



# Appleton Area *School District*

Office of the Superintendent

**Lee D. Allinger**

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TO: All Parents and Guardians of Appleton Area School District Students  
FROM: Lee Allinger, Superintendent of Schools  
RE: School Safety  
DATE: October 2011

The Appleton Area School District (AASD) is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, parents, and volunteers. This commitment is reflected in daily classroom practices across our district. In addition, school-wide initiatives focused on anti-bullying, supporting students as they make the transition to a new school, and the establishment and teaching of behavioral expectations across all school environments help to foster a positive school climate. More information on each of these programs is available through your school principal.

Last school year a former teacher's conduct in one of our special education classrooms led us to reexamine our ongoing efforts to ensure safe and supportive learning environments for all students. As a district – staff, administrators, and board members, we were saddened by this situation and are committed to improve. While there were immediate actions taken to address this issue, several long-term initiatives strengthen our ability to provide safe learning environments for all students.

- Current state law does not identify all school district employees as mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. Our [school district policy](#) has been revised to require all district employees to report any suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect.
- During the first two months of this school year, the district took the additional step of partnering with Outagamie County Child Protective Services to provide training for all staff in recognizing signs of child abuse and neglect. Reporting requirements and procedures were also reviewed.

We are committed to the continuous improvement of our efforts to ensure that your children, and all children, learn in a safe and secure school environment. This commitment is not limited to a list of initiatives, but embraces the responsibility of staff, students, and parents to create a culture that supports a safe learning environment for all. We encourage each of you to maintain close contact with school administration and staff and to inform us of any concerns you may have.