



To whom it may concern:

School shootings have become a growing concern for school administration, students and parents over the last decade. Santa Fe brought the issue too close to home. In response, Governor Abbott published the School and Firearm Safety Action Plan that includes a reporting platform for which students and the entire school community could use. Crime Stoppers of Houston was the only one mentioned by name.

Many outside groups are coming to Texas and claiming they have a reporting tool. We are the only anonymous reporting platform protected by state law and in which a cash reward of up to \$5,000 is offered

Since 1997, well before school shootings and the rising nexus between mental health and crime took the national stage, Crime Stoppers of Houston was in the schools working with students through its year-round FREE Safe School Program. The program has grown into the Safe School Institute, and become the hub for all things related to crime prevention and public safety.

- To date, we have reached over 1,000,000 students right here in Harris County.
- We have solved nearly 2,000 school cases and removed nearly 300 weapons from Houston area schools BEFORE they could be used to harm another student.
- 30 presentations and trainings available in English and Spanish to students, parents, school staff and law enforcement, most of which meet federal and state mandates all at no cost! Our most recent additions includes a mental health action plan called be nice. which helps thwart bullying & suicide.
- Three ways for students to report crimes and potential dangers such as our 40 year old widely recognized phone number 713-222-TIPS, a mobile app, and through our website.

Last year SB179, known as David's Law, was updated and now requires schools to have an anonymous way for students to report bullying. Our Tip Line satisfies that mandate. In addition to the anonymity, and the added incentive of cash rewards, we offer the required presentations and trainings for students and school staff.

We have an open-ended formal agreement (MOA) with your district and are committed to strengthening our partnership. Please contact Paige Hollek, phollek@crime-stoppers.org, to schedule a free presentation for the 2018-2019 school year. School safety materials can also be requested including metal signs, posters, tip cards, etc. Our Menu of Services is enclosed.

Thank you for keeping our kids safe,

Rania Mankarious
Chief Executive Officer

Michelle Sacks
Safe School Institute Director