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CHARLOTTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROMOTES OK2SAY

Charlotte Public Schools is currently working with our students, staff, and community to increase awareness of a new safety program established by the State of Michigan. This fall, the State of Michigan launched a new program that allows students to report potential harmful or criminal activities involving students or school employees in a **confidential** manner. This program is called OK2SAY. It is meant as an early warning system with a focus on early intervention and prevention. Students and community members will be able to submit tips by telephone, text, email, mobile app, and via a web-based form at www.mi.gov/ok2say. This can be done 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

OK2SAY operators are members of the Michigan State Police. If an incoming tip involves a possible crime, the operator will forward the tip information to the public safety answering point closest to the alleged crime for referral. During this process, schools will be forwarded tip information regarding bullying, cyberbullying, school attacks, and anything else that affects the safety of the school and its students. Again, this is a **confidential** means for students to feel safe when reporting concerns. The Act prohibits OK2SAY operators from releasing the identity of the caller to anyone, absent the caller's permission.

We at Charlotte Public Schools want our students to feel safe and secure and to know that there is a way to make a difference. When students make the courageous decision to break the code of silence and speak out against harmful behavior, they equip authorities with the information needed to respond to threats and avert tragedy. Doing so also empowers the student to have a positive impact on their school and learning environment. We want every student to remember that it is OK2SAY and to stand up for student safety.

Please visit www.mi.gov/ok2say for more information on this program and to find student and parent resources on a variety of mental health topics.