Examples of Anonymous Reporting Systems

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This session was originally the second in a four-part series on Improving School Climate & Safety Through Inter-Professional Collaboration. As a stand-alone training, this webinar considers Anonymous Reporting Systems (ARS) and their impact on school climate.

Learning Outcomes

» Define the term "Anonymous Reporting System."

» Explain the inter-professional component of Anonymous Reporting Systems.

» Discuss the school climate benefits of an Anonymous Reporting System.

Key Takeaways

☑ A multidisciplinary team is necessary to manage and evaluate tips from a variety of perspectives. The entire process from establishment to execution must be collaborative in order to be successful.

☑ In the establishment period of the ARS, a district lead and school leads should be established, and there should be clear contacts at the law enforcement and mental health levels.

☑ Information collected via ARS should be saved in a way that is easily shareable with community partners and other relevant collaborators.

☑ It is important to identify barriers and obstacles as thoroughly as possible before an incident happens so they do not impede the response to an emergency situation.

☑ There needs to be a clear balance between taking tips seriously while not overreacting to every tip. That balance will take time to perfect so patience and thoughtful conversation are necessary.

☑ An ARS must be accompanied by student education on identifying warning signs, how to report, what to report, and how anonymity is defined and enforced.

☑ Make sure the emphasis of your ARS is on addressing concerns, ensuring safety, and not "catching" or getting anyone in trouble.

Additional Resources

More Schools Are Using Anonymous Tip Lines to Thwart Violence. Do They Work? - An article discussing the implementation of ARS across the country.

National School Climate Center - A collection of resources, including tools to evaluate the current school climate as well as set goals for the future.

Questions for Discussion

» What is the purpose of the ARS at your school? Who should be involved in the response team to accomplish that purpose?

» How could you motivate students and community members to utilize an ARS? What training should be provided?

» What barriers might prevent people from utilizing ARS and how can those be addressed?

NC2S.org | schoolsafety@umich.edu | 734-647-8295
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