



Union Community School District

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#UKnighted

“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”

March 21, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As part of the Union Community School District’s commitment to our students’ safety and mental health, we are pleased to introduce **Safe+Sound Iowa**—a free, anonymous school violence reporting tool. Starting **today, March 21, 2023**, students, parents, teachers and other community members can help identify and provide intervention for students in crisis before they harm themselves or others.

Safe+Sound Iowa is available to K–12 schools statewide at no charge by the Governor’s School Safety Bureau. It was developed to help prevent violence, unlawful possession of weapons, self-harm and other forms of victimization and threatening behaviors. Similar programs have been successful in preventing tragedy and saving lives in schools across the country, including Colorado, Pennsylvania and Arizona.

HOW SAFE+SOUND IOWA WORKS

In past school attacks in the United States, 92% of those who noticed concerning behaviors before the events were schoolmates.* Students may not report warning signs due to feelings of anxiety or intimidation, fear of retaliation or not knowing who to talk to. Safe+Sound Iowa removes these barriers with easy, convenient and confidential ways to report safety concerns.

Reports can be made securely and anonymously:

- Online at SafeandSoundIowa.gov
- Through the **Safe+Sound Iowa mobile app**, or
- By phone at **800-224-6018**.

Trained dispatchers monitor reports 24/7 and immediately engage in two-way communication with those raising concerns. They then reach out to the appropriate local school safety contact, law enforcement or other community partners.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

As we prepare to roll out Safe+Sound Iowa, school staff are receiving training on how to communicate with students the importance of early reporting. Additional information can also be found on SafeandSoundIowa.gov, including:

- Informational handout about Safe+Sound Iowa
- Easy-to-follow guidebook detailing answers to frequently asked questions
- Brief video demonstrating how to use the Safe+Sound Iowa app

You can **download the free Safe+Sound Iowa mobile app** on the App Store and Google Play.

We thank you, in advance, for your commitment to the Union Community School District. We believe that if parents/guardians, students, staff and community members use Safe+Sound Iowa, we can address potential issues in a more timely manner and thus continue to address our top priority– having a safe, secure and orderly environment for our students and staff.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the necessary information below. Go Knights!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Howard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

John Howard, Superintendent
Union Community School District
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E-mail: j_howard@union.k12.ia.us