



KEENEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 20

5540 Arlington Drive East, Hanover Park, IL 60133 | (630) 894-2250 | www.esd20.org

October 17, 2023

Dear Keeneyville D20 Families,

On Day 2 of Safe Schools Week, we are highlighting the importance of student wellness, including sharing information about some of the available social and mental health supports and resources. We want to continue to provide a safe learning environment and resources to help our parents, teachers, students, and staff to be successful.

This school year, the district will continue to participate in a statewide school safety program called [Safe2Help Illinois](#). The program offers students a safe and confidential way to share information that may help prevent suicides, bullying, school violence, and other threats to student safety. The program also includes a social emotional learning toolkit aimed at fostering a culture of kindness and provides self-help resources for students and parents to help reinforce program concepts. Staff will share information about the Safe2Help Illinois Program and the available resources with students in Grades 5-8 this fall.

Safe2Help Illinois features a 24/7 helpline (1-844-4-SAFEIL), text line (SAFE2), free mobile app, and dedicated website (www.Safe2HelpIL.com). In the absence of a trusted adult students can use Safe2Help Illinois to share concerns about themselves or others in a confidential environment. Once vetted, the information will be immediately shared with local school officials, 911 call centers/Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) depending on the nature of the information. It is important to note that this program is not intended to punish, suspend, or expel students. Rather, the intent is to encourage students to **“seek help before harm,”** with the goal of intervening and helping students before they harm themselves or others.

The most common reports received by Safe2Help Illinois in the 2022-2023 school year were bullying and threats of suicide. This sobering information underscores the importance of making sure our students have the resources they need in times of need. While we understand these topics may be hard to approach, we encourage parents to promote open lines of communication with their students. Safe2Help Illinois offers a variety of resources on their website which may make it easier to approach these hard-to-have conversations.

District 20 offers [student services and supports](#) to all students in our schools, with a full team of social workers, psychologist, and behavioral support specialist. In addition, the district maintains a [Student Support Helplines](#) webpage with information and contact details for some of the resources available to students, families, and staff:

- Safe2Help Illinois:** *24/7 confidential helpline, self-help topics and resources*
- SEE Something SAY Something:** *District 20's Online Report for Bullying & Safety Concerns*
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** *24/7 access to trained crisis counselors supporting mental health*
- Crisis Text Line:** *24/7 mental health support and crisis intervention by trained volunteers*
- Referral GPS:** *Helps locate mental health and substance use treatment services/providers*

We encourage you to reach to your child's teacher or school if you have any concerns about your child or any other safety concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Omar Castillo
Superintendent of Schools
Keeneyville School District 20