

# 2025 Student Safety Report

## Signals That Save Lives



During the 2024-2025 school year, Gaggle analyzed nearly 6.9 billion pieces of student content. More than 8.7 million items were human-reviewed, leading to 482,203 incidents requiring district attention. **Every number represents a chance to intervene. Every alert is an opportunity to save more lives and lifetimes.**



# Introduction

Each year, Gaggle publishes its Student Safety Report to shine a light on what students are expressing on their school-issued accounts and devices and what schools can do to respond.

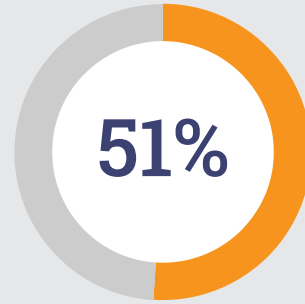
## The 2024–2025 school year revealed troubling trends:



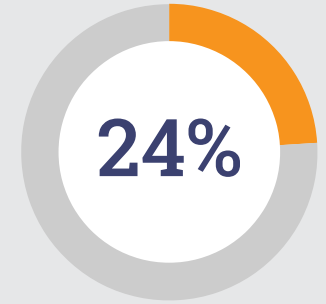
**surge in gun-related images detected**



**increase in suicide imminent risk, Possible Student Situation events**



**rise in elementary suicide and self-harm incidents**



**jump in drug and alcohol incidents**

Behind each statistic is a story. Students are reaching out in new ways, often through new technology like AI chatbots and the educational tools they use every day. With timely alerts and coordinated responses, districts are saving lives, building trust with families, and creating safer learning environments for their students.

# Concerning Content as a Leading Indicator

Not every troubling message signals an immediate crisis. Students who had concerning content in the past two school years were 10 times more likely to experience an incredibly serious incident related to suicide or self-harm.

This finding underscores the importance of monitoring patterns, not just incidents. An alarming search query or a dark creative writing piece may be the first sign of deeper struggles.



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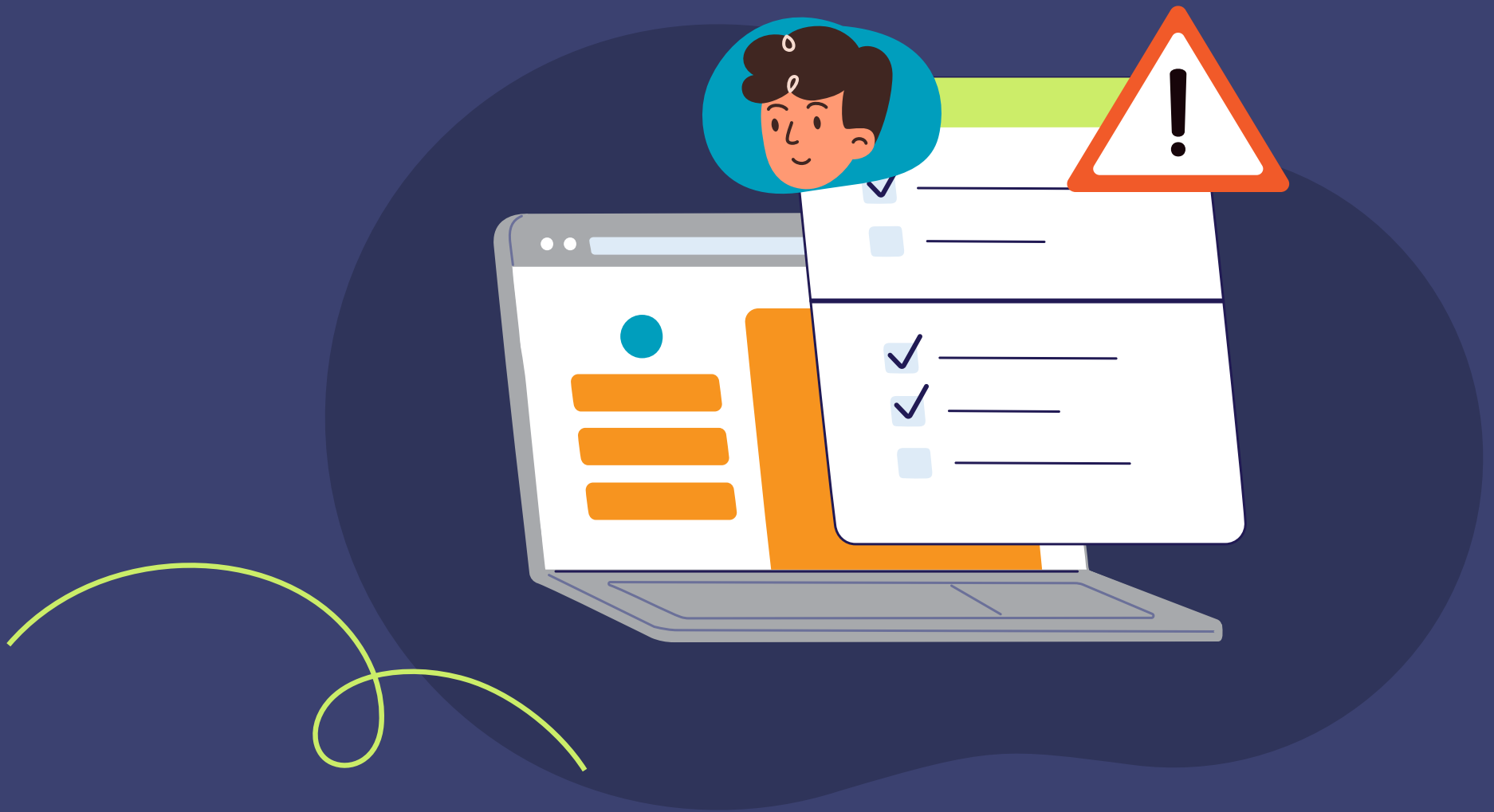


**1 QCON**  
(Questionable Content)

**10X**  
**likely for PSS**  
(Possible Student Situation)



# Web Activity Monitoring



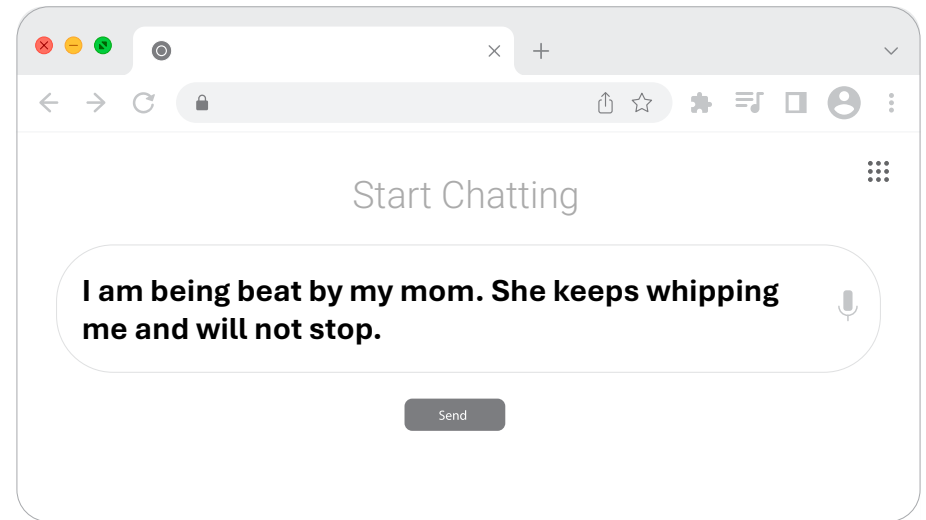
# Signals Found Nowhere Else

Since its introduction in December 2023, Web Activity Monitoring (WAM) has uncovered 7,528 suicide-related emergency incidents that would not have been detected otherwise, spanning nearly 500 districts.

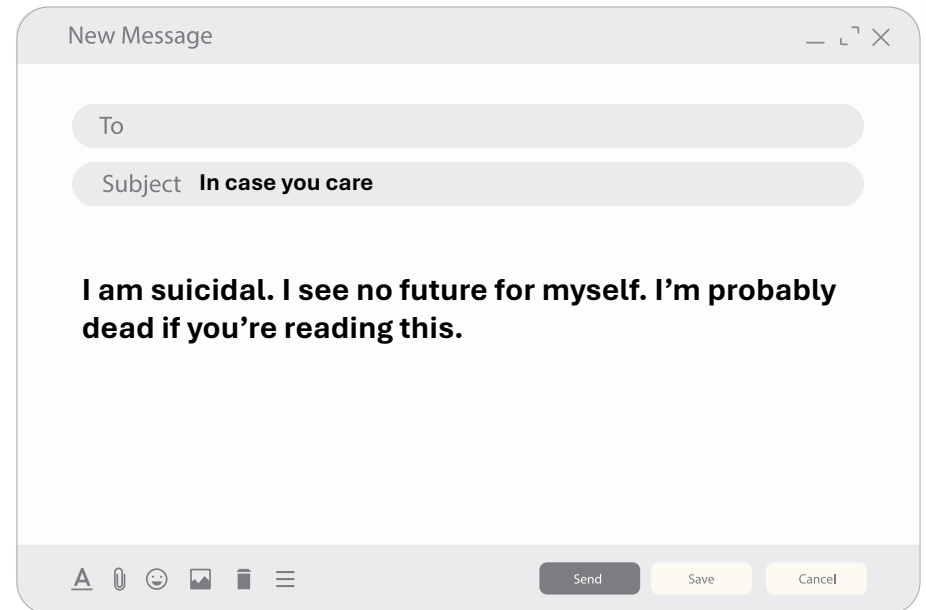
Students often type what they won't say aloud. Search queries like "how to say goodbye" or draft emails about self-harm may never be shared, but WAM ensures they're not missed.

At Gaggle, our mission is to protect student lives and lifetimes by helping them use digital tools safely and responsibly. Our work isn't simply about monitoring students. It's about making sure they are supported. Every potential concern is reviewed by trained safety professionals before it is sent to the district. This process helps ensure that when students are in need, caring adults have the opportunity to intervene.

*AI chat about abuse at home*



*Draft Suicide Note*



# Lives Saved: From Skepticism to Trust

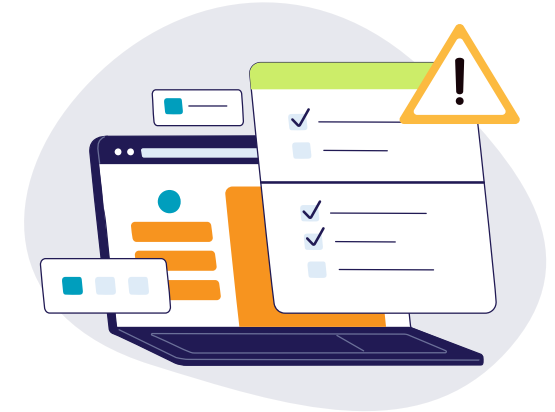
During the 2024-2025 school year,



**Gaggle helped save 1,088 student lives** and 6,344 over the past five school years



**Gaggle issued 26,855 emergency phone calls** (Possible Student Situations)



**Gaggle sent 455,348 QCON Alerts** (Questionable Content)



## Case Study: Ohio District Leaders

When Gaggle was first introduced some superintendents worried about liability. “I thought it would put us in a risky position,” one admitted. But after multiple crisis interventions, including midnight calls to parents who discovered their child had a suicide plan, skepticism turned into advocacy. “Now I tell everybody: you’re crazy if you don’t do it,” said Paul Otten of Beavercreek City Schools. Another superintendent added: “If you save one life, that is all the data you need.”

# Violence & Weapons



# Bringing Hidden Risks to Light

Violence-related incidents increased this year, with a 142% rise in gun-related images identified by Gaggle's proprietary Gun Model. Alerts were issued after photos embedded in emails, screenshots from social media, videos, and image attachments were discovered.

National context presents a paradox, however. Student surveys show fewer teens reporting they carry firearms to school, yet districts report more actual firearm possessions and confiscations than before the pandemic. This means digital monitoring is catching what surveys cannot: the cultural normalization of guns in student images and messages.<sup>1</sup>



**On average 7 young people die every day** from gun violence in the United States.<sup>2</sup>



**In 2022, 55% of all suicides were by firearm.**<sup>3</sup>



**Firearms accounted for 30% of all the deaths** that occurred among older teens (ages 15-17).<sup>4</sup>



## Why it matters

A photo of a firearm may not be evidence of intent, but it is often a red flag for riskier behavior. Early detection gives schools a chance to intervene before tragedy strikes.

# Drugs & Alcohol



## Fewer Users, Higher Risk

24%

**Drug and alcohol incidents rose 24%, the second-highest increase across categories.**

The story here isn't just about how many students are using substances. It's about how serious the situations are for those who do. Students identified by Gaggle are often those struggling with co-occurring depression, trauma, or lack of family monitoring.

**Protective factors:** Research consistently shows that parental monitoring and school connectedness reduce risk.<sup>5</sup> Many districts now link substance-related alerts directly to counseling, therapy, or Return-to-Learn plans, ensuring students receive support.



# Suicide & Self-Harm



# Suicide PSS: Urgency in Every Alert

Suicide PSS (Possible Student Situations indicating imminent risk) increased 30% this year. Since 2019, Gaggle has uncovered more than 3,000 suicide notes across all grade levels.



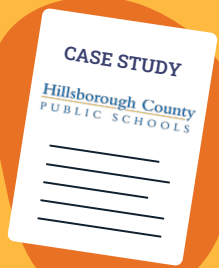
In 2023, 40% of high school students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past year.<sup>6</sup>



20% reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the past year.<sup>6</sup>



Rates of suicidal ideation and attempts are disproportionately higher among LGBTQ+ and female students compared to their peers.<sup>6</sup>



## Case Study: Hillsborough County Public Schools

One Florida principal was skeptical when Gaggle was first introduced. But an alert received late one Friday night—flagging a suicide plan hidden in a student’s PowerPoint—changed her perspective. Law enforcement and school staff were able to intervene in time. “Whatever it costs, I am positive it saved this student’s life,” she shared.

# Suicide & Self-Harm: The Elementary Surge

Elementary-aged students are driving the steepest increase in suicide and self-harm incidents. The rate per 10,000 rose 51% over last year.

This mirrors national research: A 2024 JAMA Network Open study found that preteen suicide deaths increased by an average of 8.2% annually from 2008-2022, with the steepest rises among girls.<sup>7</sup> The CDC also reports more emergency department visits for suicidal ideation and self-harm among children ages 5-9, especially during the school year.<sup>8</sup>

## The story behind the data:



**Gaggle identified 33 suicide notes** written by elementary school students last year alone.



**Nearly a third of the most critical suicide/self-harm crises** occurred in students who had produced concerning content and behavior in prior years.



## Why it matters

These are children just beginning their educational journey. Early detection and intervention can change not only a student's experience in a school year, but over the course of a lifetime.

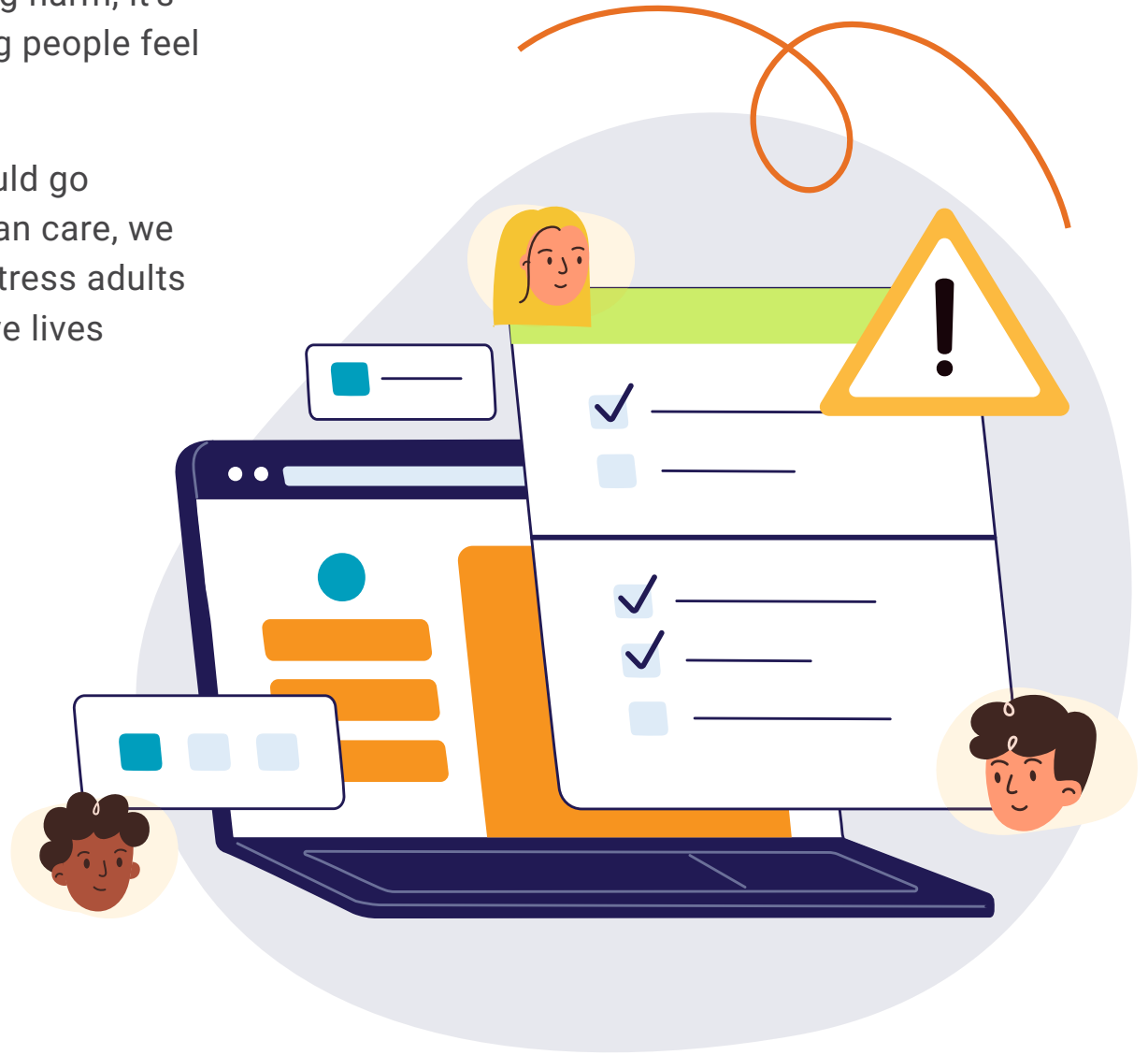
# Closing

Student safety is not just about preventing harm, it's about creating environments where young people feel seen, supported, and connected.

At Gaggle, we believe no cry for help should go unheard. By pairing technology with human care, we can ensure that when students signal distress adults are there to listen, act, and ultimately, save lives and lifetimes.

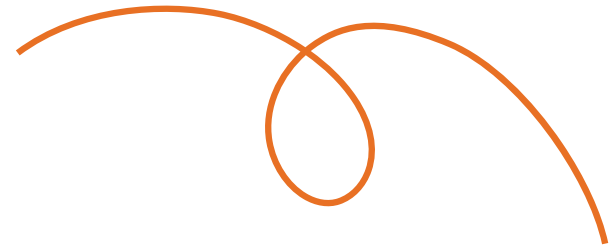


GET A DEMO



# References

- <sup>1</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/a13/student-weapons-firearms>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/2022-cgvs-gun-violence-in-the-united-states.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://stateline.org/2025/03/20/youth-gun-deaths-in-the-us-have-surged-50-since-2019/>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/a13/student-weapons-firearms>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10156152/>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/mental-health/index.html>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2821658>
- <sup>8</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7238a3.htm>



## **Gaggle's Mission**

To ensure the safety and well-being of students and schools by leveraging people and technology.

## **Gaggle's Vision**

All schools are safe and all students get the mental and emotional help they need.

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**Save More Lives and Lifetimes**

