



**PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535**

400 E Silverspoon Avenue - Granville, IL 61326  
(815)882-2800

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Parent Notification of Safe2Help Illinois

DATE: September 28, 2023

TO: All Parents and Guardians

FROM: Putnam County Community Unit School District #535

RE: Safe2Help Student Helpline

Student safety remains our priority at Putnam County School District #535. We want to continue to provide a safe learning environment and resources to help our students, parents, teachers, and staff be successful. Students are encouraged to share any concerns or make reports to those trusted adults such as their teachers, the school social worker, guidance counselor, and/or administration; however, we recognize that confidential sources may be needed as well outside of the school setting.

This school year, our school district (will begin participating/continue to participate) in a statewide school safety program called Safe2Help Illinois. This program will offer 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 the program concepts.

Safe2Help Illinois features a 24/7 helpline (1-844-4-SAFEIL), text line (SAFE2), free mobile app, and dedicated website ([www.Safe2Helpil.com](http://www.Safe2Helpil.com)). In the absence of a trusted adult, individuals 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 have been 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.

We also believe Safe2Help Illinois has the potential to be effective in preventing acts of school violence. Over the last 15 years, in almost every case of a mass school shooting in the U.S. committed by a student, after action reports indicate at least one other student knew something might happen but did not come forward for a variety of reasons.

In the next few weeks, students will be provided information on the Safe2Help platform and ways they are able to access it. All schools will also be displaying visuals around the buildings so students are able to access information at any time. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Administrator at your child’s school or the Director of Student Services.

Sincerely,

Moriah Mott  
PCPS Principal

Courtney Balestri  
PCES Principal

Mike Olson  
PCJH Principal

Dustin Schrank  
PCHS Principal

Chris Newsome  
PCHS Assistant Principal

Susan McNelis  
Director of Student Services