

As the school year has begun, businesses show support for area schools and student sponsored activities by making contributions or donations through sponsorships and fundraisers, as back to school activities are viewed by business owners as an opportunity to give back.

Unfortunately, there are scams attempting to capitalize on these back to school activities by asking area businesses for a sponsorship donations in exchange for their business name or logo to be used on items including t-shirts, posters, calendars, coupon cards, etc., for a variety of school programs and activities.

Big Sandy ISD utilizes authorized organizations to represent the school for any fundraising activities. If you have any questions please call the school.

Business owners should do the following before agreeing to support a cause or organization:

- Research the selling organization by going to bbb.org.
- Find out which organization(s) will benefit from the sales or sponsorships and what percentage the school district or organization will be receiving.
- Verify the offer through the benefitting school district or organization. Don't use contact information provided by the solicitor.
- If the solicitor uses high pressure sales tactics or discourages you from contacting the school district, steer clear. Even if no fraud is taking place, this type of pressuring is inappropriate.
- Watch for the use of emotional pulls and name dropping in sales pitches; these are two very common tactics used by scam artists.
- Pay with a credit card, so that you can dispute the charges if necessary. If you do pay by check, make sure you make it out to a business, never to an individual. Avoid giving cash.