thoughts
Cyber bullying	Neglect
Violence	Substance abuse
Weapons	Harassment
Depression	Discrimination
Self-harm	Threats

safevoice Show you care. Use your voice. **SafeVoiceNV.org**
1.833.216.7233

What is the role of School Districts and their Boards of Trustees?

School districts and schools are SafeVoice's primary customers, while students are its primary audience. District input and shaping is a key component to SafeVoice's success. SafeVoice is meant to be one of the tools districts use to create a positive and safe school climate. It is essential for district Board of Trustees and staff leadership to reinforce to school leaders that promotion of SafeVoice at the school level must be constant, varied, and should involve students, even be student-led (depending on and aligned with school grade levels). Each District has the opportunity to designate trained individuals to receive tips that threaten harm to self or others and thus activate a Threat Assessment protocol. NDE and DPS have the capacity to support school districts and schools in these efforts.



What is the role of Schools? Of their SafeVoice Multi-Disciplinary Team?

Schools are the leads for non-emergency response to tips and, with local and school police agencies, are essentially the SafeVoice heroes. Each principal or charter school director must appoint a minimum of three to act as the SafeVoice team, enrolled in the SafeVoice P3 technology platform through which they receive SafeVoice reports for their school and students only. A distinguishing feature of Nevada's reporting system is the requirement for a multi-disciplinary team, including a school counselor and/or social worker who can assure appropriate response and intervention for student well-being in the case of bullying, self-harm, suicide threats, and more. Principals are

encouraged to be tip recipients, and to place school social workers and safe schools professionals on their SafeVoice teams, in addition to other school administrators.

The more that school leadership, SafeVoice team members, faculty, and parent organizations make SafeVoice their own, including empowering their students to take ownership of it, the more that this tool will contribute to school safety and a positive climate. SafeVoice has 'how to' rack cards and videos; posters; Parent Letters & FAQs, in English and Spanish; powerpoints and other resources to support education and engagement at the school level; contact the NDE SafeVoice Coordinator at safevoiceinfo@doe.nv.gov or 775.687.9134 more information.

What is the role of students?

The role of students is to stand up and speak up for themselves and their friends. Students can take charge of school safety and climate by bringing concerns to trusted adults – face to face or through SafeVoice when school is not in session or anonymous reporting is preferred.

SafeVoice is an early warning system, not a determination of fact; all reports from SafeVoice must still be investigated, whether by school administration (as with bullying) or school or local law enforcement (as with allegations of criminal acts). SafeVoice reports have already in Nevada saved the lives of youth.

What is the role of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)?

PIRE and NDE were awarded a National Institutes of Justice research grant (2016-CK-BX-0007) that acted upon the recommendations of Nevada’s Tip Reporting System Working Group. The research design required Nevada’s public schools/districts to be randomly assigned to Cohort 1 or 2. Cohort 1 schools launched in January and early February 2018. Cohort 2 schools, including charter schools are launching as schools return to session in August 2018.

The objectives of the study are to determine the effect of an anonymous and confidential tip reporting system on school climate, prevention of violent acts, reduction of bullying and other harmful events. PIRE has also surveyed school Multi-Disciplinary Teams which have provided useful feedback to the partnership operating SafeVoice.

Results

While all district schools were enrolled in the SafeVoice platform in January 2018, it was only promoted to the schools that were randomly assigned to Cohort 1, approximately half of Nevada’s K-12 schools. Nonetheless, use of SafeVoice was rapid and life-saving. From January 1 to July 17, 2018, the SafeVoice DPS Communications Center has processed 2557 reports.

Clark County School District immediately redirected its countywide **Say No to Bullying** website to SafeVoice, which creates a disproportionately high number of bullying reports. The highest frequency are shown at right.

What about FERPA?

The Federal Educational Records Privacy Act (FERPA) provides an exception to allow for communication prior to notification to the parent (or student if the student is 18 or older) when the communication is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student. Communication within the P3 platform falls under that exception; **however, parents will be notified at any time, and when, a school protocol would indicate parent notification and contact is required/appropriate.** Information received and shared within the SafeVoice (P3) Platform is by law confidential; it is not a student record.

Your role in School Safety and Student Well-Being

Sadly, school violence such as that which occurred in Parkland, Florida in February 2018 has become a common occurrence, as has youth suicide. However, partnerships of education, law enforcement, and behavioral health professionals, with their allies, are creating more and more effective responses. **You can contribute by interacting positively with youth, by communicating directly with teachers and school officials, and by promoting SafeVoice. Download the app and use it when necessary to protect Nevada’s schools and youth.**

SafeVoice Nevada
Tip Summary Report
Created Date: 2018/01/01 to 2018/07/17

Event Type	Count
Bullying	641
Harassment	159
Suicide Threats	142
Threat To Student	140
Self-Harm	129
Cyberbullying	102
Threat To School	94
Fighting	85
Depression	81
Drug Abuse	69
School Complaint	68
Employee Complaint	57
Anger Issues	56
Smoking/Tobacco	52
Prank/inappropriate use	47
Child Abuse/Neglect	42
Sexual Misconduct	40
Discrimination	35
Battery	33
Assault	30
Sexual Assault	25
Anxiety	25