



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
300 DON GASPAR
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786
Telephone (505) 827-5800
www.ped.state.nm.us

DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

December 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents, School Principals, and Charter School Directors
FROM: Dr. Veronica C. García (signature on file)
Secretary of Education
RE: INTERNET SAFETY FOR OUR STUDENTS

It has recently been brought to my attention that students are being required to do homework assignments on the internet, many times without any sort of internet safety guidelines being taught prior to the assignments. Parent complaints have been made to the Office of the Attorney General regarding this issue. As educators, we cannot assume that children have received any guidelines around internet usage, or that parents or guardians are present while their child is on the internet. For these reasons, I have listed some basic ideas for you to share with your teaching staffs:

Elementary School students

- Do not require internet use for homework assignments until basic internet safety is addressed.
- Send home information for parents regarding their roles in keeping their children safe when using the internet.

Middle School students

- Go over internet safety requirements with students including the idea that all students need to become responsible users of the internet and understand the potential dangers of unsupervised computer use.
- Send home information for parents regarding their roles in keeping their children safe.

High School students

- Remind students of the potential dangers on the internet and their responsibility to keep themselves safe when using the internet.

Below are links to two documents put out by New Mexico Attorney General Gary King on Internet Safety for parents and students. In addition, I invite you to explore their website, www.nmag.gov for additional information.

<http://www.nmag.gov/pdf/InternetSafetyGuideParents07.pdf>

<http://www.nmag.gov/pdf/InternetSafetyGuideTeens07.pdf>

In addition, the Public Education Department together with the Attorney General's Office will be developing one-page informational sheets for teachers to use both in their classrooms and also to send home to parents. My staff will let you know when these become available. The Elementary Student Safety Tips is available. (see attached)

If you have questions or need technical assistance concerning any of these publications, please contact Dr. Kristine Meurer, Director, School and Family Support Bureau at: (505) 222-4748 or kristine.meurer@state.nm.us.

VCG/jr

cc: Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Dr. Jim Holloway, Assistant Secretary for Rural Education
Dr. Patricia Parkinson, Assistant Secretary for Instructional Support and Vocational Education
Dr. Kristine Meurer, Director, School and Family Support Bureau
Jennifer Rodgers, Administrator, Safe and Drug Free Schools
Tom Sullivan, Executive Director, NM Coalition of School Administrators
Joe Guillen, Executive Director, NM School Boards Association