U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District Texas

350 Magnolia Ave., Suite 150 *409 / 839-2538*
Beaumont, Texas 77701-2248

August, 2012

Dear Principal/Administrator/Parent:

With the school year on the horizon, the United States Attorney's Office would like your help in protecting Texas 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 who are 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. In Texas, 13% amounts to over 235,000 of the 1.8 million elementary-aged children.

Because we cannot speak to every child, 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. As you can see, one of the Safety Tips sheet 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/txe/programs/psc.html.

We hope parents and caregivers in your district will talk about Internet safety with their child or children so that every Texas child will be better protected from online predators. We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to call me or Mandy Griffith, our Project Safe Childhood Coordinator and lead Internet predator prosecutor, at 972-509-1209 or mandy.griffith@usdoj.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. BALES
United States Attorney