

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](https://nc2s.org) | schoolsafety@umich.edu | 734-647-8295
[Twitter.com/NC2S_Tweets](https://twitter.com/NC2S_Tweets) | Facebook.com/SafeSchoolsUS

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