



HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD



TipOff

School safety starts with you!

Get help or share anonymous tips on
bullying & crime, text or call:

905-963-0066

(Standard text messaging rates apply.)

Download the free TipOff app



iPhone



If you have questions, contact your school principal.



Web chat also available at

www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff

HWDSB

MICHAEL PRENDERGAST
Superintendent of Leadership & Learning
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1
905-527-5092

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Student safety is a priority at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. Our goal is to make all schools safe, inclusive and respectful places for our students, staff and community.

With this goal in mind, we are excited to announce that your school will benefit from the latest mobile technology intended to encourage anonymous reporting of bullying and other incidents that may lead to unsafe conditions at our schools.

This service, called TipOff, is a way to receive anonymous messages by text, web chat, smartphone app or phone call. An operator gathers information about the tip and shares it with the appropriate school, where Board and school protocols will be followed. Each sender's phone number is scrambled to preserve their anonymity.

We expect that this will result in safer schools because students can share tips without the fear of reprisal, judgment or discovery. Research tells us that when students, staff and parents are all involved in promoting a positive school environment, school can become a safer and more welcoming place.

We have worked closely with the service provider so that this service reflects HWDSB's operating procedures and goals. We want to continue to make schools safer and more welcoming. Letting students anonymously share information is one way to do this.

It is important to note that TipOff will not provide counselling. It can, however, direct students in crisis to 911. It is not a substitute for school policies. Instead, it supports Board policies, such as the requirement that HWDSB have a way to receive anonymous reports of bullying. This information service will help schools collect tips and address them in the same way as they would a face-to-face tip.

You can learn more about TipOff at www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff

If you have more questions, please feel free to contact your school's principal.

Sincerely,



Michael Prendergast
Superintendent of Leadership & Learning