



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of Alabama

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Dear Principal/Administrator/Parent:

With the school year on the horizon, the United States Attorney's Office would like your help in protecting Alabama students from a variety of hazards they face online.

Unfortunately, it is not just middle-school or high-school-aged children who are at risk, but children in elementary school as well. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's publication *Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later*, 13% of elementary-aged children have received some type of sexual solicitation or approach through the Internet.

Because our aim is to prevent any child in the state of Alabama from being victimized by online predators, over the past several years the U.S. Attorney's office has offered an Internet Safety presentation to school age children and their parents. This important program has received the Department of Justice's Award for Outstanding Prevention Strategy, and to date, has been presented to over 20,000 students and 6,000 parents. Please contact Mr. Tommy Loftis in my office at 251-441-5845 if you have any interest in bringing this important presentation to your school. However, because we know we cannot speak with every child personally, we are hoping you will copy and send the enclosed Safety Tips as well as this letter home with your elementary and middle school students. We are sending this now so it can be included in your first day packet. As you can see, one of the Safety Tips sheets contains tips for parents to keep their child safe on the Internet. The other contains Safety Tips for students. You can also find an electronic copy of these enclosures on our website at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/als/programs.html>.

We hope parents and caregivers in your school will talk about Internet safety with their child or children so that all of our children will be better protected from online predators. We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to call me or Mr. Loftis at 251-441-5845 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

KENYEN R. BROWN
United States Attorney