

September 20, 2021

RE: School Safety Tip Line Announcement

Dear Vermont School Faculty and Staff:

We wanted to share some good news with you: all Vermonters now have access to a new anonymous school safety tip line. The purpose of this tip line is to enhance school safety and security by providing students, faculty, staff and members of the community with a tool to report concerning behaviors that may have a negative impact on our schools. These tips will assist law enforcement, human service providers and school administrators in identifying school threats and coordinating assistance to students and families for services not needing an immediate response.

Submitted tips will be received 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week and will be assessed to determine if an immediate action from law enforcement or other first responders is needed. Tips that are determined to not need immediate attention, will be directed to VT 211 (United Way) and/or appropriate school officials for additional services.

Any student, parent/guardian, educator or member of the community can utilize this tip line at no cost. **All tips are anonymous.**

There are three ways to submit a tip:

- Go to www.SAFE4VT.org and click on "Submit a Tip", then fill out the form with your information.
- Dial (844) SAFE4VT or (844) 723-3488 and speak with a call taker.
- Send a text to 274637, type in keyword SAFE4VT and then your tip.

Who can use the tip line?

Anyone can submit tips and all are encouraged to submit information that may help to stop an act of violence in our schools. The tip line is a toll-free number and can be accessed 24 hours a day.

How are tips handled?

All tips are answered by call taking professionals. The information provided is immediately evaluated and then forwarded to either law enforcement, appropriate school officials or other human service providers via VT 211 (United Way) depending on the content of the tip.

This tip line was made possible by a federal grant from the U. S. Department of Justice and is being managed by Vermont's Department of Public Safety. Anyone who calls or texts the tip line will be immediately connected with a call taking center who will take your information and will ensure your tip is forwarded to the appropriate agencies for immediate review.

We are here to help your school community. If at any time you need to report a school safety tip, please connect with us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Daniel M. French
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Vermont Agency of Education



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