

# ***Crime Stoppers***



## **In the Schools**

**Prepared by:**

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**Crime Stoppers in Schools  
Wichita/Sedgwick County**

## INTRODUCTION

Crime affects everyone, both in the quality of life we lead, and the rising financial cost of living. It takes all of us working together, regardless of age or occupation, to bring those who selfishly break laws at everyone else's expense, to justice. Schools today are targets of crime as much as any part of the community. Because of this, students have both a role and responsibility to help make their classrooms safe.

Crime Stoppers in Schools (also known as: Campus Crime Stoppers, Student Crime Stoppers, Scholastic Crime Stoppers, School Crime Stoppers) is a program that involves the students, school administration and staff, and law enforcement in the reduction and prevention of crime on and around school property. It offers anonymity and rewards to students who furnish information leading to an arrest or disciplinary action against offenders. It also offers anonymity and rewards to students who furnish information that prevents incidences such as threats of violence, bullying, underage parties, drug/tobacco/alcohol use, vandalism, intimidation, etc. The anonymity offered by Crime Stoppers overcomes the fear students have of coming forward with information, and the offer of rewards helps to conquer apathy.

Crime Stoppers in Schools does work. Students do have a vital interest in contributing to the safety of their school and community. Across North America, Crime Stoppers in Schools has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient crime prevention tool, and is a program that promotes school spirit and a positive campus image to students. The program can also provide the school with benefits, which ultimately affect the entire community, by:

- Providing tips that can keep guns and drugs off campus.
- Providing information that can reduce drugs and violence in our neighborhoods.
- Supplying tips that lead to the recovery of stolen property.
- Reducing peer pressure, bullying and harassment.
- Reduce the number of hours and costs associated with investigations.
- Providing a resource for students to submit information anonymously, eliminating the students having to fear revenge.
- Providing students with the power of "ownership" of their school.
- Creating a closer relationship among students, administration and staff, parents and law enforcement.

Though statistics do not exist concerning the number of violent crimes prevented due to school Crime Stoppers programs, we do know that many tragedies could have been avoided if an anonymous reporting system like Crime Stoppers were in place. As quoted from an article published in the FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN:

***"In all but one of the six school shootings, the suspects leaked their intentions to other students, but the police did not receive this information. At the time of the shootings, none of these schools had a Scholastic Crime Stoppers Program or an anonymous tip line or comment box in place. A tip line or similar program would facilitate the flow of anonymous information from students to the police and would constitute a definitive preventive effort...If the targeted schools had had an anonymous tip program, the police probably could have caught several of the shooters as they entered their schools."***

Additionally, in a publication of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION on the topic of School Emergency Management, it is written,

***"Often overlooked...is the input of one stakeholder group with perhaps the most first-hand involvement in the school setting: students. Rather than solely representing an entity that needing to be managed in an emergency situation students can in fact serve as a valuable resource in their own right for planning and partnering in emergency management efforts. As a stakeholder group, students possess unique first-hand knowledge of both the physical and social structure of the school setting as well as its strengths and vulnerabilities. Oftentimes, this view is far more accurate than that of administrators and outside agencies."***

## **PURPOSE**

The existence of Crime Stoppers does not indicate that a school has a crime or drug problem, but teaches a proactive not reactive approach to administrators, students, parents, and the community by publicizing a safer school environment. Crime Stoppers in Schools is a program designed to encourage and assist students in "taking charge" of their environment, and contributing in a positive way toward making their schools crime-free. The purpose of the program is to establish and/or enhance any or all of the following points:

- To provide a safe, violent-free learning environment.
- To reduce the occurrence of crimes on campus.
- To provide a violent-free, safe environment the school's immediate neighborhood.
- To increase the success in solving and preventing school crime.
- To encourage and teach students to take responsibility in their schools and community.

## **HISTORY**

Crime Stoppers was first established in 1976, when a young detective with the Albuquerque, New Mexico Police Department had run out of leads in a homicide investigation of a local college student. Frustrated and appealing the public for assistance, the concept of Crime Stoppers was born – publicizing the crime, and taking anonymous tips and offering rewards for information that lead to the solving of a crime.

Since that point, Crime Stoppers, a non-profit community-based organization, has reached many milestones through its three-way partnership in the fight against crime between the community who set up the organization, the media that publicizes the crimes, and law enforcement that solve the cases. Crime Stoppers became International in 1983 with the creation of the first two programs in Canada, and is now represented by community programs in six regions/nations around the world; including the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, South Africa, and the Western Pacific. The Kansas Crime Stoppers Association was incorporated in August 1987, and at present, there are over 30 community programs in Kansas.

Following the success and design of community programs, the first student Crime Stoppers program was started in a Boulder, Colorado high school in 1983. There are now more than twice as many school programs as there are community programs. Throughout the state of Kansas, there are now more than 80 middle school, high school and college-level programs.

## **CREATING A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM**

### **GETTING STARTED**

This crime reduction program takes many forms, but all adhere to the basic Crime Stoppers philosophy. In some schools, the school administration and the Crime Stoppers coordinator in their area simply choose to promote the local (adult) CS program within the schools, encouraging students to use the established CS telephone number to report incidents of crime on campus or anywhere in their community. Other schools, that don't have a local CS Program to look to, may establish an "independent program," whereas they are a separate entity from the adult crime stoppers program. They would establish their own organization that would need to be incorporated (through the Secretary of State's office), set up by-laws, secure non-profit corporation 501c(3) status, designate a board of directors, reporting system, reward system and facilitate the forwarding of appropriate tips to the local police department.

In Wichita, the Crime Stoppers in Schools program operates under the sponsorship and support of the local Crime Stoppers of Wichita/Sedgwick County.

No matter what the form of your program, there are several essential elements to starting a Crime Stoppers in School. These include:

- There must be support from the principal/assistant principal, faculty, and the student body.
- Support of the local law enforcement agencies.
- Identify faculty sponsor(s).
- Establish a student board/committee of representatives.
- Establish a means of reporting crimes and giving anonymous tips within the school.
- Publicize. Provide continued program awareness and promotion on the school campus to faculty and students.
- Establish a reward fund. Secure "seed" money to get started, as well, consider fundraising options.

### **The School/District**

- ✓ Present a proposal at a school board meeting with the adult Crime Stoppers program's help for backup information and presence.
- ✓ Present school district statistics from district safety office and/or School Resource Officer on crime at each school site.
- ✓ Get approval at the district level. Get approval from building level administration for involvement at the targeted schools.
  - Ask for school in-service meeting time to present the program and explain the administrator's (in charge of discipline) role.
  - Work with school administrators to choose a program sponsor for each school.
  - Clarify School Resource Officer's roles and cooperation.

### **The Faculty Advisor**

The faculty sponsor oversees the program on campus and needs to understand the importance of maintaining the "anonymity" and secrecy related to the success of the program. It should also be taken into consideration that this staff member should be one "trusted" by students. The faculty sponsor should:

- ✓ Organize and oversee regular student meetings.
- ✓ Work with faculty members to get cooperation.
- ✓ Keep records, case numbers, and statistics.
- ✓ Assist students in collecting non-monetary rewards.
- ✓ Hold fundraising events.
- ✓ Work with school administrators and faculty members to develop cooperation.
- ✓ Call emergency meetings if necessary.
- ✓ Attend training, adult and student conferences.
- ✓ Arrange for promotion of program, announcement of case seeking information, etc.

### **The School Resource Officer (SRO)**

When available at your school, SROs are a valuable resource and can work with the faculty advisor or take over that role. Their physical presence on campus and the bond that develops between the SRO and individual students, often allows an SRO to act immediately on information and prevent potentially serious incidents from occurring. They are also qualified to assist in the investigation of Crime Stoppers tips and provide prevention guidance to the school administration and student body.

### **Student Advisory Board/Committee**

The role that students play must be determined by the school administration, faculty advisor, and the local Crime Stoppers program. ***Schools are encouraged, however, to involve students to the greatest extent possible since a sense of ownership is vital to the program's success.***

Students chosen to participate should be those that are appropriately motivated. The suggested minimum is six students (two from each grade level,) while the suggested maximum is twelve students. It is important to consider that all grade levels be represented on the Board, as well as students from a variety of backgrounds. The student representatives should:

- ✓ Be responsible for promoting the program through their own advertising.
- ✓ Hear the anonymous tips received and decide on the value of a reward on a successful case.
- ✓ Share the responsibility for collecting rewards (monetary and non-monetary.)
- ✓ Never be made aware of the identity of the victims, witnesses, or suspects of a case.
- ✓ Never do any of the investigating of a case.

### **Selecting the Student Board**

- ✓ Can be selected by faculty; or
- ✓ Can be a sub-committee of an existing student organization, such as Student Council, JROTC, Leadership class, etc.; or
- ✓ Can be a selection process through student "applications."
  - Announce the creation of a Crime Stoppers program in the school and invite student applicants. Create an "application" and make available to students. Assign a due date for applications. Faculty and staff may also suggest students who could be considered for application. Application may require students to get a note or letter of recommendation from other staff members.
  - From the applications, the CSIS advisor and other faculty members, who may know most of the students, review the applications to make selections. Don't pick just the "better" students.

Again, it is important to choose students that represent a wide cross-section of the student body, not just the better students. ***Also, it is important to gather the student board for a regular meeting time and location; even if there is no new business...it will help keep the program successful.***

## **OPERATIONS**

To establish a successful program, it is important to set out a few guidelines so the focus of the program is understood.

### **Develop a Statement of Purpose - why the organization exists.**

- ✓ To encourage and assist students in "taking charge" of their environment, and contributing in a positive way toward making their schools crime-free.
- ✓ To promote school spirit, pride and responsibility and to foster campus safety.
- ✓ To provide a safe place where all students feel free to "take action" and provide information about crimes committed.
- ✓ To create the awareness that students have a responsibility to report all criminal acts by others to the proper authorities.
- ✓ To reduce criminal acts and victimization on or near school property.
- ✓ To identify activity and behaviors that are in clear violation of the district's Code of Conduct.
- ✓ To utilize new technology and establish a reporting program that guarantees anonymity.

### **Develop Program Objectives – what should the organization accomplish?**

- ✓ Empower youth to know it is okay to tell...in fact it is vital.
- ✓ Being proactive against crime and keep the school campus crime free.
- ✓ Educate the student body about different types of crime and how to stay safe (i.e. travel, Internet, home, jogging/walking, ID theft, etc.)
- ✓ Make the student body aware of the importance of reducing alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and/or sales on school property.
- ✓ Reduce the number of crimes committed on school property.
- ✓ Reduce the occurrence of vandalism and theft of school and personal property.
- ✓ Maintain a good working relationship with local law enforcement officials.
- ✓ Keep the school a safe and rewarding place for all students to learn.
- ✓ Develop and maintain a sense of trust and dignity for faculty and students.

## **ADVERTISING/PROMOTION**

Promoting your Crime Stoppers program is a top priority and vital to its success. Not only is it essential to make your student body aware of what type of information to report, where and how to report...and that it is "safe" to tell, but also to let your campus know of incidences that have happened, in hopes that someone may have information to help solve the "crime." Of course the program can be tailored to each school to fit its specific needs. It can also be used for any school policy that is broken, such as dress code, or code of conduct. However, it is



important to make it clear to the student body that the return of property does not automatically mean a reward will be paid. This helps dissuade troubled students from stealing an item and returning it through Crime Stoppers just to obtain a reward.

Promotion is an area of your program where students can get very creative. They will come up with the most imaginative ways to get their peers attention.

- Make announcements, such as the "Crime of the Week" or a public service announcement (PSA):
  - ✓ Decide, along with your sponsor and/or administrator, how often and when you will make announcements about cases or information received by the program.
  - ✓ Sample:  
*"Good morning! The Crime Stopping Tigers need your help! On or about Tuesday, January 23 at approximately 3:00 p.m., three cameras were stolen from our newspaper staff. The cameras were last seen in room E-5 and are very valuable to our Tiger Gazette. If you have information leading to the recovery of these cameras or about the person or persons involved in this crime, you may be eligible for a reward. Remember, your tips will be kept anonymous. You may leave tips online through our school website or by going to [www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers](http://www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers). You may also send your tip via text messaging, by typing SPEAKUP plus your tip information to CRIMES (274637). Remember, you can always leave a note in the SUPER TIGER LOCKER, #675. Your help is TIGER-IFFIC and we thank you!"*
- Hang posters around campus (bathrooms, by water fountains, in classrooms, offices, etc.) that advertise your program, how to report tips, possible rewards and that it is all ANONYMOUS.
- Have a booth during enrollment, orientation, etc.
- Include articles and advertisements in student newspaper, parent newsletters, message board, and school website.
- Distribute business cards to students with hotline number on it.
- Ask art student to design posters for the program or have a poster contest.
- Make an announcement or give a skit at an all-school assembly.
- And again, always emphasize that "no one will ever know your name."

#### Slogan Ideas

- ✓ Do the Right Thing
- ✓ If It Makes You Wonder...Call the Number!
- ✓ Take the time to report the crime
- ✓ Cash for Crooks
- ✓ The greatest crime of all is doing nothing about crime
- ✓ Courage to be yourself
- ✓ Break the code of silence

- ✓ YOU can do something to make schools safer
- ✓ Crime doesn't pay...but we do!
- Remind the student body that their tips will be anonymous and that the reward will go to the person(s) who provide the information that was instrumental in solving the crime. Always emphasize that "no one will ever ask or know your name."

## HOW IT WORKS

The purpose of the program is of course, to not intimidate students, nor is it to be considered a "snitch" program. Its mission should be to provide an avenue for students to be able to provide information regarding possible criminal activity in their school anonymously and without fear of retaliation.

### Types of Incidences to Report

Remember, any and all crimes can be reported. Of course the program can be tailored to each school to fit its specific needs. In addition to reporting more serious crimes, it can also be used for any school policy that is broken, such as Code of Conduct. Below are some examples of the different types of crimes and incidences that could be reported:

✓ Guns	✓ Planned Parties
✓ Threats	✓ Skipping School
✓ Sexual Misconduct	✓ Bullying
✓ Vandalism	✓ Assaults
✓ Knives	✓ Drugs
✓ Harassment	✓ Dating Violence/Stalking
✓ Sexual assaults	✓ Domestic Violence
✓ Fire Starting	✓ Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco
✓ Explosives	✓ School Threats/Hit Lists
✓ Fighting	✓ Teasing
✓ Suicide Threats	✓ Child Abuse
✓ Animal Cruelty	✓ Stealing
✓ Gangs	✓ Cheating
✓ Planned fights	✓

A student in Wichita may report by:

- ✓ Reporting the information in person to a sponsor, teacher, SRO, school counselor, administrator, etc. The adult must keep the student's identity in strict confidence.
- ✓ Online through the "SPEAK UP" link on their school's website or by going to [www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers](http://www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers)

- ✓ Texting their tip to CRIMES (274637). Start your tip with the words SPEAKUP, followed by your tip information.
- ✓ Calling a tip line - May be a dedicated phone line at the school, the counselor's phone, the nurse's phone, the SRO's phone, etc.
- ✓ A generic suggestion box in the school office, hallway, etc. You could even have the wood shop students make the boxes!
- ✓ Using a "Crime Stoppers" locker for submitting tips and an anonymous locker used for distributing rewards.
- ✓ A form may be developed that asks for detailed information about what the crime was, the date, time and location of the crime, and the name of suspect(s) if known.

Once a tip is given, the student providing the tip is issued a code number. This number ensures anonymity, helps track information through investigation, and is used for distributing rewards. Tips generated through the SPEAK UP service (SMS text messaging or web) will be passed on to the school contact person (faculty sponsor, school administrator, SRO) by the SPEAK UP program coordinator. On occasion tipsters will call with information too serious for the school to handle, and information of a criminal nature will be handled by law enforcement. However, most offenses are dealt with by school administration and in accordance to school policy. Once the tip has been received and if it leads to the solving of a case, the faculty advisor strips the information of names, and other information that would violate confidentiality, and present it to the student board/committee to discuss the reward appropriate for the tip.

## **REWARDS**

Rewards are created solely to obtain needed information to solve an offense. Many times, however, a tipster may not want a reward. They are thankful that they have a place to safely relay the information they have and not get involved to the point that they have to reveal their identity. Though in most cases, students appreciate the incentive. The student board/committee is responsible for helping to collect rewards from the community and school and can be creative in their reward ideas. Some ideas include: snacks, chips, restaurant gift cards, movie gift certificates, free tickets for school activities, school bookstore gift certificate, gas/restaurant gift cards, passes to recreational facilities in the community, etc. Cash rewards generally range from \$5 to \$100.

Distribution may be as creative as necessary to meet the anonymity needs of the student tipster. Some examples include:

- Banks - like the community (adult) program, make arrangements with a local bank to give them an envelope with just a code number on it. When the student drives up and sends in a paper with the name/code on it, they receive the envelope containing the cash.
- Library – Let the informant know that the reward is in a book (i.e. a book on reserve, or 10<sup>th</sup> book, 4<sup>th</sup> row, aisle 6.)
- Librarian – Has envelope – code word for a book given to her and she hands the student the envelope.
- Sponsor – Pick up area in their room/office.
- Empty Locker – Tell the informant of a locker number and combination. It contains an envelope with the reward in it. Each time, either change the locker or the combination.

### **Fundraising**

If fundraising is allowed at your school, the student board/committee is responsible for securing funds and/or non-cash items (as mentioned above.) Seeking donations or conducting fundraiser helps to give the students a sense of ownership and gives them a vested interest in the success of the program. Some ideas:

- ✓ Ask Civic Organizations for donations
- ✓ Auction
- ✓ Recycling bins
- ✓ Garage/Bake Sale
- ✓ Sponsor a school dance
- ✓ Golf Tournament
- ✓ Set up a coffee can in the teacher's lounge, with the slogan "Drop a Dime – Solve a Crime"
- ✓ Donations from school administration/Community Crime Stoppers program

## **CONCLUSION**

Crime Stoppers in Schools provides an effective, low-cost, confidential crime prevention and crime solving reporting tool to address school safety. Following in the footsteps of community programs, with a proven, successful track record for the past 26 years, school programs have grown quickly throughout the United States. Since inception in 1983, they have now expanded to Middle Schools, High Schools, and Colleges worldwide. Crime Stoppers supports the premise that all things considered, we would rather have an anonymous good citizen, who can safely report crime solving or crime prevention information, than a grieving school and community following a violent tragedy that could have been prevented had there been a Crime Stoppers program in place.

### **Additional Resources:**

[www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers](http://www.safeschoolswichita.com/crimestoppers)

[www.wichitasedgwickcountycrimestoppers.com](http://www.wichitasedgwickcountycrimestoppers.com)

[www.kansascrimestoppers.com](http://www.kansascrimestoppers.com)

[www.crimestopusa.com](http://www.crimestopusa.com)

[www.andersoft.com](http://www.andersoft.com)

**CRIME STOPPERS IN SCHOOLS  
SAMPLE PLANNING SHEET**

Crime Stoppers in \_\_\_\_\_ School is comprised of a team made up of \_\_\_\_\_ students serving as board members. Their names are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the student board members, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ adult sponsor(s) and \_\_\_\_\_ administrator(s) to support our program. Their names are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Responsibilities:**

1. The faculty and all staff members should be made aware of the school's intent to implement the program, and what the program outcome should be.
2. The student body should be made aware of the program. The student body should know that the program is student initiated. It should understand the goals and objectives of the program, and the positives of maintaining a safe school environment and treating individuals with respect.
3. Students should be made aware that if they allow friends or any other students to commit small crimes without reporting them; they are doing those people more harm than good. If a person gets away with small crimes, it could soon lead to bigger crimes and life altering consequences.
4. By creating awareness and educating the students about the program, the students will be more willing to take part in helping to eliminate the problems of crime in the school that can negatively interrupt their daily lives.

**Getting Together:**

- When will we meet?
- How often?
- Where will we meet?
- We will review cases and decide if the information that was provided through tips was instrumental in solving a crime...and if it is worthy of a reward.
- We will determine the type or amount of the reward as (if monetary, suggestion):
  - i. Minor – up to \$25.00
  - ii. Petty – up to \$100.00
  - iii. Major - \$100.00 and up

**How will we promote our Crime Stoppers Program?**

**How will we receive tips?**

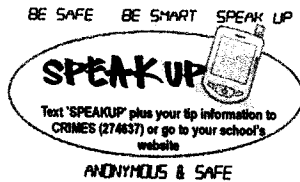
**Why is our program needed?**

*To identify criminal activity, reduce violence, victimization, and crime.*

## **SAMPLE FIRST MEETING AGENDA**

1. In addition to calls, online and text tips, what other methods, if any, could be used to receive tips?
2. Review cases and decide if the information that was provided through tips was instrumental in solving a crime...and if it is worthy of a reward.
3. Determine the amount of the reward.
4. How will rewards be paid?
5. Exchange advertising/promotional ideas. How will we promote our Crime Stoppers Program?
6. Discuss the collecting of non-monetary rewards and fundraising.
7. Examine safety topics and how to create awareness – presentations, handouts, PSAs, etc.





## School Contact Information

Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School's main phone # \_\_\_\_\_

School's fax # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Principal's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Principal's Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

◆ CSIS Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

◆ CSIS Sponsor's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

◆ CSIS Sponsor's phone # \_\_\_\_\_

▣ SRO/Other Name \_\_\_\_\_

▣ SRO/Other E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

▣ SRO/Other phone # \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact for technology (school's webmaster):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this completed form to Michele Zahner ASAP.*

*Send via Interschool Mail (SSC/M.Zahner) or FAX to 858-7840*

### TIP INFORMATION SHEET

Tip # \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON TAKING INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDTL INFO FROM PREVIOUS TIP? \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF FIRST TIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OFFENSE/CRIME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OFFENSE/CRIME COMMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF VICTIM(S): \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPECT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST, STREET NAME): \_\_\_\_\_

RACE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ HT./WT.: \_\_\_\_\_

HAIRCOLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR STYLE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCARS/TATTOOS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, IF KNOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE/OTHER PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER, IF KNOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ARREST/GANG INVOLVEMENT/GANG NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CARRIES OR HAS WEAPONS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPECT VEHICLE INFO: \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPECT LAST SEEN BY TIPSTER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE? WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE TIPSTER DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE OFFENSE COMMITTED AND ANY ADDITIONAL WITNESSES OR SUSPECTS INVOLVED. IF PROPERTY HAS BEEN STOLEN, DESCRIBE PROPERTY AND WHERE IT IS LOCATED NOW. ALSO INCLUDE HOW THE TIPSTER KNOWS THIS INFORMATION.

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**\*\*\*This information sheet is for your information only. This information is confidential and is the property of Crime Stoppers in Schools. Any unauthorized copy, use, or dissemination is punishable by law. Do not include this sheet in any law enforcement file or student record(s).**

### CASE FACT SHEET

TIP #: \_\_\_\_\_ CASE#: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECD: \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPECT(S): \_\_\_\_\_

#ARRESTED \_\_\_\_\_ # OF CASES CLEARED/SOLVED: \_\_\_\_\_ \$RECOVERED: \_\_\_\_\_

INVESTIGATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED TO BOARD/COMMITTEE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

AMT. PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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**SPEAKUP**

Text "SPEAKUP" plus your information to  
CRIME STOPPERS or go to your school's  
website

ANONYMOUS & SAFE

## Disposition Return Form

**Report #:**

**Received Date:**

**Tip Investigation Is:**

☐ OPEN - still investigating

☐ UNFOUNDED

☐ CLOSED-incident has been solved

☐ ALREADY KNOWN-tip information was already known

**Notes/Comments:**

**Type of incident solved:**

☐ Bullying/Harassment

☐ Fire Starting

☐ Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco

☐ Fighting/Planned fights

☐ Destruction of Property (graffiti/vandalism)

☐ Gangs

☐ Bomb threat

☐ Animal cruelty

☐ Weapons

☐ Suicide threat

☐ Theft/Stealing

☐ Planned parties

☐ Schools Threat/Hit List

☐ Cheating

☐ Sexual Misconduct

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the SRO involved? ☐

Was there a reward paid? ☐

Please return this completed form to Michele Zahner ASAP.  
Send via Inter-School Mail (SSC/M. Zahner) or FAX to 973-2261 or e-mail [mzahner@usd259.net](mailto:mzahner@usd259.net)

This resource includes information gathered from the following sources:

Crime Stoppers in Schools – Wichita Public Schools

Kansas Crime Stoppers Association

Wichita/Sedgwick County Crime Stoppers

Texas Crime Stoppers

Hutchinson/Reno County Crime Stoppers

Prince Albert Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers, USA

Quad City Crime Stoppers

U.S. Department of Education

FBI

# Scholastic Crime Stoppers

Michele Zahner  
KCSA Scholastics Committee Chair

## Why Crime Stoppers in Schools?

- Safer Students = Safer Schools



- In 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew it was going to happen but failed to report it. *-U.S. Secret Service*

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## Scholastic Crime Stoppers - KCSA

- Campus Crime Stoppers
- Student Crime Stoppers
- Scholastic Crime Stoppers
- School Crime Stoppers
- Crime Stoppers in Schools
- Your Community
- Annual Conference

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## Why Crime Stoppers in Schools?

- Students know...
  - Who is stealing, who is dealing
  - Who is packing
  - Who is threatening suicide
  - About parties with alcohol and drugs
  - About fights and bullying
  - Who is stealing, vandalizing



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## Why Crime Stoppers in Schools?

- Kids do not tell because of...
  - Fear of retaliation
  - Fear of social isolation
  - Peer pressure to remain silent
  - Fear of being labeled a "snitch"
  - "Code of Silence" is the social norm



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## Why Crime Stoppers in Schools?

- Kids often have the best information about what is happening in their schools and in their community. Crime Stoppers in Schools is a way for kids to pass on this information to adults who can make a difference.



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## Crime Stoppers in Schools

- A proactive approach that utilizes information from students to prevent and solve crimes.
- Constitutes one of the best and least expensive crime prevention strategies. (PBI)
- Promotes school spirit, pride and responsibility.
- Empowers students to take action against victimization and crime.



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## Crime Stoppers in Schools

- Through a school-based Crime Stoppers program, the tips and information can become a valuable resource to school administration, law enforcement and families.
- Provides the chance for ANONIMITY...SAFE to tell
  - Students, parents or teachers can submit tips
  - Tips forwarded to appropriate school officials, law enforcement or both
  - All valid reports are investigated

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## Crime Stoppers in Schools

- School based and student driven Crime Stoppers programs do not indicate that a school has a crime or drug problem.
- Crime Stoppers programs in schools teach students and staff to be **proactive**, rather than **reactive**.
- **Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility!**



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## Quick History

- Crime Stoppers started in 1976 in New Mexico
- Became International in 1983
- Kansas Crime Stoppers Association was incorporated in 1987
- The first student Crime Stoppers program started in 1983 at a Boulder, Co high school



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## Crime Stoppers in Schools

- FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN
  - *"In all but one of the six school shootings, the suspects leaked their intentions to other students, but the police did not receive this information. At the time of the shootings, none of these schools had a Scholastic Crime Stoppers Program or an anonymous tip line or comment box in place."*

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## Crime Stoppers in Schools

- Reasons to Tell:
  - To prevent and report unsafe situations
    - Assault, bullying, child abuse, choking game, cutting, domestic violence, drugs/alcohol, planned fights, gangs, guns/weapons, theft, harassment, adults supplying alcohol to minors, internet safety, planned parties, school complaints, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, suicide, suspicious activity, underage drinking, vandalism, fire starting, threats...

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## Starting a Crime Stoppers in Schools Program

- Mission:
  - To provide a safe, violent-free environment in the school.
  - This involves school administrators, police, the media and students against crime.
  - Offers anonymity and rewards to students who provide information that leads to solving a case.

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## Foundations

- Mostly found in high schools and middle schools, increasing in universities and colleges.
- Success of the program often depends directly upon the support of school administration...and committed students.
- The program is student-operated, with the student group (board) representing a broad sample of the student body.

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## Foundations

- Structure of the "board" or Student Crime Stoppers group:
  - Student members
  - SRO
  - School Sponsor
  - School Administrator

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## Foundations

- Various Models
  - Independent
  - Umbrella
  - School Safety

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## Independent Model

- Solicit members for a student board and adult advisory board.
- Partner with a law enforcement agency.
- Organize by-laws and standard operating procedures.
- Prepare incorporation documents.
- Apply for a state charter with secretary of state.
- Apply for tax exempt status 501 (c)(3) from IRS.

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## Umbrella Model

- Solicit support from a certified adult Crime Stoppers program.
- Solicit student members for a board.
- Organize by-laws and standard operating procedures.
- Board may include a member from the community program, and a student(s) may be invited to sit on the community board.

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## School Safety Model

- Approval from school administrators and district school board.
- Develop a memorandum of understanding.
- Advertise hotline numbers and reward offers within the school(s).
- Coordinated through school police, SRO, etc.
- May have a student board.
- Similar to Quick 50
  - Students can provide information about drugs, alcohol, bomb threats and weapons in school. If the information leads to an arrest or school discipline, the student is paid directly by the SRO, a reward of \$50. Still guarantees anonymity.

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## Gathering Information

- Lockers designated for Crime Stoppers
- Tip Box
- SRO
- Info box on website
- Trusted staff member or administrator



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## Optional Rewards



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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Essential:
  - Agreement between school/district and law enforcement
  - Committed adult sponsors (based at the school)
  - Student Board
  - Method(s) for tips to be reported
  - Reward fund
  - Publicize

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- The Advisor – page 6
  - A school staff member that is “trusted” by students, accessible, approachable
- School Resource Officer
  - If this resource is available in your school, it is vitally important to have them involved in your program

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Student Advisory Board – page 7
  - Students must have a sense of ownership in the program.
    - Decision making
    - Promotion
    - Trust and respect for confidentiality
  - 6-8 members
  - Variety of backgrounds
  - Multi-grade level participation

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Also, be sensitive to your school's culture
  - Is this a student board that wants to remain anonymous itself?
- Student Advisory Board
  - Hand selected by faculty & staff
  - Sub-committee of another organization (Student Council, JROTC, S.A.D.D., etc.)
  - Application/Essay

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Promoting your program – page 8
- The #1 message must be that it is OKAY to tell...SAFE to tell
  - Business cards
  - Posters
  - Daily or Weekly announcements
  - PSAs on local radio stations
  - Booth at enrollment, conferences, health and safety fairs

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Page 10
- If tip is made anonymously, assign a code number to track investigation and to assist in distributing reward
- If tip contains information that is too serious in nature for school-level infractions, turn over to law enforcement immediately and refer the tipster to the community program.

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## CSIS Resource Guide

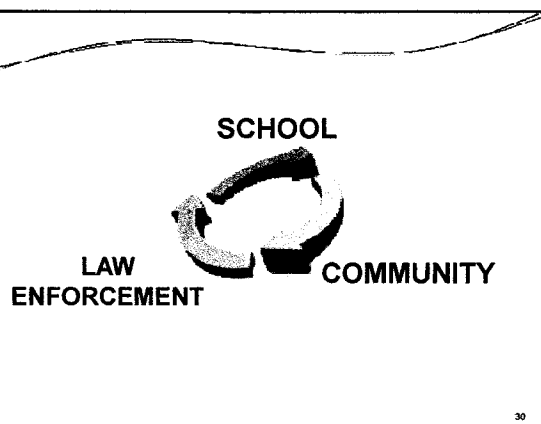
- Rewards – page 11
  - Because it's the RIGHT thing to do!!!
  - Cash \$5 - \$100, typically
  - Snacks, gift cards, coupons
- Reward Distribution
  - Be creative
    - Banks, Wal-Mart
    - Via School Library
    - Empty Locker and combination

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## CSIS Resource Guide

- Fundraising – page 12
  - Necessary for rewards
    - May receive "seed" money and on-going support from community program
  - Funds assist with operational costs
    - Phone lines, printing costs
    - Training, shirts for board members

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## Questions?

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