



Bullying Tip Line FAQs

What is the Bullying Tip Line?

The Bullying Tip Line is an online tool for students to report suspected bullying incidents on a smart device like a mobile phone or tablet. The tool is available in the Katy *OnTheGo* app.

By using the Bullying Tip Line, students can anonymously report school-related incidents they believe constitute bullying, whether it's verbal, physical, cyberbullying or social bullying. The Tip Line allows a report to be made anywhere at any time. Reports are received by campus administration and promptly investigated.

How does one download the Katy *OnTheGo* app?

The app can be download through the iPhone App Store, or on Google Play if using an android device.

Why is the Bullying Tip Line being introduced now?

The development of this tool came out of Katy ISD's Spring 2017 strategic planning process. One of the goals identified by the committee of community and staff members was to look at other ways to better support the emotional well-being of all students. Enhancing our bullying prevention programs and efforts was a key outcome of that goal.

Also, the expansion of Senate Bill 179, known as "David's Law," helped drive related initiatives. David's Law expanded the definition of bullying to include cyberbullying, requires procedures for students to anonymously report, and broadened the authority of school districts to address incidents of bullying.

Are there other ways in which students can report bullying incidents?

Yes. Students are always encouraged to report suspected incidents of bullying by telling a parent, teacher, counselor or an administrator in person or by email. However, students also have the option of submitting anonymous reports on their respective campuses using the SafetyNET process, or they may contact the Crime Stoppers of Houston Tip Line at (713) 222-TIPS.

How does the Bullying Tip Line work?

The Bullying Tip Line tool is very user friendly. Students will need to download the Katy *OnTheGo* app on their smart device in order to access the Tip Line. To report a suspected incident, click on the Bullying Tip Line icon, classify the type of incident, select the campus impacted, and provide a description of what was seen or heard. Once the incident has been reported, a school administrator will receive an incident notification via their campus email account and will promptly follow up with an investigation.

Do students have to include visual documentation of the incident they report?

The Bullying Tip Line allows the reporter to attach a photo or screenshot with their tip, but this is not required. The photo may be a screenshot of alleged cyberbullying, or of another image that depicts a different type of alleged bullying. Such images may assist with the investigative process.

How does a student know if the tip they submitted through the Bullying Tip Line was investigated by campus administration?

The Bullying Tip Line provides a process for anonymous reporting. If a student chooses to remain anonymous he/she will not be notified if their tip was investigated. The extent to which a tip is investigated is dependent upon the information provided. Students are encouraged to be as specific as possible in their reporting. When a tip is submitted through the Bullying Tip Line, the sender will receive a system message that it has been reported successfully.

When will the Bullying Tip Line be available for students to use?

The Bullying Tip Line will officially launch on the first day of school, August 15.

Is the Bullying Tip Line like a crisis hotline?

The new Bullying Tip Line feature is only for reporting bullying incidents. Students who are experiencing a crisis situation should contact the Katy ISD Police Department at (281) 237-4000 or our KatyConnect Hotline at (281) 234-2326.

What is considered bullying?

“Bullying” means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that satisfies applicability requirements.

“Cyberbullying” means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.