August 29, 2012

Dear Principal/Administrator/Parent:

With the school year on the horizon, the United States Attorney's Office would like your help in protecting Kansas 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. In Kansas, 13% amounts to almost 42,000 of the 325,000 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/ks/PSC.html.

We hope parents and caregivers in your district will talk about Internet safety with their child or children so that every Kansas child will be better protected from online predators. We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to call me or Kim I. Martin, our Project Safe Childhood Coordinator at 913-551-6730 if you have any questions.

Most respectfully,

BARRY R. GRISsom
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

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enc.