



North Carolina Center for Safer Schools

What is "SPK UP NC"?

SPK UP NC is a school safety program for students that enables them to send anonymous tips about school safety concerns from an app they download on their phone, iPad, mac book, or other mobile and web-based technology. The tips will be received by school administration who will appropriately respond based on the type of tip. The SPK UP NC program combines the school safety prevention, intervention and response expertise of the N.C. Center for Safer Schools (NCCFSS). See it. Tip it. Stop it.

- What kind of tips can be submitted? The tip categories include bullying, illegal drug and alcohol use, fighting, weapons, and a Report It category for all other types of tips. Students can submit digital photos or videos along with text information from their cell phones directly to the school administrative team.
- What if a Student is experiencing suicidal thoughts? If a student has a suicide or mental health concern, they can engage the bar that reads Suicide Lifeline and then hit the call button. Those calls will go outside the phone app, and be answered by a trained mental health professional.
- Who can SPK UP NC help? SPK UP NC gives an anonymous voice to those who submit tips, and an assurance that their voices will be heard. SPK UP NC can also be downloaded by parents, teachers, or others concerned about school safety. See it. Tip it. Stop it.
- The SPK UP NC app is available for download from the Android Marketplace and on iTunes, and is compatible with iPhone 3 and up.

Why it exists

Over 160,000 school children miss school each day in the United States out of fear. Being able to report their fears is paramount in reducing these absences. Over 90 percent of students say they would use an anonymous reporting tool if they had one available. This is important because over 80 percent of school shooters tell someone before they act. An anonymous reporting tool could help prevent school shootings and other acts of violence. SPK UP NC is an anonymous app for smart phones that has been developed with the needs of North Carolina's students in mind.

Pilot project, and participating counties

In an effort to ensure the long-term viability of SPK UP NC, the NCCFSS determined it would be best to work with a few school districts of varying populations to pilot the project and work out any issues before offering it statewide. Collaboration with the school districts of Avery County, Johnston County, Macon County, Wayne County, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools has been ongoing to develop this product specifically for the students of North Carolina.

