

## Training Students to Report Threats

- ✓ Talk with students about the reasons for reporting any concerns about another person's behavior or statements. Give examples of averted violence that was stopped due to one or more students coming forward to report concerns.
- ✓ Explain that even if a student is known to joke around, it's important to take threatening statements, writing or pictures seriously so adults can look into it.
- ✓ Explain that it is not students' responsibility to determine whether a person is dangerous or not. Their job is to tell adults so they can investigate further.
- ✓ Tell students that we know they see and hear things that the adults around them may miss. Help them understand that it's important to trust their sense that something is "off" about someone's behavior and to report it to an adult.
- ✓ Demonstrate to students that you will act on their concerns. When students believe we won't follow up, they are less likely to talk to us.
- ✓ Teach students *your preferred method* of reporting concerns about violence or threats made by peers.
- ✓ Anonymity will encourage reporting – consider a tip line or text reporting system.
- ✓ Have a School Resource Officer in the building. Because he/she is not a school staff member, kids often believe that the officer will keep confidentiality and act on the information they provide.

