

**HUNTERDON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE HUNTERDON COUNTY SAFE SCHOOLS APP FOR STUDENTS TO ANONYMOUSLY REPORT ANY SAFETY OR MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS**



Acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Michael J. Williams, Acting Chief of Detectives Frank R. Crisologo, and Interim Executive Hunterdon County Superintendent Juan Torres are proud to announce the launch of the Hunterdon County Safe Schools App.

Hunterdon County Safe Schools is a free app that will allow students to anonymously report any issues such as a student in crisis, abuse, threats, or concerns of suicide, drug use or sales, bullying, assaults, planned attacks, weapons possession, or anything that they feel should be reported or brought to the attention of school officials and/or law enforcement. Reports are monitored 24/7 to ensure that time-sensitive matters are dealt with promptly. In both the web browser and app, students can attach photos, screenshots, videos, documents, or audio recording to their reports. Students can also engage in two-way dialogue with a real person.

The Hunterdon County Safe Schools App is accepting reports immediately for the following Hunterdon County High Schools - Delaware Valley Regional High School, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, North Hunterdon Regional High School, South Hunterdon Regional High School, and Voorhees High School.

Commissioner John E. Lanza, Public Safety liaison, said, "The Commissioner Board feels strongly that the Hunterdon County Safe Schools program has come along at the right time for our community's schools. Student face a growing need for support confronting mental health issues without fear of being stigmatized. This tool brings law enforcement and superintendents together as advocates for students facing emotional issues and is integral to our safety plan for the county's schools. The support and safety of our students has never been more important than during this pandemic. We are grateful for the Prosecutor's Office for their help in bringing this app to the county."

Law enforcement is an essential part of the Hunterdon Safe Schools program. They provide immediate dispatch to time-sensitive reports while also monitoring reports around the clock. The collaboration between law enforcement and school administrators allows for prompt, thorough, and appropriate interventions. The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office works closely with the high school superintendents. "Hunterdon Central is excited to work with the Office of the Prosecutor to launch this tool for students in our county. We're convinced that it will contribute greatly to their wellness and safety, especially in these trying times," said Hunterdon Central Superintendent Jeffrey Moore, Ed.D. Acting Prosecutor Williams stated that "Our Office has a long-standing and productive relationship with all of Hunterdon County's schools. Our collaboration with them concerning the Safe Schools app is yet one more such joint venture that supports our students."

The Hunterdon County Safe Schools App can be found in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store, and the web based report can be found at <https://www.p3campus.com/TipForm.aspx?ID=5056#>.