

**WEBINAR** GOVERNING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

# Solving Social Issues with Integrated Data Systems

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# Solving Social Issues with Integrated Data Systems

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**CYNTHIA COFFMAN**

Attorney General,  
State of Colorado



**ROB MCKENNA**

Partner, Orrick and Former Attorney  
General, State of Washington



**MODERATOR**

**MARK FUNKHOUSER**

Publisher, *Governing* Magazine

# **Solving Social Issues with Integrated Data Systems**

## **FEATURED SPEAKER**



**ROB MCKENNA**

Partner, Orrick and Former Attorney General,  
State of Washington



# HITS OVERVIEW

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/hits-overview>



- The Washington State Attorney General's Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS) comprises investigators and the HITS database.
- A software application designed to store crime-related information voluntarily contributed by police and sheriffs' departments in the Pacific Northwest.
- The database acts as a central repository for detailed information on violent crimes occurring in **Washington and Oregon**.



# HITS OVERVIEW

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/hits-overview>



- The most outstanding feature of HITS is its ability to analyze large quantities of violent crime information quickly.
- Data is entered on standard forms that are provided to law enforcement.
- System primarily is used to gather information on violent or potentially violent cases, including murders, attempted murders, and sexual assaults.
- Information collected on new violent crimes is compared to information in the database on past crimes to help solve **new crimes** and **cold cases**.

# HISTORY



- Development of HITS began in 1987 in response to a need identified by cases involving notorious murderers such as Ted Bundy and the Green River Killer.
- Criminals often commit many types of crimes across many different jurisdictions.
- Washington State Legislature in 1991 mandated that HITS track all violent crimes, including sex crimes.

# HITS OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS

## SEARCHES



- Homicide database by victim, offender, and MO
- Sexual assault database by victim, offender, and MO
- Registered sex offender database, including historical information regarding addresses
- **Department of Motor Vehicles & Department of Licensing** databases
- **Department of Corrections** by name, description, or crime

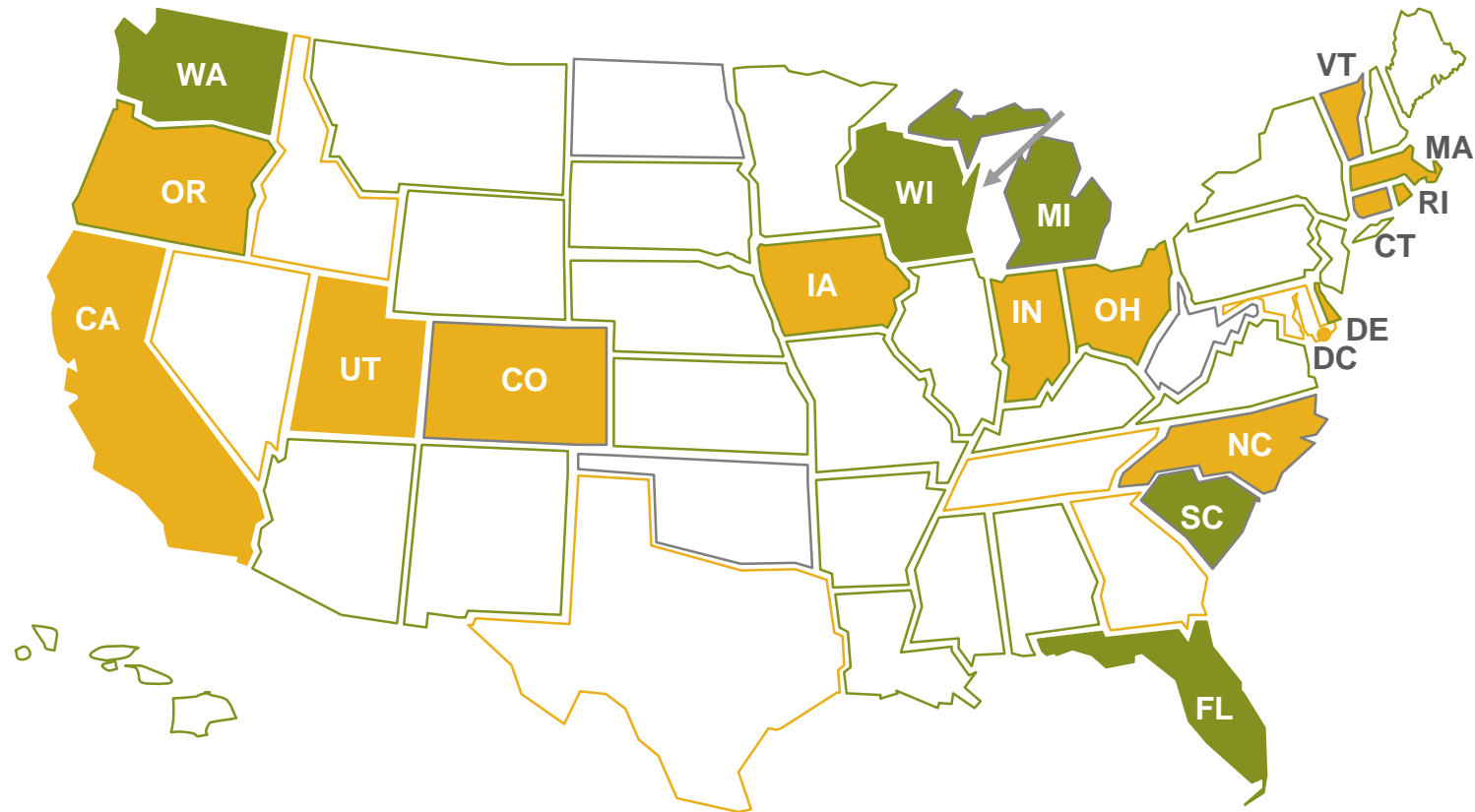
# HITS INVESTIGATORS



- Assigned to geographical regions, the Attorney General's HITS investigators collect homicide, sexual assault, and missing persons data.
- Data is then analyzed to determine possible linkages.
- Investigators are a primary resource to local law enforcement because of their homicide background, experience, and technical expertise.
- They often are called upon to review cases and to provide a new perspective on investigations.
- HITS services are offered free to local law enforcement.

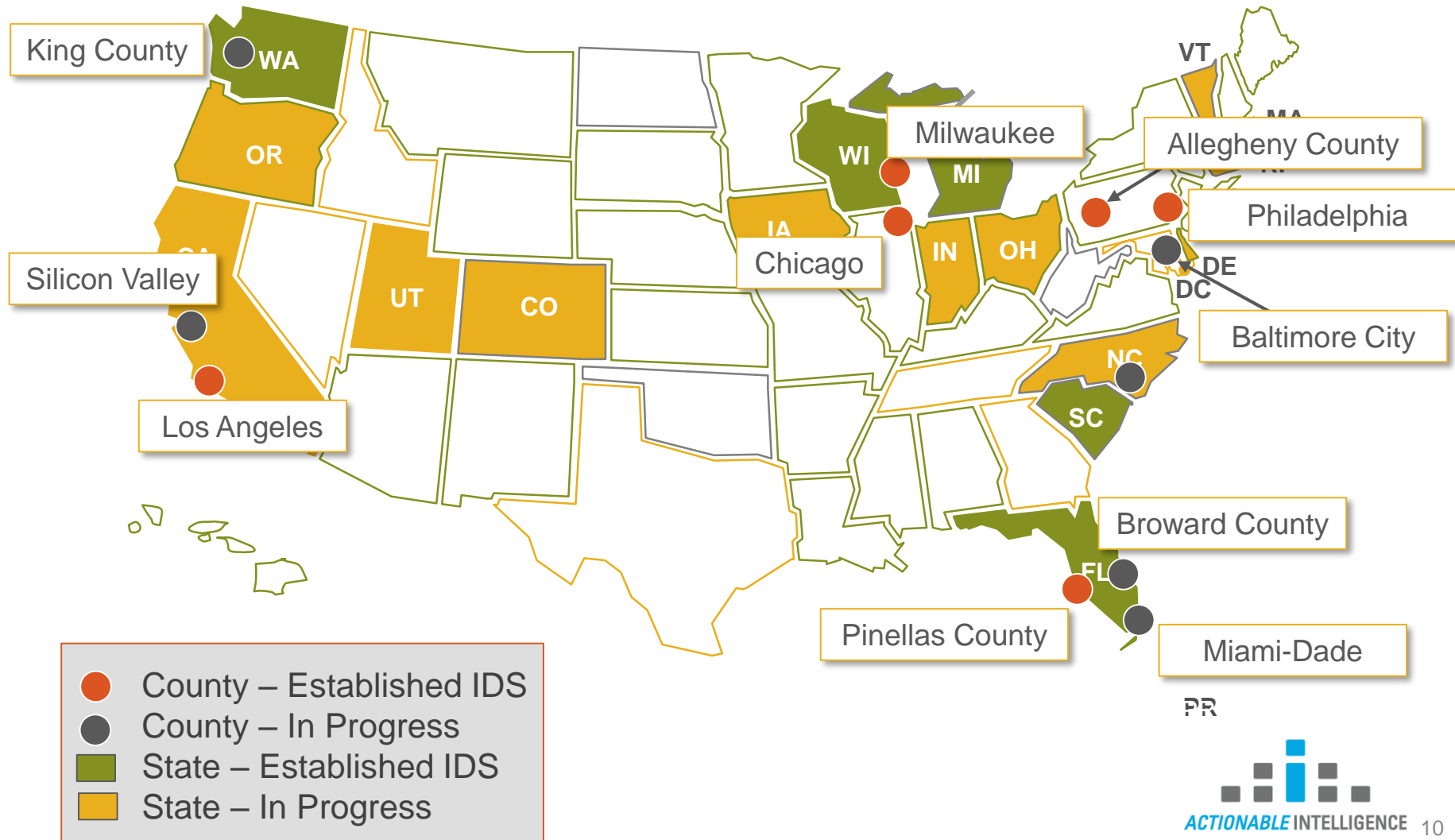


# National IDS Network - States



Established IDS  
In Progress

# National IDS Network - Counties



# **Solving Social Issues with Integrated Data Systems**

## **FEATURED SPEAKER**



**CYNTHIA COFFMAN**

Attorney General,  
State of Colorado

# Columbine Changed Everything



Cassie Bernall



Steven Curnow



Corey DePooter



Kelly Fleming



Matthew Kechter



Dan Rohrbough



William Sanders



Rachel Scott



Isaiah Shoels



John Tomlin



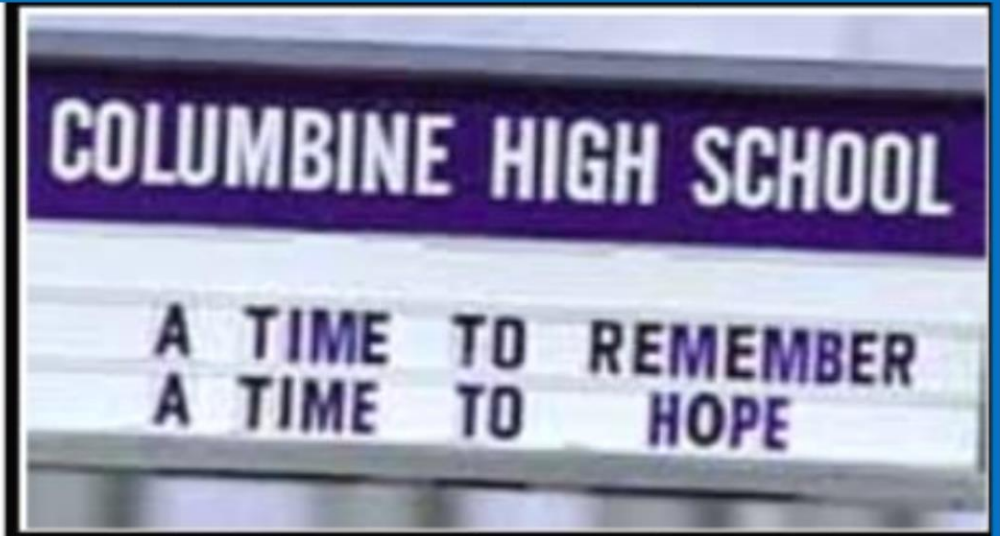
Lauren Townsend



Kyle Velasquez



Daniel Mauser





# Safe Schools Initiative: US Secret Service Bystander Study

In 1999, as a result of school shootings like those at Columbine High School, the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education initiated a study, the Safe School Initiative (SSI), which researched incidents of planned attacks in our schools.

Study found that others had prior knowledge of the perpetrator's plans in

**81 %** Of Cases



# safe <sup>2</sup> tell™



*intervention and prevention through awareness and education.*



## Why Kids Don't Tell

- Fear of retaliation & social isolation
- Peer pressure to remain silent
- Fear of being labeled a “snitch”

“Code of silence” is the norm

Fear of not being believed

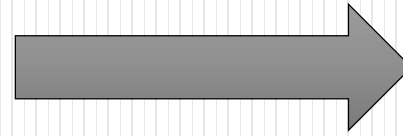
## How Safe2Tell Helps

- Anonymous by law
- Culture Change
- Working on Resiliency

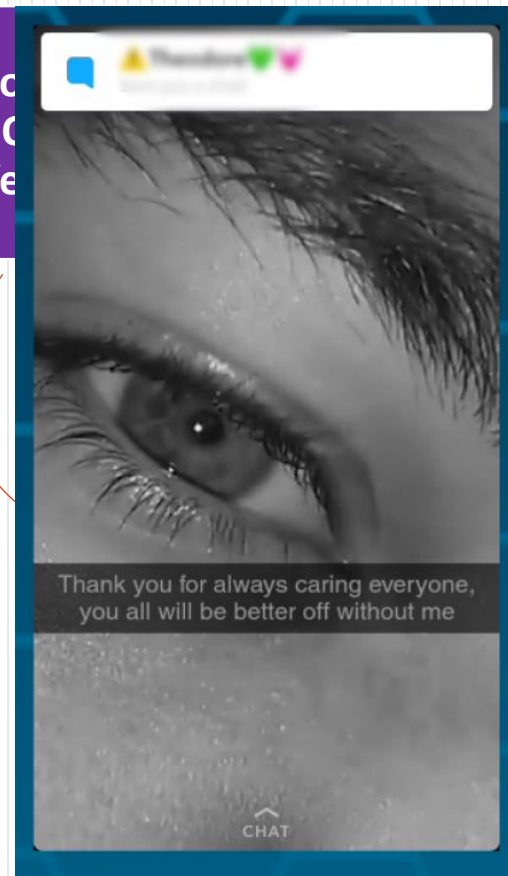
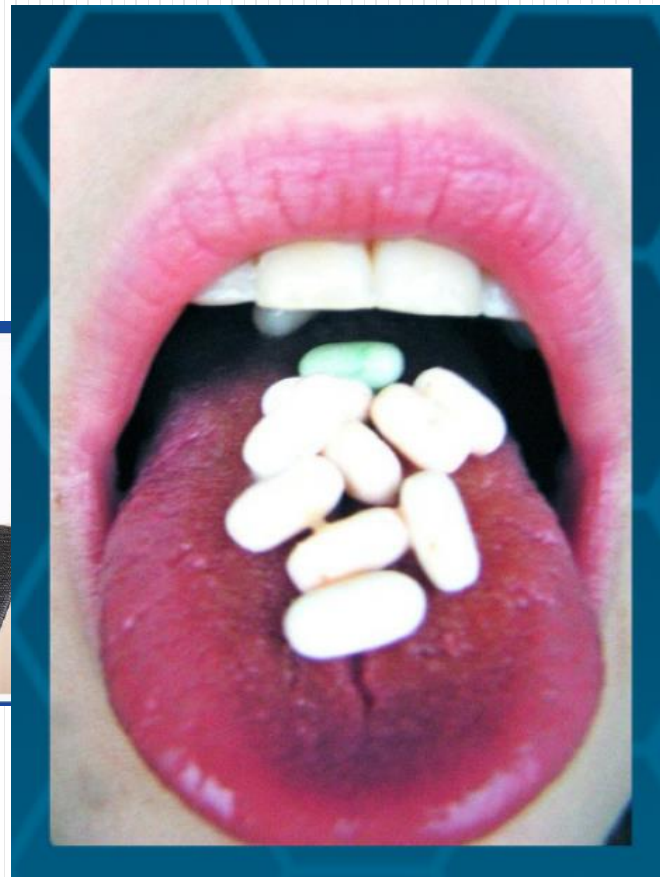
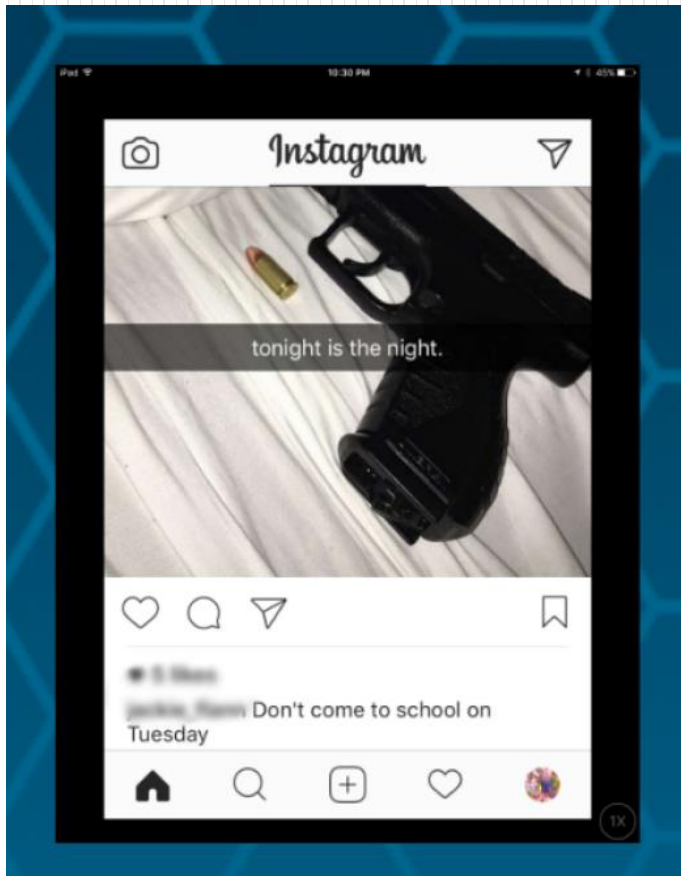
Student voice is sought and welcomed

- Every tip reviewed
- Better safe than sorry

# Tip Comes In



CSP Comm  
Officers Receive  
Tip Report

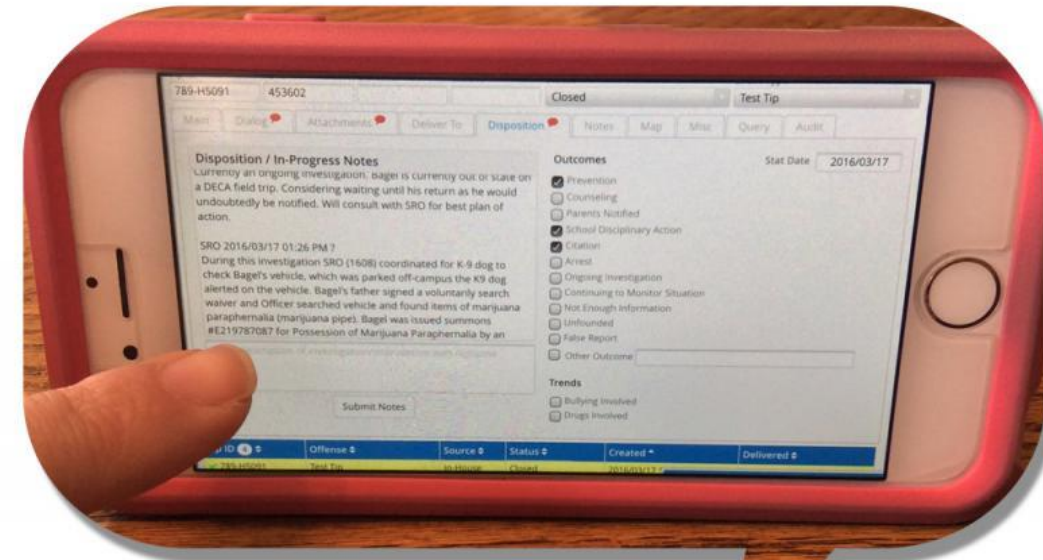


Tip Sent to School  
Team and Law  
Enforcement



# Technology Platform: P3

- Tips sent directly to teams from system when received by Colorado State Patrol Comm Centers
- Notification of Safe2Tell reports in system sent via email and text messages
- Users log in directly to system to view tip and make disposition reports
- Allows for viewing of who has received report and who has responded
- Maintains school contact teams for every school



## Disposition / In-Progress Notes

Description of Investigation/Intervention with Outcome

Ralph Anderson, Principal 2015/06/15 09:07 AM  
Spoke with Mom. She stated Jon is at a friend's home this week since she is out-of-town on a work assignment. She has been worried about him because he has been so depressed lately. Will call friends house.

Ralph Anderson, Principal 2015/06/15 09:07 AM  
Called and spoke with Jon's friend. He stated that Jon is very depressed and has been talking about ending his life. He sent me a social media post that Jon made last night. Notified Safe2Tell and they updated law enforcement with information. Will update SRO as well.

Denise Lindstrom, SRO 2015/06/15 09:10 AM  
Spoke with Aurora PD and advised of information we've received. Sent over suicidal post. They will have an officer do a welfare check right now.

Grant Marshall, Officer 2015/06/15 09:14 AM  
Went to home and Jon's parents were also there. Student admitted to post and said he has felt depressed and at times, suicidal. Student also showed me recent cuts down both legs and one arm. Student medically transported and put on M-1 hold.

Grant Marshall, Officer 2015/06/15 09:18 AM  
Received a call from Principal checking on student. Advised he was on an M-1 hold. He stated he would make sure school counselor follows up with student and parents to give further resources and check-ins at school.



# Information Sharing and Partnership



**2**  
safe tell<sup>TM</sup>  
Colorado



# Make it Easy For Kids



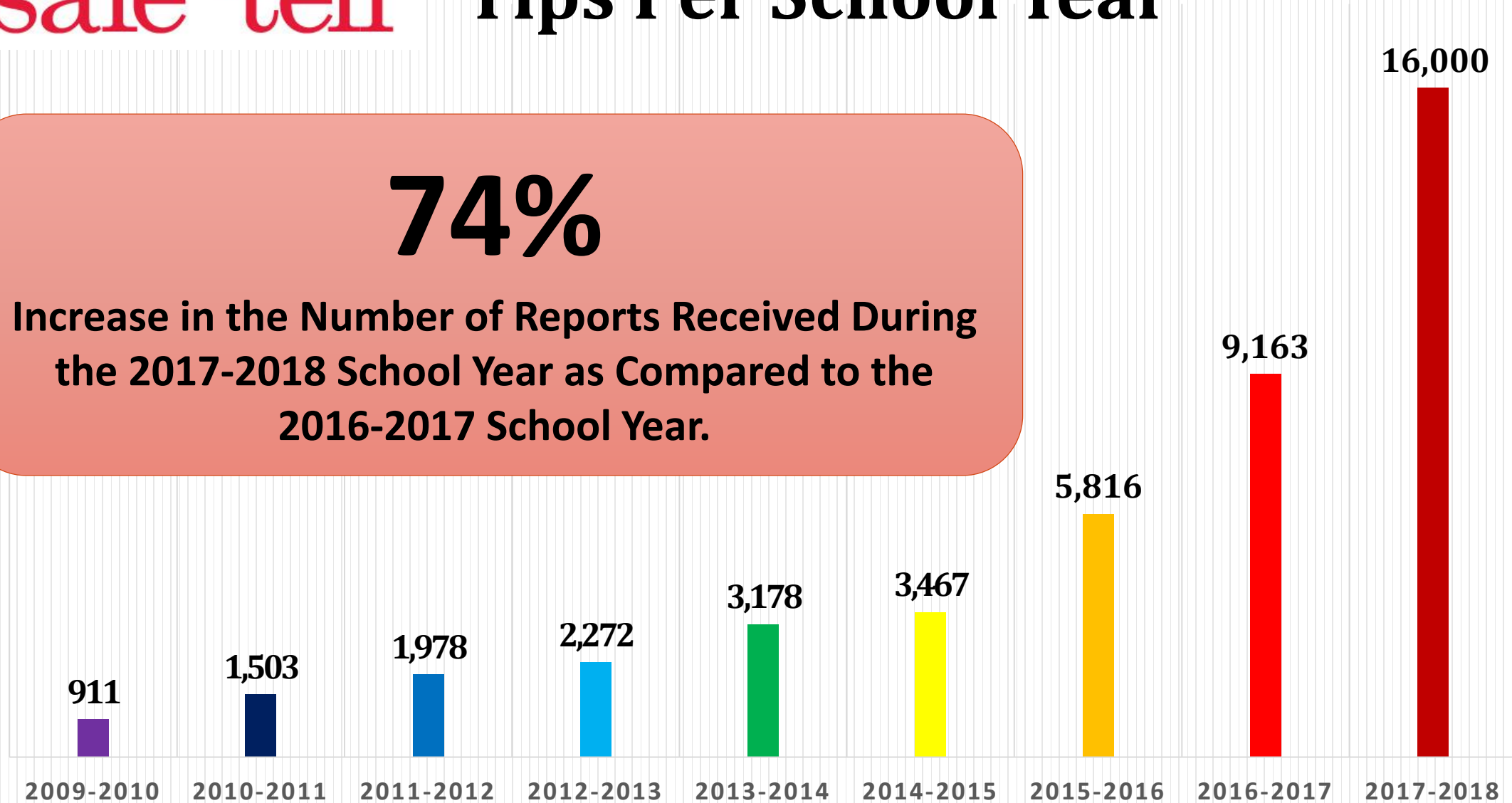
- **Unique login and password for every tip**
- **Forms and fields to prompt for information**
- **Categories and drop downs**
- **Received immediately in system**
- **Two-way dialogue with push notifications**



## Tips Per School Year

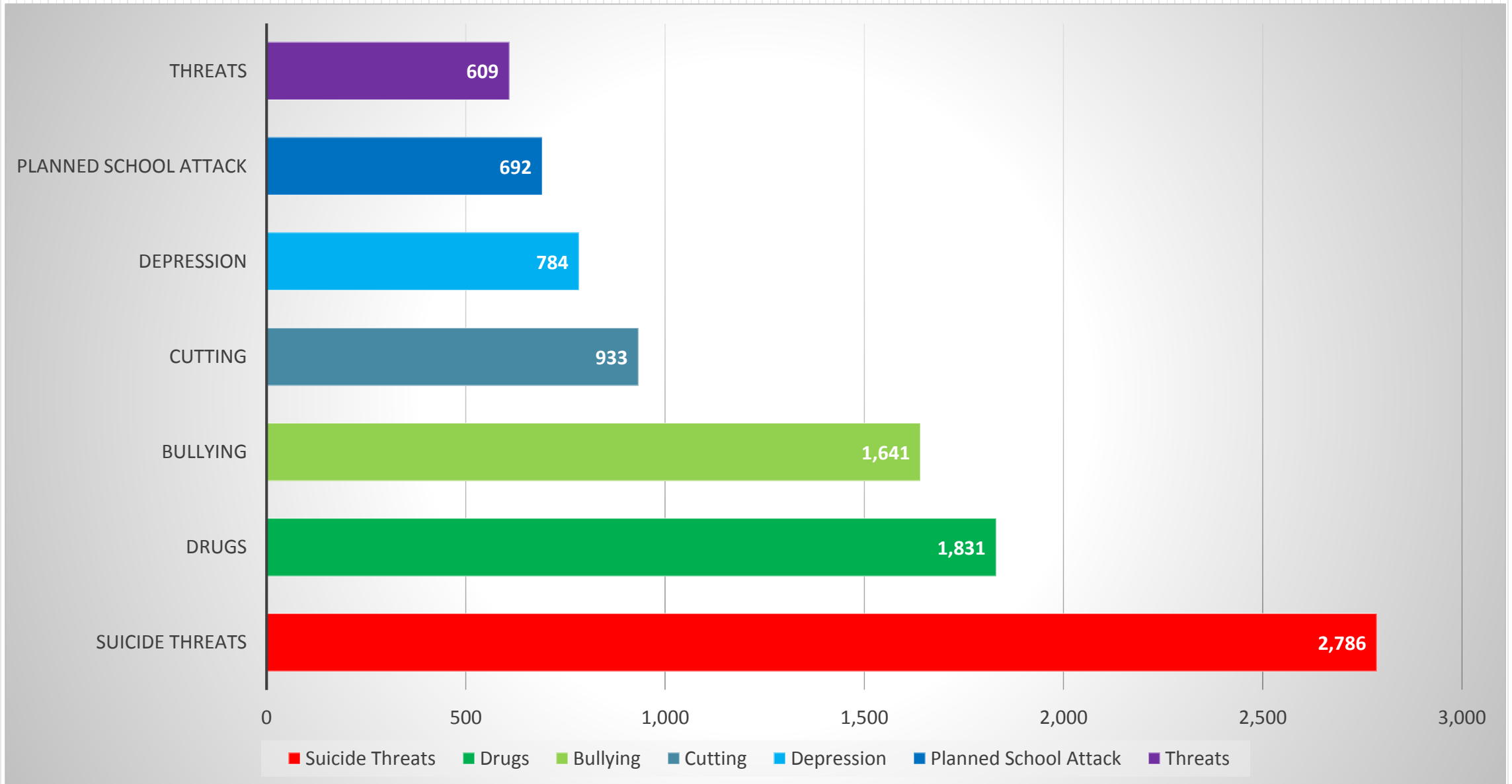
**74%**

**Increase in the Number of Reports Received During  
the 2017-2018 School Year as Compared to the  
2016-2017 School Year.**

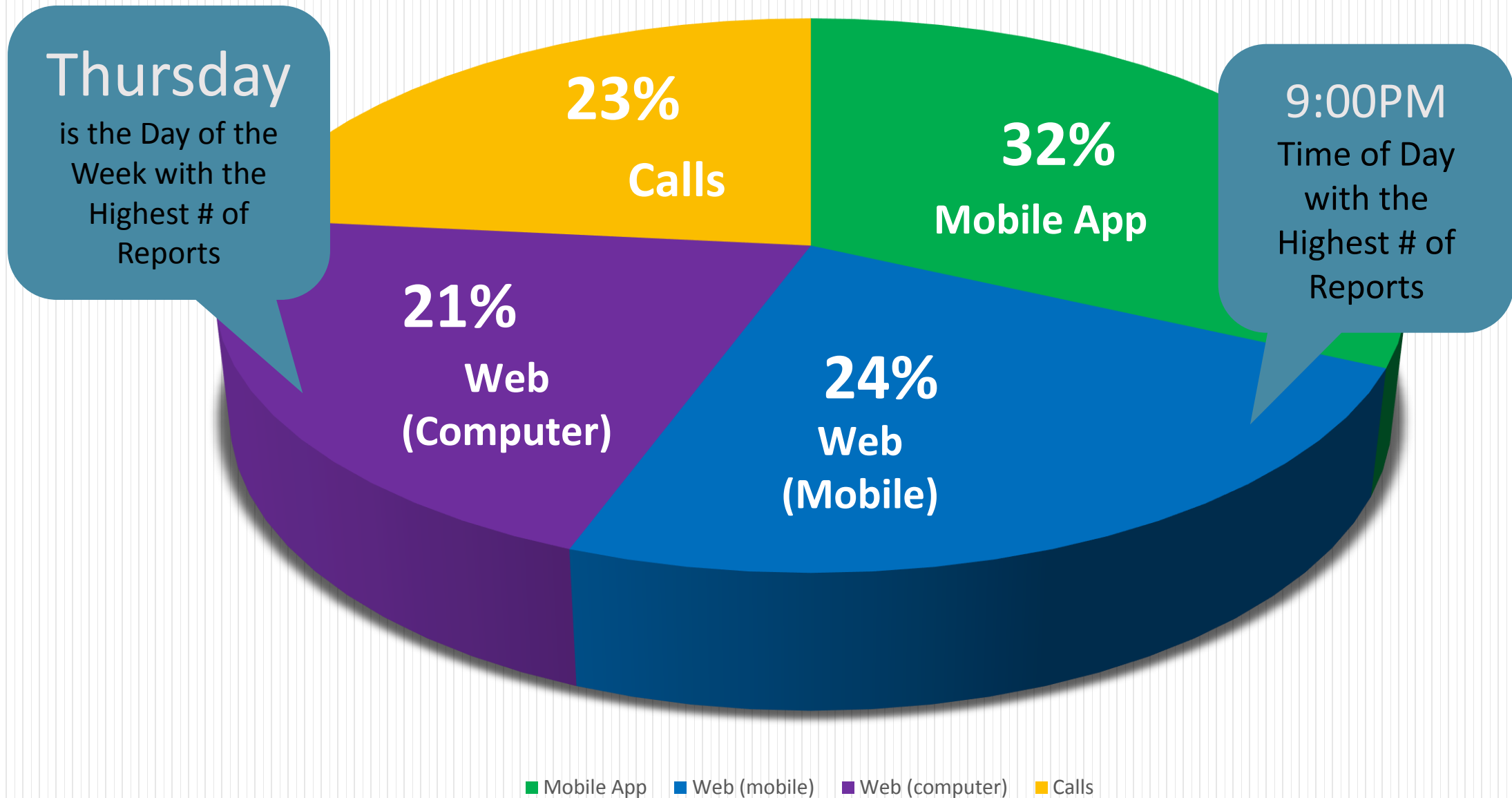




# Top Safe2Tell Tips in 2017-2018 School Year



# Safe2Tell Reports by Method (As of 7/31/2018)



# The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

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Office of the Attorney General

FORMAL  
OPINION

of

CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN  
Attorney General

No. 18-01

January 11, 2018

This Opinion provides general guidance regarding the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g ("FERPA"), a federal statute governing privacy of student records. The Opinion addresses misconceptions about FERPA's scope to assure teachers, administrators, and other school staff that they may proactively respond to safety concerns, including threats of school violence, without violating students' and families' privacy rights. The Opinion also explains what information Colorado schools may obtain from juvenile courts and law enforcement agencies to assist in evaluating school safety risks.

For answers to specific questions regarding FERPA compliance, including questions beyond the scope of this Opinion, schools and districts should consult counsel. This Opinion focuses on the K-12 school environment. FERPA questions specific to higher education are beyond the scope of this Opinion.

## OVERVIEW

Reports analyzing recent campus shootings observe that educators in Colorado and elsewhere often misunderstand the scope and meaning of FERPA. Teachers and administrators fear that by responding proactively to threats of school violence, they may run afoul of federal privacy laws. This Opinion seeks to dispel these misunderstandings and to prevent unfounded

**“ Teachers and administrators fear that by responding proactively to threats of school violence, they may run afoul of federal privacy laws. This Opinion seeks to dispel these misunderstandings and to prevent unfounded privacy concerns from hampering school violence prevention.”**

**- Formal Opinion No.18-01  
Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman**

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## LIVE Q&A



**CYNTHIA COFFMAN**

Attorney General,  
State of Colorado



**ROB MCKENNA**

Partner, Orrick and Former Attorney  
General, State of Washington



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## **Solving Social Issues with Integrated Data Systems**

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**[www.governing.com/webinars](http://www.governing.com/webinars)**

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