

SCHOOL TIP LINE PROGRAM

HISTORY SHEET

The School Tip Line Program was an idea which originated from the Aurora Police and Schools Committee. The APSC is a group made up of representatives from all High Schools (Public and Private) and Middle Schools within the City of Aurora. This includes Dist 129, 131, and 204.

About 2 years ago the APSC was discussing school violence and how to prevent it. This was during the time of all of the highly publicized school shootings. It was brought up that research showed that with every school shooting there was some form or level of "Leakage". Leakage means that the offender told someone what they were going to do. In every case the third party person with the information did not do anything about it.

We felt that students might not want to get involved, they might not know how to get involved, they wanted to remain anonymous, or they did not want to contact the Police or walk into the Principal's office and pass on the information.

We decided that a local tip line would solve some of those problems. The Attorney Generals Office established a State Wide Tip Line a couple of years ago but, it is monitored in Springfield and we wanted to make sure there was a local program to serve the needs of the Aurora and surrounding communities.

We felt that any line monitored by the Aurora Police would not be conducive to what we were attempting to accomplish and schools do not have personnel on duty after hours.

We approached the Fox Valley Crisis Line and asked them if they would monitor the Tip Line. They have trained counselors on duty 24 hours per day. They agreed to monitor the Tip Line.

We missed the deadline for student handbook publishing for this year so we decided to produce 18,000 peel off stickers that students could be issued and then they could stick them on a folder which they could take home and have the information handy.

We are planning on a city wide poster contest to advertise the program with student made posters.

We are looking for as much publicity as possible for this program so parents, community members, and others are aware of the program, not just the students.

On December, 10, 2002, the program will be kicked off with a presentation at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. At that meeting all of the stickers will be distributed to the Schools, the phone number will be released, and the process will start for getting the word out about this program.