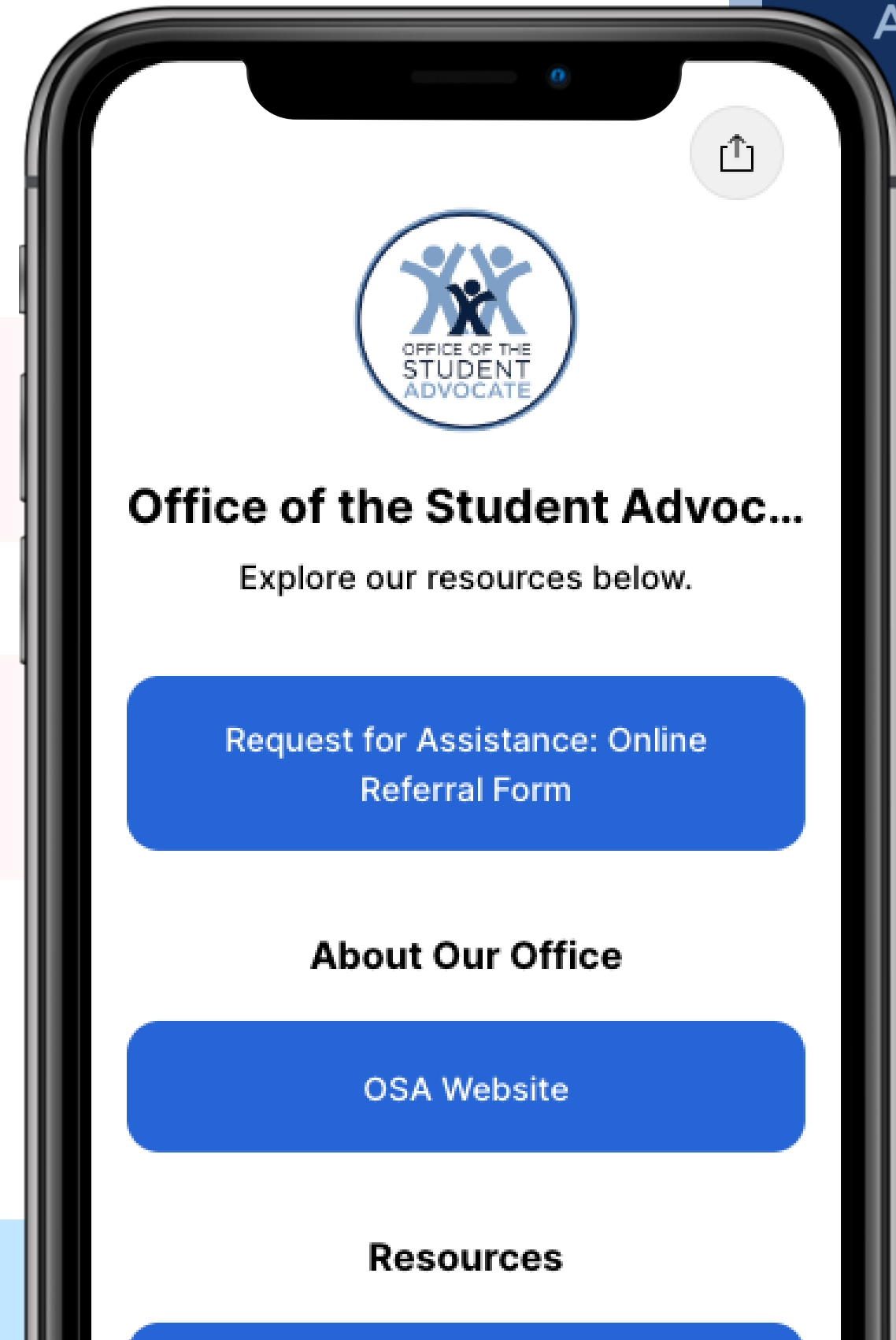


THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of the Student Advocate

Learn more about us here
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Tonight's Agenda

1. **About our Office**
2. **Concerns & Solutions:**
 - **Traffic Safety**
 - **Community Harassment / Violence**
 - **Law Enforcement in Schools**
3. **Student & Family Safety Survey**



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Our Purpose

The DC Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) supports students, parents/guardians, and families in their **advocacy** through **parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings** in order to amplify the voices of students and their families.



- OSA's goal is empower their communities within educational processes and decision-making.
- OSA will provide avenues for families to access the resources necessary to better understand and navigate DC's complex systems.
- OSA will continue to empower families by helping them utilize the power that they already possess.

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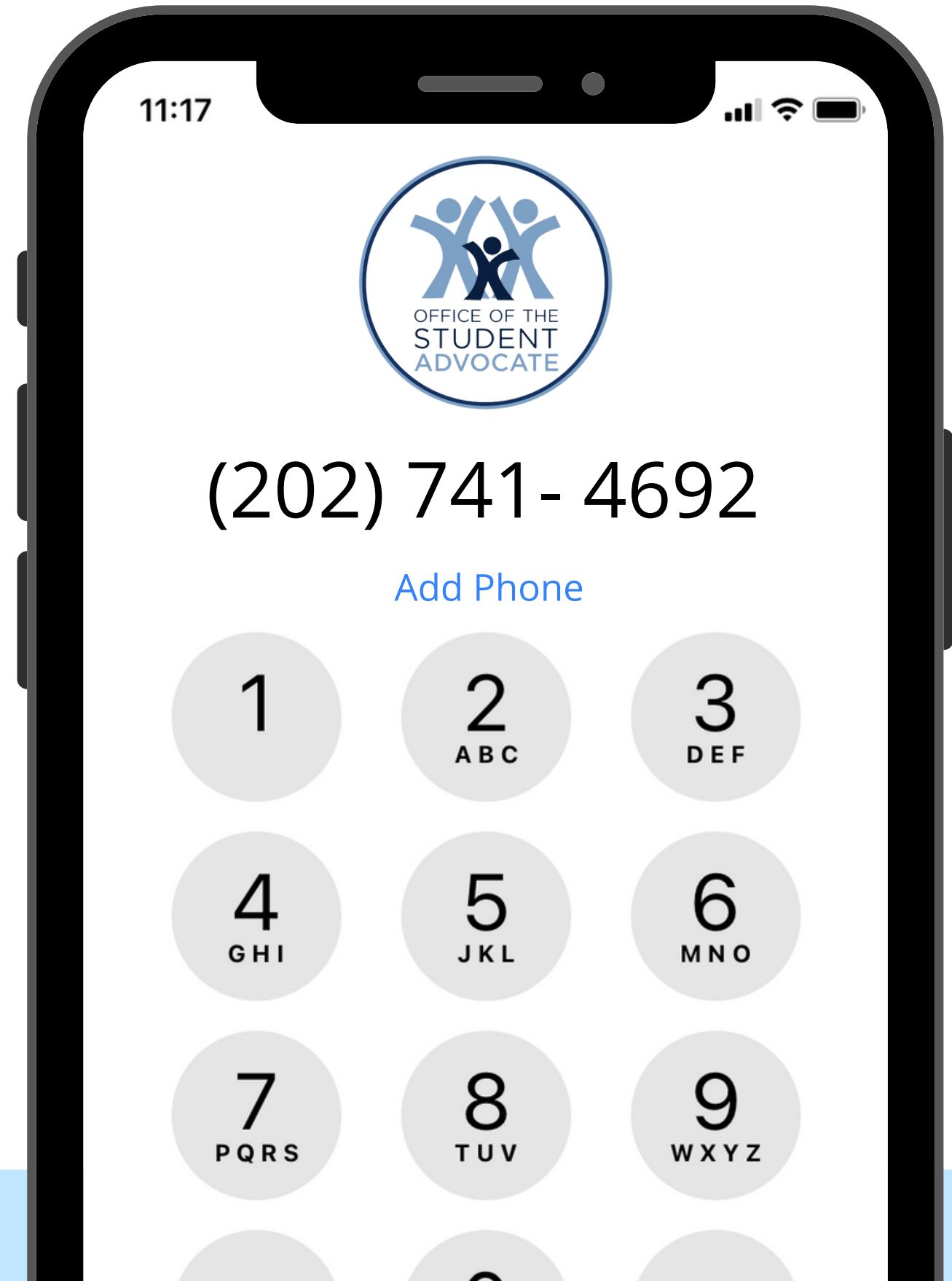
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Request for Assistance (RFA): Education Hotline

Do you have a question or concern about the DC's education system?




- 1 Give us a call:**
 -  (202)741-4692
 -  Monday - Friday
 -  9am - 5pm
- 2 Email or submit request online:**
 -  student.advocate@dc.gov
 -  <https://studentadvocate.dc.gov/page/request-assistance-form>
- 3 Scan using your phone's camera:**



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Ongoing Work: Areas of Focus

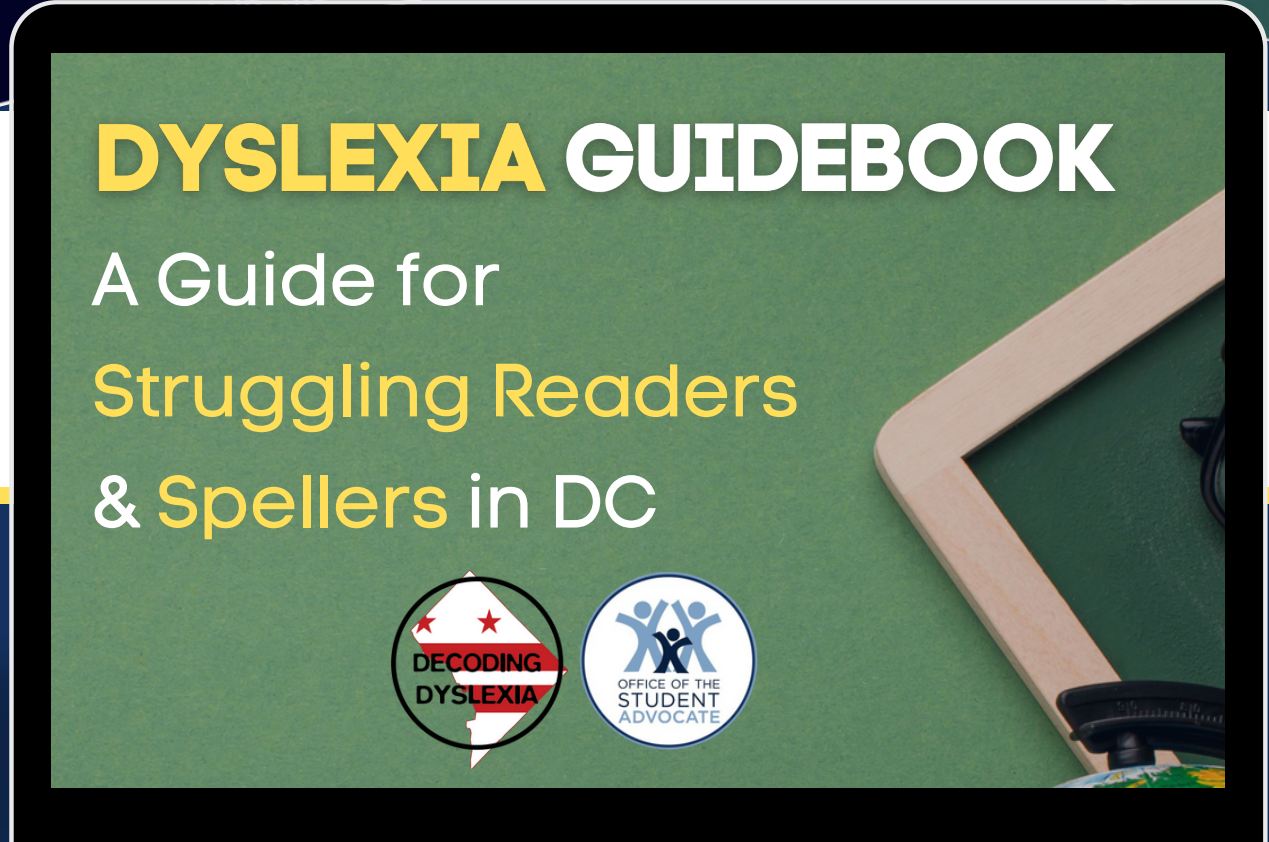
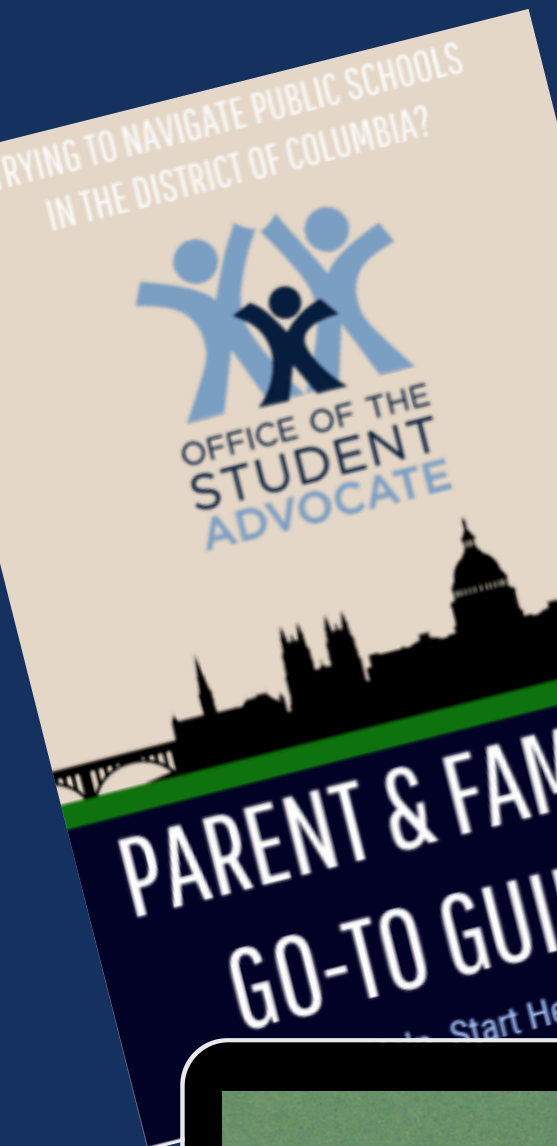


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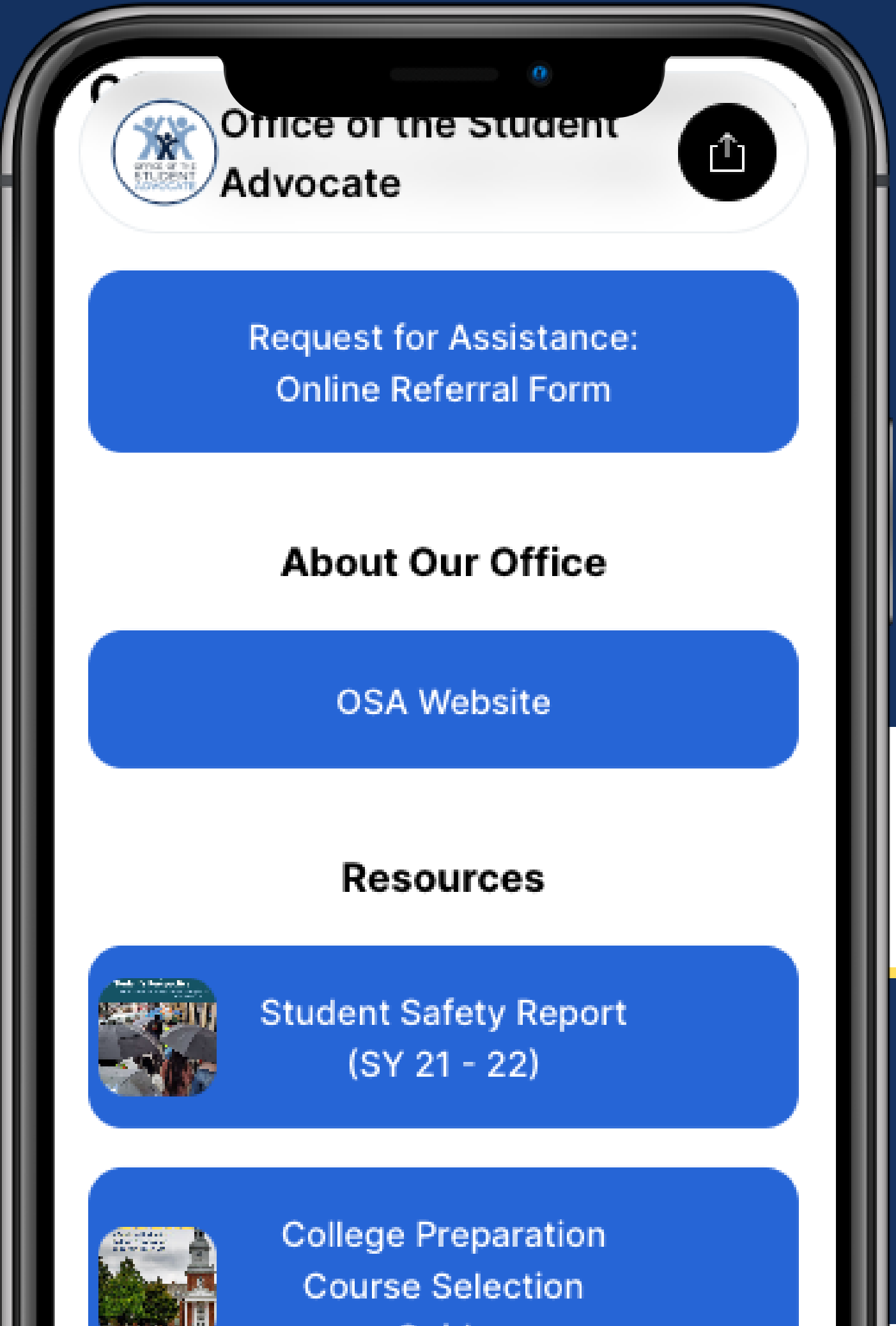
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Access Online Resources & Tools



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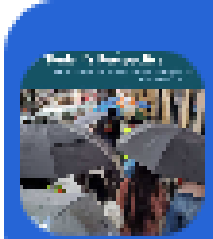
Office of the Student Advocate



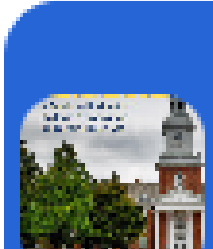
**Request for Assistance:
Online Referral Form**

About Our Office

Resources



**Student Safety Report
(SY 21 - 22)**



**College Preparation
Course Selection**

Student Safety: A Student's Perspective

Student Safety: A Student's Perspective

Student Safety & Safe Passage Surveys (Washington, DC)
School Year 2021 - 22



Figure 14: What conditions make you feel unsafe while traveling to school? Select all that apply:

Table 4: Top 5 Areas of Concerns for Students

Condition of Concern	% of Students
Community Based Harassment / Violence (involving people not connected with your school)	24.70%
Traffic	17.47%
Gang Recruitment	15.06%
Law Enforcement	12.05%
School Based Harassment / Violence (ex: fights among classmates, bullying)	11.45%

Get the full
report here:



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Student Safety: A Family's Perspective

Student Safety: A Student's Perspective

Student Safety & Safe Passage Surveys (Washington, DC)
School Year 2021 - 22



Figure 14: What conditions make you feel unsafe while traveling to school? Select all that apply:

Table 5: Top 5 Areas of Concerns for Families

Condition of Concern	% of Families
Traffic	36.21%
Community Based Harassment / Violence (involving people not connected with your school)	13.79%
Construction	12.07%
School Based Harassment / Violence (ex: fights among classmates, bullying)	10.34%
Lack of Sidewalks	8.62%

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Student Safety: Your Perspective

Student Safety: A Student's Perspective

Student Safety & Safe Passage Surveys (Washington, DC)
School Year 2021 - 22



Based on our findings, we wanted to talk to you about:

1. Traffic Safety
2. Community Based Violence / Harassment
3. Law Enforcement

Get the full report here:



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Traffic Safety Concerns

Traffic Safety: Student & Family Voices

"The person I'm in the car with drives too fast and sometimes drives too fast to the point that we are going to crash."

-8th Grade Student

"People following me or driving reckless!"

-12th Grade Student

"The traffic and the aggressive drivers are horrific. Little to no regard is given to the crossing guards and or children when crossing the street to get to the school."

-Parent/Guardian of a Kindergarten Student

"Drivers do not always stop at crosswalks and it feels less safe during after care hours when the crossing guards are not on duty anymore."

-Parent/Guardian of a 3rd Grade Student

Traffic Safety: Your Voice

What **traffic** or **transportation** concerns do you have?

Updates: Traffic Safety Legislation

Safe Routes to School Expansion Regulation Amendment Act
Signed into law on 1/19/2023 (not included in this year's budget)

What it would do:

- Require **traffic signals** or **all-way stops** at every local intersection within 1/4 mile of a school
- Includes mandates for **raised cross walks, curb extensions, crosswalk warning pylons, flashing pedestrian signs** and **speed bumps** near schools.
- Expand school safety zones and require **automated traffic cameras** within school zones.

Who introduced the bill: Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Community Based Violence & Harassment

Community Based Violence / Harassment: Student & Family Voices

"Because there is always a threat walking out of the door anywhere so I always feel a little uneasy."

-11th Grade Student

"...sometimes when im leaving from tutoring I always see this group in the alley looking at me and sometimes I'm scared that they will try to rob me or jump me."

-8th Grade Student

"Fights after school has increased. Individuals [from different schools] have come to the school to fight."

-Parent/Guardian of a 5th, 7th, & 8th Grade Student

"Things are unpredictable. You don't know when an incident can pop off. I've accepted that I can die at anytime, just don't want it happening in front of my children or for me to witness the same."

-Parent/Guardian of a Kindergarten, 2nd, & 9th Grade Students

Community Based Violence / Harassment: Your Voice

Have you experienced community based **harassment** or **violence** while traveling to and from school?

Student & Family Safety Survey:

Directions:

Please take 3 – 5 minutes to complete the following survey related to your safety.

Share your experiences using the link:

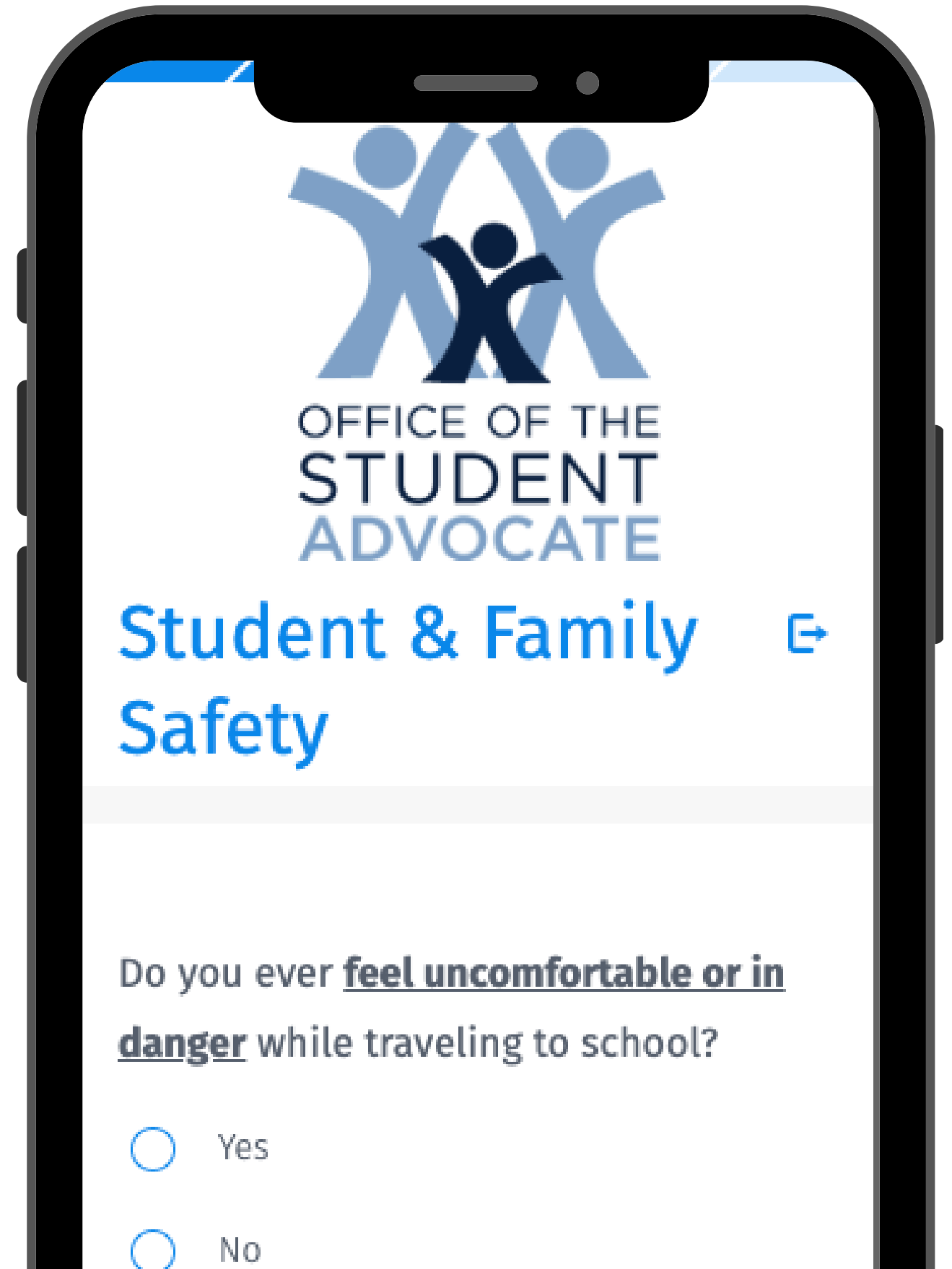
 <https://bit.ly/DCSafetySurvey>

OR

Scan using your
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What is **Safe Passage**?



CITY-WIDE COORDINATION:

Various government agencies coordinated community driven solutions to address student safety.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN:

Local businesses & community-based organizations have agreed to support students and their families.

SCHOOL INVOLVED:

Schools have partnered with community-based organizations and agencies to ensure student safety.

STUDENT & FAMILY CENTERED:

Students & their families have been a part of creating community driven solutions to address student safety.



Safe Passage is a city-wide, multi-tiered approach to **ensure the safety** of students & their families while traveling.

Updates: Safe Passage Programs

1. DC School Connect
2. Safe Spots
3. Safe Blocks

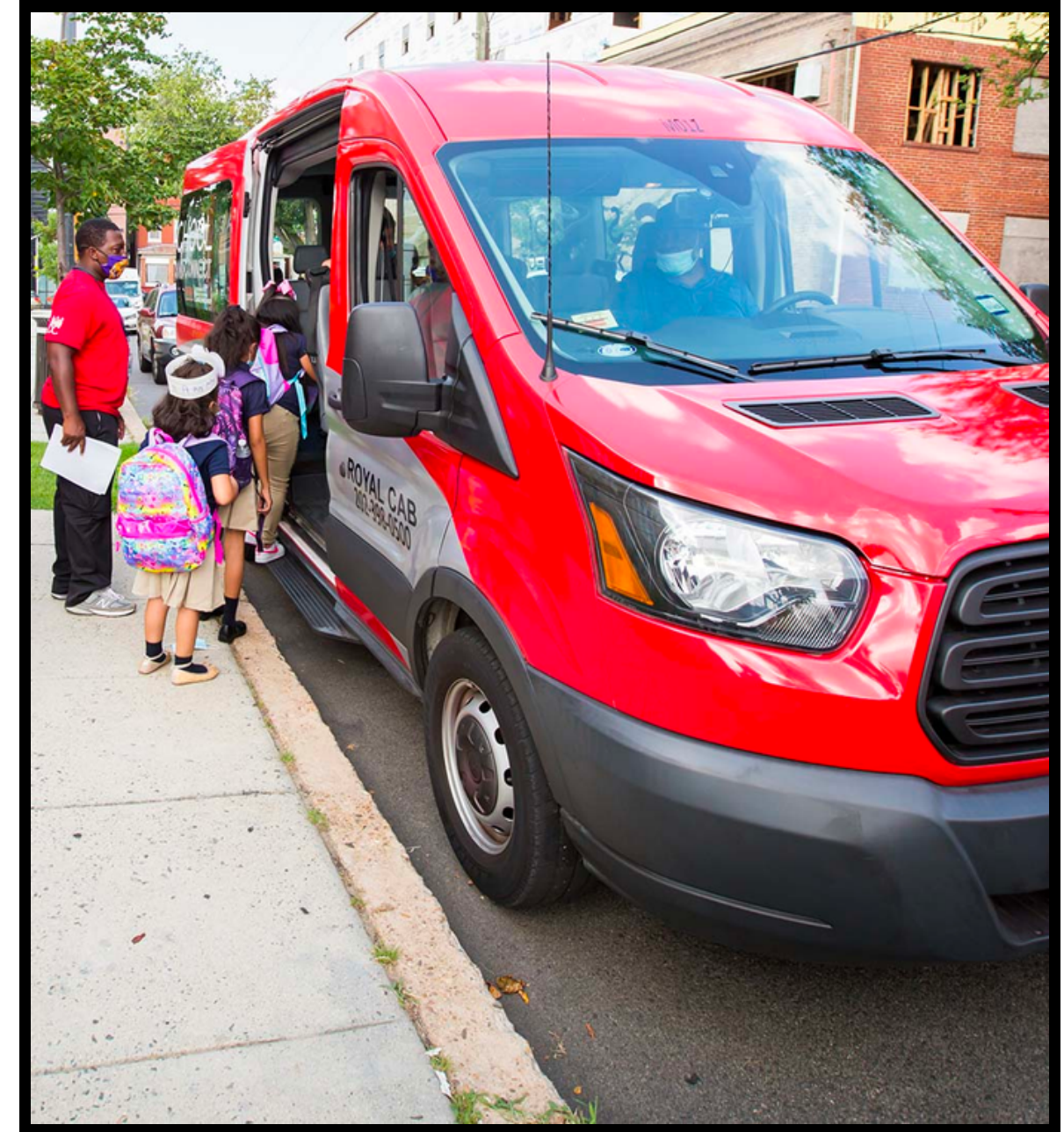


What is **DC School Connect**?

- DC School Connect is a new transportation service for a select number of DCPS & Charter Schools in the Safe Passage Zones in Wards 7 & 8.

How does **DC School Connect** work?

- Participating schools select 3 shared locations as pickup and drop-off locations for families.
- The DC School Connect shuttles pick up & drop off registered students from the designated locations to and from their school.



Safe Passage: Your Voice

DC School Connect

1. Have you seen a DC School Connect van?
2. Would you enroll if it were available for your school?
3. If you can re-design how transportation works for students in DC, what would you change?

Learn More:

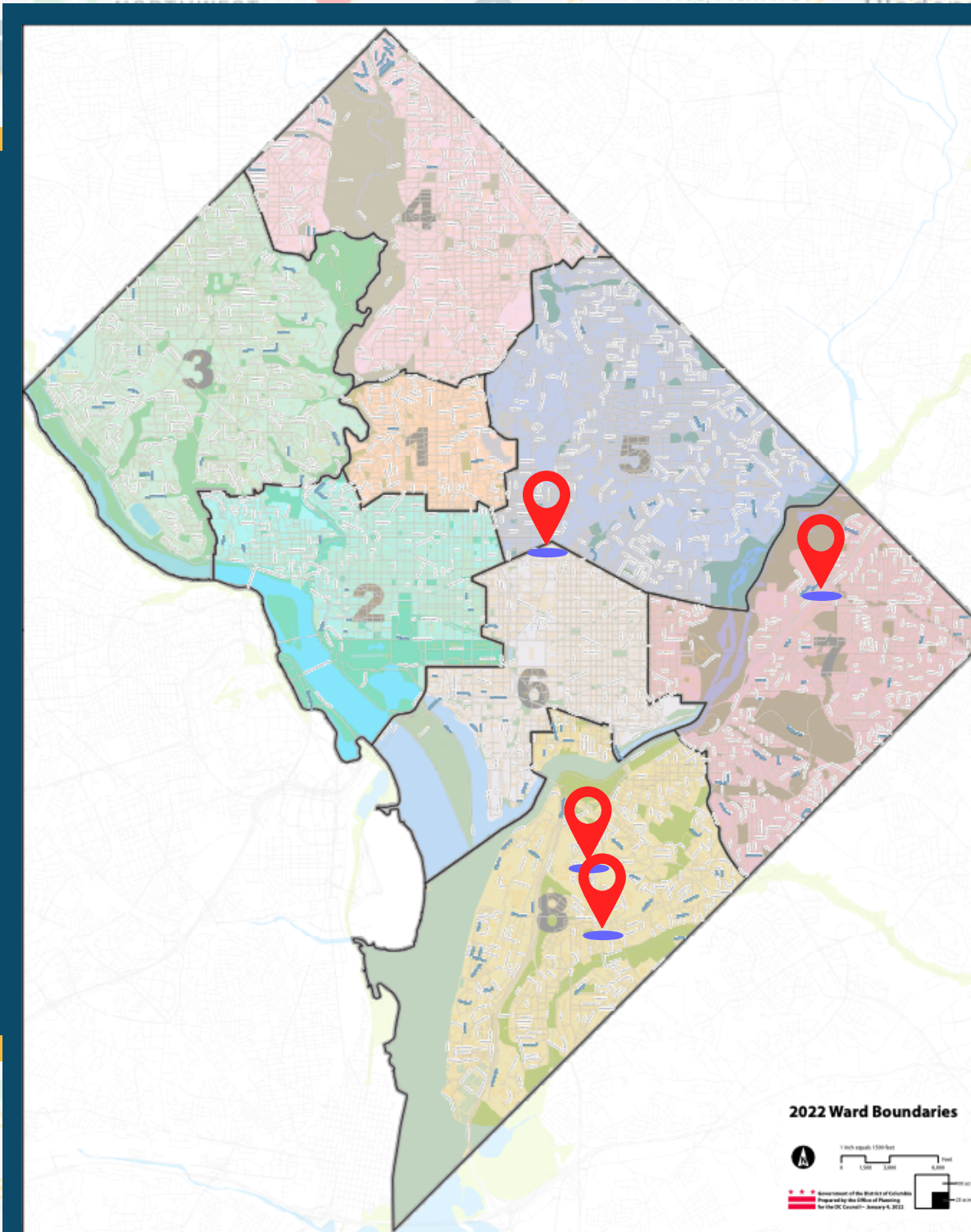


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Safe Passage: Safe Spots



A *Safe Spot* is a safe and welcoming business, government or faith-based organization for students to visit if and when they feel unsafe on their way to and from school.



Safe Passage: Your Voice

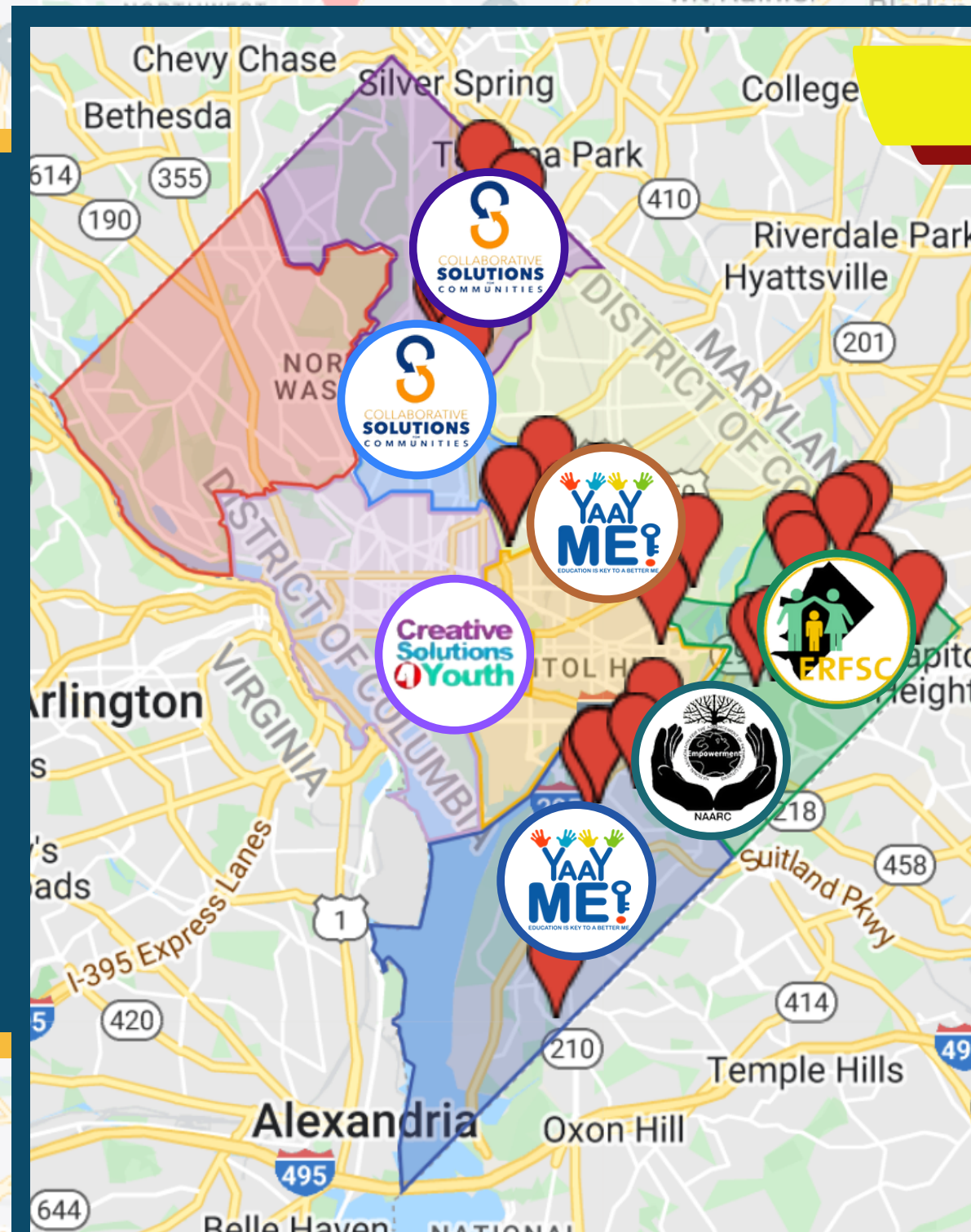
Safe Spots

1. Have you seen a Safe Spot before?
2. Would you ever use a Safe Spot?
3. What would help you become more comfortable with using a safe spot?

Safe Passage: Safe Blocks

Safe Blocks is an initiative where nonprofit organizations with strong relationships in the community hire, train, and deploy **Safe Passage Workers**.

These trusted adults are present along routes during travel to or from school. More than **200 Safe Passage workers** have been hired across **6 wards**.



SAFE BLOCKS:

WHO ARE THE ORGANIZATIONS?

WARD 8:

- YAAY Me, Inc.
- National Association For the Advancement of Returning Citizens (NAARC)

WARD 5:

- YAAY Me, Inc.

WARD 4:

- Collaborative Solutions for Communities (CSC)

WARD 7:

- NAARC
- East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (ERFSC)

WARD 1:

- Collaborative Solutions for Communities (CSC)

WARD 6:

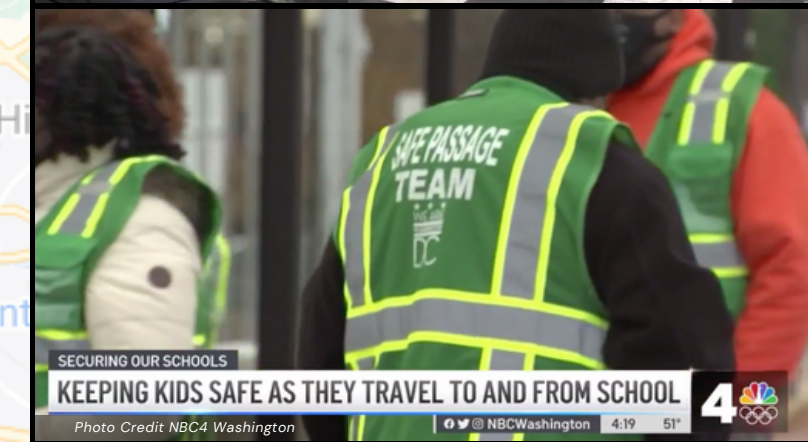
- Creative Solutions 4 Youth

Safe Passage: Safe Blocks

All Safe Passage workers will carry identification:



All Safe Passage Workers may be wearing:



Safe Passage: Safe Blocks

Safe Passage Workers

1. Have you seen a Safe Passage worker before?
2. Does / Would the presence of a Safe Passage worker help you feel safer?
3. What would help you feel safer?

Law Enforcement In Schools

Law Enforcement in Schools

School Resource Officers (SRO)

"In an 8-5 vote, the DC Council stuck with a plan to gradually reduce the number of school resource officers in public and charter schools from 60 personnel starting July 1 of this year, to 40 personnel in 2023, then 20 personnel by 2024, **ending the program altogether by 2025.**"

Source: <https://wtop.com/dc/2022/05/phasing-out-resource-officers-in-dc-schools-to-continue-as-planned/>

Your Voice:

1. Have you noticed any **changes** since the number of SROs have been reduced?
2. If you could **reimagine** how police work in schools, what would it look like?

Alternative: Safety Advocate Model

Location: Boulder Valley School District (Colorado)

What is a Safety Advocate?

- Non-uniformed personnel who do not carry guns.
- Assist in conducting investigations, including threat assessments
- Serve as a liaison with the police during emergencies and other events
- They receive anti-bias training
- Work with school staff to support restorative practices within school buildings.

Alternative: Safety Advocate Model

Benefits of Safety Advocates in DC:

- Could remain an MPD funded program;
- Could remove arresting / ticketing powers from officers serving as advocates;
- Removes guns from officers serving as advocates;
- Supports restorative practices in schools;
- Provides professional development opportunities for school staff;
- Builds trust between students, police, and schools;
- Would increase coordination between schools, MPD, MTPD, and CBOs.

Your Voice:

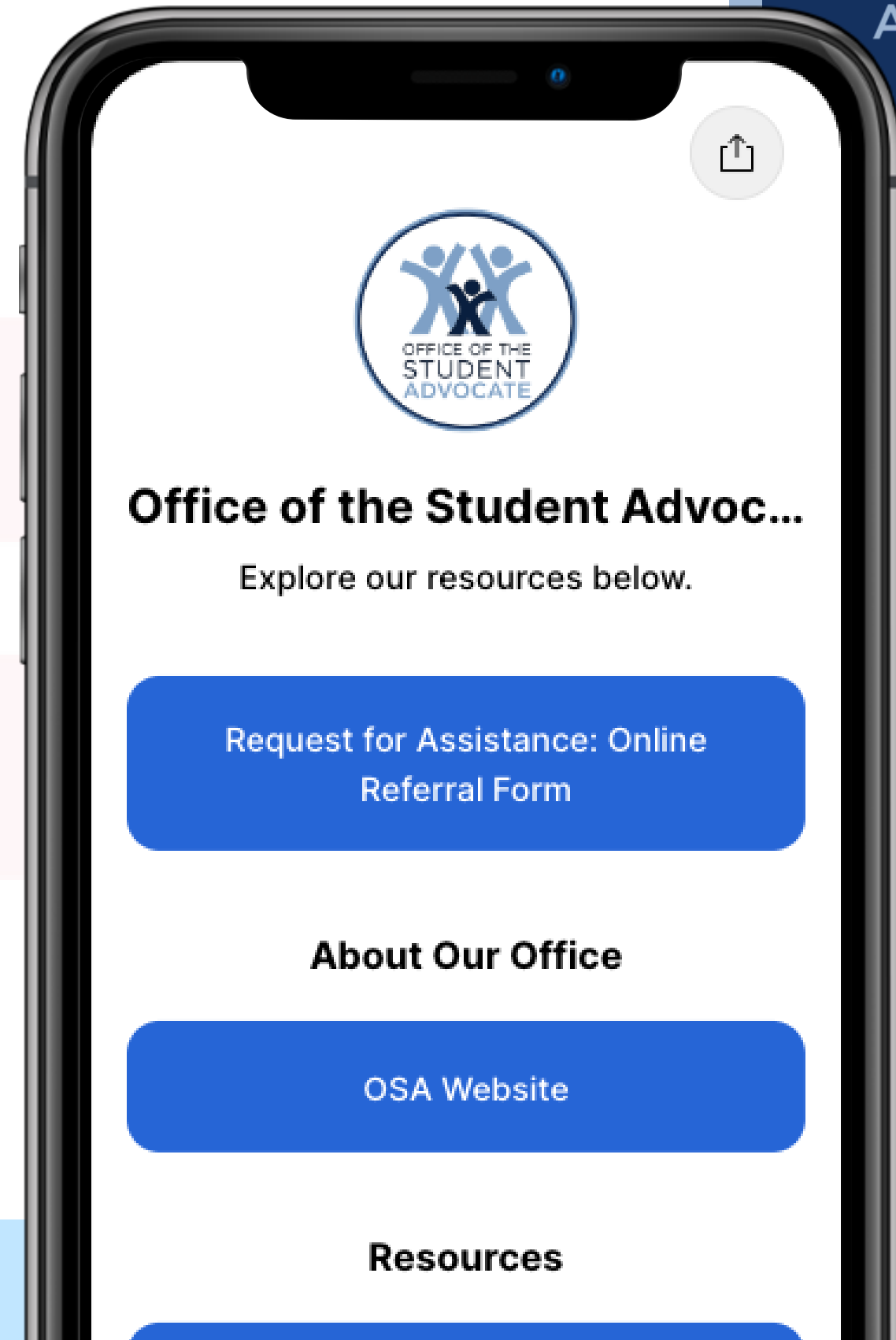
1. Do you think a similar model **could work** here?
2. Would you prefer **SROs** in schools, **Safety Advocates**, or **both**?

**What else do you feel
should be done to improve
your safety?**

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