Safer Schools Together

OUTLINE OF SERVICES

Using Today for a Safer Tomorrow

SST | ICDTA®
International Center for
Digital Threat Assessment

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About Safer Schools Together

Using Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Safer Schools Together (SST) is committed to ending school violence by encouraging school districts to create positive, safe, and caring learning environments for every student, staff, and parent. By providing law enforcement agencies, school districts, and community partners comprehensive violence prevention and intervention strategies, SST gives teams the tools they need to build capacity and sustainability.

Our team of highly skilled Threat Analysts and professional trainers have a proven record of helping school communities throughout various parts of the world minimize, manage, and respond to all threats of violence. Using best practices from the field of School Safety/Threat Assessment (SS/TA), SST will assist your teams in the early identification of individuals on the pathway to violence, suicide, radicalization, and gang involvement.

SST is an international leader in violence prevention and intervention. We will equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent needless tragedy and violence. Regardless of where technology takes us, it's the staff, students, parents, and agency partners who will always be the best app to ensure safe and caring school communities.

SST | I♥DTA®

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TRAINING SESSIONS

The following training sessions have been designed for law enforcement agencies, school districts, and community partners.

SST is pleased to offer training sessions remotely or in-person.

SST | I◈DTA®

Case Study Approach:

Utilizing Digital Threat Assessment®

2-hour training session

In this session, attendees will be introduced to the best practices of Digital Threat Assessment®. Through collaborative training, participants will learn how to utilize the skills and tools used by SST's Threat Analysts when handling recent case scenarios. We will assess social media connections, compile findings for appropriate documentation, and learn how to identify whether a Subject of Concern (SOC) might be on the pathway to violence. Attendees will gain an increased understanding of worrisome, concerning, or threat-related behavior as it pertains to the digital world.

This training includes:

- A walkthrough of recent case files for hands-on learning
- Developing and refining skills in social media assessments
- Review of potential law enforcement guidelines if applicable
- Collaborative problem-solving with multidisciplinary teams
- Practicing of proper documentation techniques
- Appropriate safety and management planning based on the data found

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Fundamentals of Digital Threat Assessment®

4-hour training session

Fundamentals of Digital Threat Assessment® (DTA) introduces participants to the concept of DTA® and its place within the practice of threat assessment. Proactive and evidence-based, Fundamentals of DTA® will assist your team in identifying individuals that may pose a threat to the safety of themselves or others.

This training includes:

- How technology and digital platforms have evolved
- The most popular social media platforms (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.)
- SS/TA social media account creation and relevant searches
- Documentation of social media accounts when conducting DTA®
- Privacy settings for all the leading social media platforms
- To identify vault apps and hidden content
- The difference between usernames and vanity names
- To download and save videos
- The difference between incognito browsing and VPN
- Current social media language, trends, and their significance
- To document your digital findings

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Digital Threat Assessment®

8-hour training session

Digital Threat Assessment® (DTA) teaches participants to establish a Digital Behavioral Baseline through a SS/TA lens. By engaging with popular social media applications, you will learn how to find and document worrisome digital media content originating from your school community. This training solidifies your understanding of how to effectively use DTA® as a critical part of any modern-day threat assessment.

This training includes:

- To apply the principles of Behavioral Threat Assessment to DTA®
- To identify the digital behavioral baseline of individuals on the pathway to violence
- To assess the language of online threat-related behavior
- Searching within commonly used platforms such as, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat
- To utilize Boolean operators, people search engines, and access cached data
- To validate the source of images and video
- Best practice for online navigation and ensuring privacy safeguards
- To use law enforcement guides to request user identifying information (preservation and production orders)
- To crowdsource localized and time relevant social media posts from your school and area
- The latest updates to stories, reels, hashtags, and IGTV
- To identify concerning trends and create awareness to ensure safety and mental wellbeing
- To gather public social media data with geolocation relevance—what are the most effective ways to identify potential witnesses in a public act of violence?
- To use social media to find a missing person
- To document your digital findings

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Advanced Digital Threat Assessment®

8-hour training session

*Prerequisite: SST Digital Threat Assessment®

Advanced DTA® builds and expands significantly on the content covered during the prerequisite DTA® training. Participants will gain a concrete understanding of how to select relevant digital information found in real-life SS/TA data-gathering scenarios. Working collaboratively through case scenarios based on real-life situations, teams navigate the social media world using familiar and new techniques.

Trainers will share standard operating procedures as participants work towards a final practical assignment by applying tools and lessons learned. Participants will leave feeling confident in their ability to independently establish the Digital Behavioral Baseline of a subject of concern (SOC) and produce a comprehensive report.

This training includes:

- Current best practice for teams addressing school shooting threats, self-harm, sexting/sextortion, and bullying/cyberbullying related incidents
- The lesser-known platforms: Gab, 4chan, 8kun, and kiwi farms
- Advanced Google searching
- Crowdsourcing using X (Formally known as Twitter) geofencing
- How to turn an phone number into a potential username or identifier
- How to examine the metadata of photos
- Understanding deepfakes, AI, and data manipulation
- An interactive case study

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

SST | I❂DTA®

Train the Trainer:
Digital Threat Assessment®

8-hour training session
*Only available as in person training

*Prerequisite: DTA© and Advanced DTA® (each are 8-hour training sessions). Participants must be at an above average technical competence

Train the Trainer builds capacity in school communities to address online challenges and trends. After completing Train the Trainer, participants are equipped with the knowledge and resources to deliver Digital Threat Assessment® educational sessions to their own district staff and teams. Participants will receive a one-year SST certification to conduct DTA® sessions. After completing Train the Trainer, participants are provided DTA® training resources to facilitate their own in-house educational sessions.

This training includes:

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of the vision for DTA® within the threat assessment landscape
- Demonstrate how to capture and document social media evidence and online data
- Demonstrate and assess participant's abilities to complete online image verification
- Showcase the embodiment of foundational and functional perspectives critical to Digital and Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the most popular social media platforms among youth and how to search these platforms to uncover data relevant to SS/TA teams
- Conceptualize and activate sound andragogical teaching and learning practices
- Reflect on and expose technical consistencies across social media platforms - essential understandings for utilizing new platforms and their applications to SS/TA
- Cultivate real-life case scenarios to facilitate participant learning

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners

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Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment™ (BDTA) Management

8-hour training session

Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment™ (BDTA) management is the first blended multidisciplinary model designed to help Safety/Threat Assessment (S/TA) teams in the early identification and assessment of individuals on the pathway to violence. BDTA™ integrates Safer Schools Together's Digital Threat Assessment® (DTA) training and best practice from the National Threat Assessment Center's (NTAC) Behavioral Threat Assessment model which is founded on more than 20 years of research. BDTA™ includes a 3-step response plan developed to help S/TA teams ensure all worrisome, concerning, and threat-related behaviors are proactively responded to reducing the potential of violence within your community.

The first step in evaluating a Subject of Concern (SOC) is an initial screener to help S/TA teams identify whether a SOC demonstrates an intent to harm themself or others. In this session, trainers will examine techniques for identifying and assessing individuals who engage in threat-related behaviors and provide S/TA teams with the tools to ensure a thorough data collection process. Additionally, trainers will provide an overview of the assessment process, including best practices for interviewing, progress monitoring and management.

Participants will obtain the tools vital for proactively and effectively identifying, assessing, and responding to worrisome and/or threat-related behavior through a BDTA™ management lens.

This training includes:
- Conducting an initial assessment, a comprehensive Multidisciplinary data collection and assessment
- How to develop a Threat Intervention & Management Plan
- Best practices for duty to warn/inform
- How Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) initiatives and social-emotional learning in schools positively impacts school culture, climate, and connectedness
- Establishing a Multidisciplinary/Multiagency Threat Assessment team
- Best practices when conducting searches in home and school environments
- How to conduct digital searches on open-source platforms, language analysis, proper documentation, and centralized reporting
- Defining concerning, prohibited, and worrisome behaviors
- Defining thresholds for Law Enforcement investigations
- Establishing assessment procedures, including best practices for interviewing, threat management and progress monitoring
- Current best practice for communicating when responding to threat-related behavior

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

SST | DTA®

Current Online Behavioral Trends and Updates

Monthly 2-hour training session with Q&A

Monthly Current Online Behavioral Trends and Updates complement SST's DTA® training. These sessions enhance SS/TA teams' understanding of the ever-changing digital landscape and include a live Q&A with SST Threat Analysts.

This training includes:

- Updates and changes to all leading social media platforms
- Key information for SS/TA teams
- Case Scenarios: recent case files handled by SST Threat Analysts
- Trends, language, and new ways that students communicate online
- Risk enhancing behaviors – what to look out for

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

Communicating Through Crisis:
Navigating Critical Incidents

4-hour training session

In this session, attendees will explore effective critical incident response strategies for school administrators. As a school administrator, you are often at the center of a critical incident and are responsible for managing the crisis and communicating with staff, students, parents, and others about the situation. The form and scope of a critical incident can vary, but there are some key strategies you can use to effectively and quickly communicate with different audiences. By understanding these strategies, you can ensure that you are sharing the appropriate information in the most effective and timely way.

This training includes:

- Examples of communication through various scenarios
- Important content to include in key messages such as direction, status, actions, and compassion
- Cautions in communication
- Post-incident communication example
- Current trends specific to your location
- An overview of doxing, swatting, and incels
- Recent case files handled by SST
- Best practices of communication for public safety on threat-related incidents
- Templates and an interactive resource guide

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Bullying, Cyberbullying & Sextortion

8-hour training session

In this session, we will explore current best practices when supporting those who have engaged in and/or have experienced bullying, cyberbullying, targeted hate, and/or sextortion.

Cyberbullying, targeted hate, and sextortion have become increasingly common due to the rapidly evolving nature of digital communications, especially among today's youth. Due to the complex nature of each of these behaviors, a unique approach is needed to identify and support victims more effectively. We must ensure that we provide relevant education, effective modeling, and coping strategies for all parties. This training provides SS/TA teams with the tools necessary for identifying individuals who may be engaged in, and/or victims of bullying, cyberbullying, targeted hate, and/or sextortion. By the end of this session, you will have a better understanding of how to best support high-risk/vulnerable youth, and the tools to ensure a safe and caring school culture/climate.

This training includes:

- The relationship between school culture/climate and school safety
- The importance of the physical environment in schools
- The differences between bullying, mean behavior, and peer conflict
- Effects of bullying behavior on children and youth
- An interactive case study
- Successful intervention strategies and tools to address different types of bullying
- How to manage social media and the evolution of sexting behavior and sextortion
- Trauma-informed practice – what is trauma, and how does it impact youth?
- The importance of staying connected with high-risk and vulnerable youth and assessing changes in behavioral baseline
- Criteria for program selection and implementation (i.e., social-emotional learning)
- How to design and strengthen school codes of conduct
- How to design for diversity and difference to address homophobia, racism, and systemic racism
- How to identify and support individuals who have engaged in and/or experienced targeted hate, racism, bullying, cyberbullying, and sextortion

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Ensuring your Digital Privacy and Safety

2-hour training session with Q&A

Law enforcement and school staff (teachers, administrators) are often targets or subjects of threat-related behavior. This session will provide them and their families with the tools and knowledge necessary to ensure their digital privacy and safety.

This training includes:

- How to identify personal publicly available information to avoid negative impact
- How to ensure your digital privacy and protect your personal information online
- How to identify public sources of private information, including on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and Twitter
- How to use Boolean and people search operators to find out what information is out there about you or your loved ones
- How to enable secure privacy settings on social media platforms
- The steps to take to ensure safe and private digital usage

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Anxiety, the Brain, and The Classroom:
The ABC's of a Trauma-Informed Approach

4-hour training session

This condensed session includes the most significant components of a trauma-informed classroom approach. Fundamental change occurs when educators understand how anxiety and trauma can impact learning and the effect this has on the brain.

This training includes:

- The prevalence of mental health and trauma in schools
- The impact of anxiety and trauma on the brain
- How anxiety presents in the classroom
- The effect of hyperarousal on learning
- The role and impact of executive functions on behavior
- Practical strategies and tools to apply a trauma-informed approach in classrooms

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Trauma-Informed Safe and Caring School Communities

8-hour training session

Trauma-informed practices help create environments where the brain is able to learn rather than exist in a state of hyperarousal. By understanding trauma and its effects, school staff can respond to challenging behavior in a way that supports the students, families, and staff alike.

This training includes:

- The impact of anxiety and trauma on the brain
- How anxiety presents in the classroom
- Practical strategies to apply a trauma-informed approach to the classroom
- Strategies for brain-based neuro-developmental complexities such as ADHD
- Tools to support symptoms of depression that impact learning
- A takeaway plan/framework to implement a trauma-informed approach in your school community

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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Ensuring Safe and Caring School Communities

8-hour training session

Schools, school districts, and community agencies continually seek ways to make every student feel valued, respected, safe, and connected. Using a trauma-informed lens with best practice from the fields of Violence Prevention and Intervention, this training provides participants with a deeper understanding of how to create, measure, and evaluate school connectedness. The positive development of school climate and culture ensures school communities where students feel safe, accepted and respected regardless of their gender, race, culture, religion, or sexual orientation.

This training includes:

- The relationship between school culture/climate and school safety
- The importance of the physical environment in schools
- The difference between peer conflict, mean behavior, and bullying behavior
- Successful intervention strategies and tools to address different types of bullying
- Effects of bullying behavior on children and youth
- How to manage social media and the evolution of sexting behavior and sextortion
- Trauma-informed practice – what is trauma, and how does it impact youth?
- The importance of staying connected with high-risk and vulnerable youth and monitoring changes in behavioral baseline
- Criteria for program selection and implementation (i.e., social-emotional learning)
- How to design and strengthen School Codes of Conduct
- How to design for diversity and difference to address homophobia, racism, and systemic racism

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

SST I❖DTA

Social Media Awareness/Management to Ensure Safe and Caring School Communities

2-hour training session with Q&A

This staff session covers staff and student online safety as well as the permanence of digital tattoos. Now, more than ever, the digital and social media world has flowed into the classroom and school environment. This changing landscape has had positives for learning but has also had many negative implications on a school's culture and climate. This presentation also compliments the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) framework.

This training includes:

- How to recognize and respond to worrisome behavior
- Best practice for staff professional and personal use of social media
- Language of the internet, trends, and inordinate knowledge
- How to continue valuable post-presentation discussion with students

This training is for: School Administrators, School District Staff, and Law Enforcement Agencies.

SST | IODTA®

Targeted Hate and Racism:
A Restorative Approach Case Study

2-hour training session with Q&A

Our schools and districts are not immune to racism or the difficulties of diffusing tensions that have escalated at provincial/state, national, and international levels. This training will explore recent case studies of scenarios involving targeted hate and racism handled by SST's team of subject matter experts. We will discuss the significance of Digital Threat Assessment® and the importance of regularly assessing social media and other digital platforms for any signs of digital leakage that may indicate targeted hate and/or racism. We will also cover how to apply restorative practices to ensure school connectedness and best practices related to communication and incident management. You will leave this session with a better understanding of how to identify distinct aspects of discrimination as well as hate-related incidents and will receive an Interactive Resource Guide to support your threat assessment response to targeted hate and racism.

This training includes:

- Case Studies involving real incidents of targeted hate and racism and the impact on individuals and communities
- An overview of the key principles and elements of restorative practices, and how they can be applied in the context of addressing targeted hate and racism in school communities
- Strategies to address targeted hate and racism through early identification with Digital Threat Assessment® techniques
- Best practices related to communication and incident management
- Examples of erase Report It / PSSTWorld anonymous student tips

This training is for: School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams, School Administrators, School District Staff, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Partners.

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TRAINING SESSIONS

The following training sessions have been designed for students and parents/caregivers.

SST is pleased to offer training sessions remotely or in-person.

SST | I☉DTA®

Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities

STUDENT SESSION*
1-hour educational session

This student session covers all things digital, from being a good digital citizen to the criminal consequences of cyberbullying. Some of the most prominent concerns surrounding students' use of social media platforms and smartphones will be discussed.

This training includes:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behavior as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)

This training is for: Students in Grades 1-12.

Please note that these presentations are tailored towards age groups with no more than a 2-grade gap per session.

SST | I◉DTA®

Restorative Response to Racism through an Educational Lens

STUDENT SESSION*

1-hour educational session

Our school communities are not immune to racism or the difficulties students face in dealing with the issue outside of the classroom. This session provides expert insight from trainers who have worked in the field of restorative practice in communities affected by racism and hate. While unpacking the positives of discussing racism in our communities, strategies are provided for students to confront racism within their own peer groups. This session will provide take-away activities designed to bring students together and give educators a chance to check in with their class.

This training includes:

- How to promote "anti-racism" within school communities
- The three levels of racism and context/history of what people of color have endured
- What to do when encountering online social media groups related to racism
- The importance of not allowing racist language and jokes to become "normal"
- Why students should stand up, speak up, and protect each other

This training is for: Students in Grades 1-12.

Please note that these presentations are tailored towards age groups with no more than a 2-grade gap per session.

SST | IODTA®

Peer-to-Peer Student Mentoring Program:
Developing Digitally Responsible Learners

STUDENT SESSION*

8-hour training session for students in grade 9 & 10

*Only available as in person training

This training is a school-based peer-mentoring initiative that aims to embrace our youth as valuable and primary resources in prevention and education. Selected students will deliver experiential presentations to their local community schools to address current concerning trends and online use.

Mentors will explore their individual and group values, practice their presentation skills, and develop activities for younger students. Specific focus will be placed on developing digital citizenship skills and appropriately addressing cyberbullying. Through youth-driven peer education, students will explore how the internet and social media can be used appropriately and positively.

This peer-led approach helps communities build capacity and sustainability and enhances the development of digitally responsible learners.

This training is for: Peer Mentors in Grades 10-12

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Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship, and Cyberbullying

PARENT/CAREGIVER SESSION
2-hour training session with Q&A

This parent session focuses on all things digital. Your child in Middle/High School has now entered the peak of their digital media lives where cell phone ownership doubles, video game use explodes, and social media use becomes problematic. This session will cover recommendations for family rules, parental controls, family tech plans, as well as suggestions for monitoring your tween/teen's digital life.
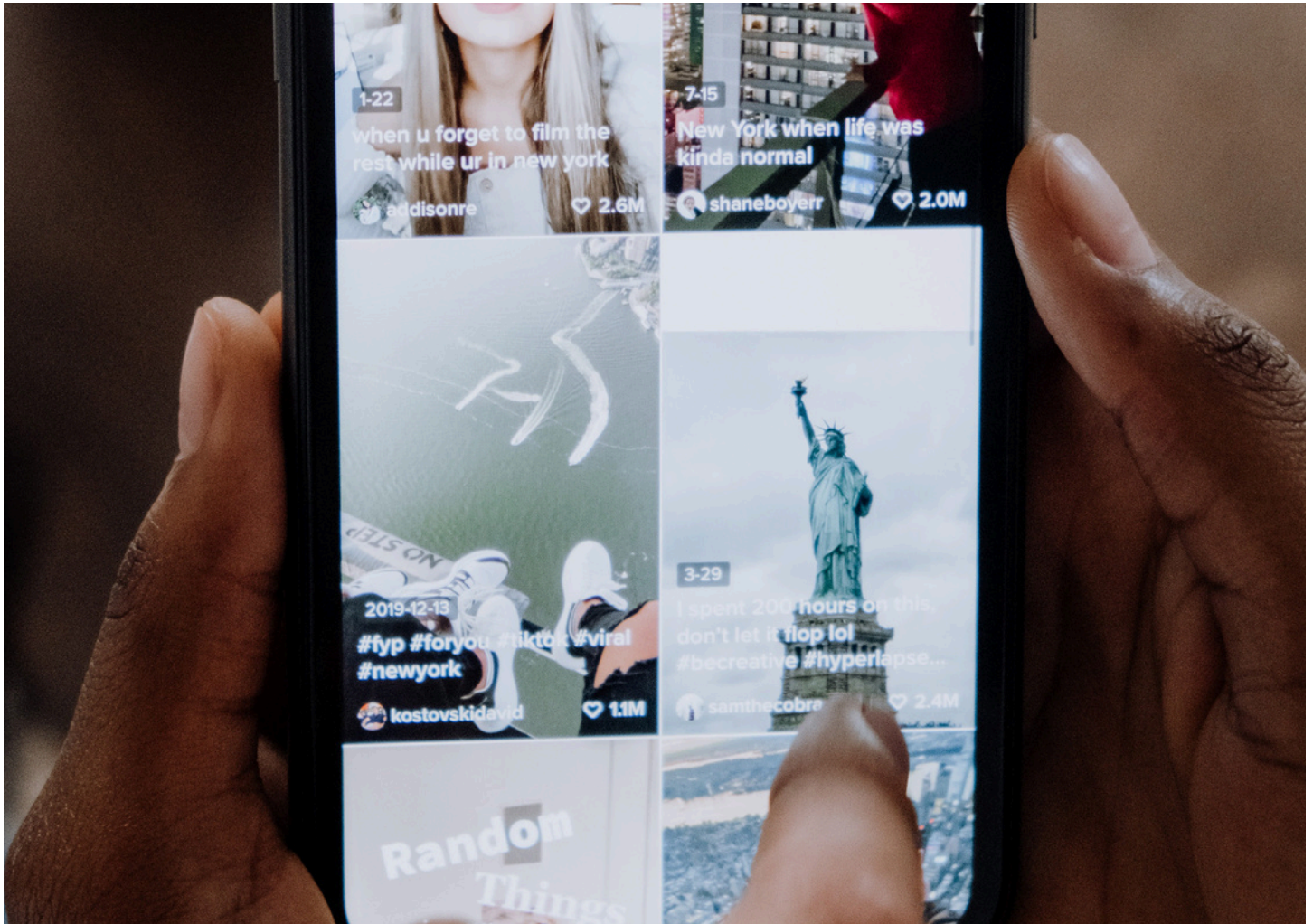
At this age, children encounter situations that will challenge their independence. Parents have an important role to play in providing support and guidance during critical periods. A snapshot of current trends and concerning apps and platforms will be provided to equip you in your digital parenting strategy.

This training is for: Parents/Caregivers

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ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Worrisome Online Behavior™ (WOB) Reports

(Annual contract, cost is based on total student enrollment)

SST's Worrisome Online Behavior™ Reports complement the evolving needs of SS/TA teams. This service includes a personalized report on open-source social media content related to your school district's student and staff safety. These reports enhance school safety and student welfare by identifying potential risks or threats in near real-time, allowing for proactive intervention.

On a monthly or bi-monthly basis, you will receive a comprehensive PDF report summarizing the Digital Behavioral Baseline of your school district. This report includes the most used social media platforms and top active users within your schools. It will also include recent real-world social media content localized from your school community identifying any worrisome online behavior. The real-time identification of open source social media plays a critical role in mitigating and preventing school violence. These reports are a valuable prevention tool for identifying students on the pathway to violence, suicide, radicalization, and/or gang involvement.

Threat Assessment Support/Consultation:
Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment

(Annual contract, cost is based on total student enrollment)

Threat Assessment Support/Consultations provide your team access to our skilled Threat Analysts, who are available on an as-needed basis when school safety incidents, concerns, and issues arise. Call or email us with incident-specific information, and SST will produce a Digital Baseline Report (DBR) within 24 hours to help support your incident and critical response plan. SST also provides general social media monitoring support for specific student concerns.

SST has a proven track record of securing open-source social media information that has led to successful school/community interventions and full scale police investigations and prosecution. SST assists in assessing this information through a Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment® lens and will provide consultation as needed.

PSSTWorld
Anonymous Online Student Reporting Tool

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING, WE WILL DO SOMETHING

Cost is based on total student enrollment. No special software is required. Promotional resources will be provided; together with guidelines to help facilitate follow up of submissions.

In many school violence cases, other students knew about pre-attack planning, and either didn't feel comfortable approaching an adult or were fearful of other students finding out they "told." PSSTWorld provides a solution.

PSSTWorld is an online anonymous reporting tool where students can report anything worrisome directly SS/TA staff via an online platform (www.psstworld.com). PSSTWorld is accessible from any device with an internet connection. In keeping with the pace of technology, a unique feature of our platform is the ability for students to attach screenshots, pictures, or videos to their submissions. Students are encouraged to report any range of concerning behaviors and incidents that they have seen, heard, or experienced. Submissions are immediately sent to the email inbox of the chosen SS/TA team within the school, school district, or community agency.

PSSTWorld is available in English, French, and Spanish — all within the same platform.