For more than 20 years, Gaggle has helped K-12 districts keep students safe. Gaggle’s tools have proven especially beneficial during the pandemic, monitoring students’ mental health and safety around the clock—whether they’re learning in the classroom or at home.

The current level of student stress and anxiety is unlike anything we’ve ever seen before. With stressors including pandemic fears, civil unrest, and a tense election, it’s no surprise that today’s students are struggling more than ever.

### What Are We Seeing?

When comparing the first three months of the current school year with the same time frame from the 2019–20 school year, the results are astonishing. We’ve logged a 66% overall increase in incidents since students returned for the 2020–21 school year.

The data paints a clear picture of struggling students, with noticeable increases across four of our incident categories:

- **83%** Increase in Suicide & Self-Harm
- **63%** Increase in Violence Toward Others
- **135%** Increase in Nudity & Sexual Content
- **59%** Increase in Drugs & Alcohol

Alarminly, Gaggle has noted a considerable increase in incidents at the elementary level, highlighting the need for districts to include K-5 students in their digital student safety efforts. During the start of the 2020–21 school year, elementary students accounted for about 13% of incidents, compared to just 4% during the same time frame of the 2019–20 school year.
The overall increase in incidents, particularly the spike in Suicide & Self-Harm, has led to an uptick in another area: lives saved. Compared to the same time frame last school year, Gaggle has recorded a **53% increase in lives saved**. 43% of these students were at the high school level, 39% in middle school, and **18% at the elementary level**—a staggering increase for the younger age group, up from just 2% of lives saved during the same period in 2019.

### Around-the-Clock Student Activity

Throughout the pandemic, Gaggle has continued to see students using their school-issued accounts outside of typical school hours. When looking at the most concerning incidents—those requiring immediate action to ensure student safety and well-being—Gaggle recorded **42% of incidents occurring after hours**, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM and weekends, **14% of which occurred overnight**, from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM.

### INCIDENTS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE DISTRICT ACTION

- **14%** of incidents occurred overnight
- **42%** of incidents occurred after hours

It’s clear that a significant number of incidents are happening when educators aren’t actively watching what students are posting online. The burden of watching students’ after-hours activity is causing a significant increase in stress for teachers, highlighting the importance of Gaggle’s around-the-clock monitoring to protect students in the district’s digital environment.

Regardless of whether students are learning in the classroom, at home, or a combination of the two, Gaggle offers educators the peace of mind that students are being protected in the virtual environment—**24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year**.