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**DELCO DA MIKE GREEN HOSTS SAFE SCHOOL SUMMIT
FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND DAY CARE PROVIDERS**

Over 150 teachers and child care providers packed the Conference Center of the Delaware County Intermediate Unit today to attend District Attorney Michael Green's summit on safe schools strategies. Today's summit, "the first of its kind, was designed specifically for Pre-K and Day Care providers in Delaware County," said Green in his opening remarks. The summit for pre-school and day care providers was planned to incorporate early-childhood learning centers into the District Attorney's Safe School Strategy in light of the Amish school tragedy in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania last October.

Drawing parallels between the one room school-house of Nickel Mines and many of the Pre-K and Day Care facilities in the County, District Attorney Green impressed upon the attendees the importance of having an Emergency Preparedness Plan in the event of a crisis. Green stated, "it is not enough to simply have a plan, you must review it, practice it, and update it." Green stressed the importance of "sharing and reviewing the plan with local police departments and other emergency response agencies" to make sure everyone involved was working together and communicating regularly. "These plans must be practiced like we practice fire drills at schools. It is the only way that we can train ourselves, and the children we care for, in how to react and respond in a crisis," said Green.

Officer's Mike Flynn and Joe Hagen of the Haverford Township Police Department provided the attendees with an overview of essential components of an emergency preparedness plan. As part of the presentation, the attendees heard a chilling 911 call from a teacher inside the Columbine High School during the 1999 incident and saw a demonstration of how members of an emergency response team would enter a building if an armed intruder was inside. The summit participants also received an overview of Custody and Protection From Abuse issues that often arise in school and day care settings from Deputy District Attorney Michael Galantino.

“Safe School Summits of this kind are very important to providing a safe and wholesome learning environment for our children,” said Green. He called the turnout of the participants “tremendous” and stated that their “presence and participation in the summit was a testament to their commitment to the children they teach and care for.”

For more information on today’s Safe Schools Summit, and links to resources for formulating an emergency preparedness plan, visit the District Attorney’s web page at www.delcoda.com and click the link for “Events”.

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