

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Will using TipOff cost me money?

It depends on your phone plan. Standard text messaging rates apply.

### What should I report?

We hope you will share anonymous tips on bullying, student safety and crime to make you school safer.

#### What number do I text?

You can text 905-963-0066. You can also use web chat at http://goo.gl/kq4snT or download and use the smartphone app. This creates what we call a 'conversation.'

#### Can I also call that number?

Yes, but TipOff will not engage in phone conversations. The automated prompts allow you to connect via text, or to contact emergency supports.

## Will TipOff provide counselling?

No. TipOff's operator will never offer counselling. It is an information service. It will refer you to 911 if you are in crisis. Your school can provide the full support it does every day.



Download the TipOff App!





## How will my tip be used?

TipOff labels each tip according to the type of incident and where it occurred. (e.g. #bullying, #theft, #onschoolproperty).

Labels help HWDSB learn more about the needs of our students and schools. It also helps staff understand how TipOff is being used.

Your tip will always remain anonymous in the TipOff system. School officials may ask for your identity if your tip is of an urgent nature that requires face-to-face conversation.

HWDSB staff review conversations frequently to understand how tips are handled, how many tips are being received and how satisfied users are with TipOff.





The anonymous reporting service at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

School safety starts with you!

ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

# What is TipOff?

At HWDSB, the TipOff service helps make schools safer and more welcoming for all students, staff and parents.



TipOff receives anonymous tips and helps school staff respond using normal school and Board protocols.



TipOff uses mobile communications technology like that found in large sporting stadiums across North America.

# Why TipOff?



### It's Accessible!

- You can TEXT a report to 905-963-0066 from any cellphone
- You can CALL 905-963-0066 from a landline or mobile phone
- You can download the TipOff APP and send tips using an iPhone or Android smartphone
- You can share tips using a WEB CHAT at <a href="http://goo.gl/kq4snT">http://goo.gl/kq4snT</a>



### It's Anonymous!

 You can report bullying, crime, violence without fear of reprisal, judgment or discovery

# How does TipOff work?



The school responds to the information received.



You can send a tip to TipOff by text, web chat, the app or phone call.



The service centre receives your message – with your phone number scrambled.



TipOff sends your tip to the appropriate school.





If this is an emergency, you will be told to contact 911.



TipOff's operator reviews your tip and asks basic questions. (E.g. What happened? Where?)



In non-urgent cases, you submit a tip and receive a reply to say that TipOff received it.

