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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Decatur City Schools (DCS) is proud to partner with Parents and Children Together (PACT) to provide child abuse prevention programs to all 1st grade students. The goal is to help children recognize, react to, and report dangerous situations. Most importantly, the program teaches that adults are responsible for children's safety, but there are things children can do to keep safe, that it is NEVER too late to tell, and that abuse is NEVER the child's fault.

Why does your child need a safety program? These statistics compiled by the Monique Burr Foundation for Children provide insight:

- 10% of children are abused before their 18th birthday,
- 14% of children have been solicited online,
- 22% of students have been bullied,
- 73% of children under 17-years-old have viewed explicit material online.

The Play it Safe![®] program is evidence-based and is currently being used in the first grade. The interactive curriculum speaks to children in a way they can best learn and respond. The program helps them recognize abusive behavior and provides tools that children can use to be safe. The program uses the following components:

- Age-appropriate scripts and corresponding videos for students in the first grade.
- Private parts of the body are described as what are covered by a bathing suit to help children understand the location of these parts of the body.
- Coloring books are used to reinforce the 3-part safety rule: Say No, Get Away, Tell a Trusted Adult.

When children are taught safety information and rules to help them stay safe, they perform better in school and enjoy healthier, happier, and safer lives as reported by research synthesized by the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. Play it Safe![®] also meets the legislative requirements of Erin's Law, which requires public schools to implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program and is endorsed by Erin Merryn, child sexual abuse survivor and founder and president of Erin's Law.

Programs are presented throughout the year to various grade levels. For more information about PACT's Student Awareness program or to find out more about other services PACT provides, you may visit www.pactfamily.org or call 256-355-7252.

DCS recognizes and respects the fact that some parents/guardians would rather introduce such topics at home or at a later age. If this applies to your family, you may simply complete the information below and return this letter to your student's principal, who will "opt-out" your child from attending such presentation.

Parent/Guardian Opt-Out

I do not wish for my child, _____, to participate in the PACT program.

Child's Grade: _____ Child's Teacher: _____

School: _____ Parent's signature: _____