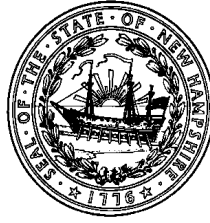


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NEWS RELEASE

Released By: Attorney General Peter W. Heed, Governor Craig R. Benson, and
Commissioner Nicholas Donohue

Subject: NetSmartz Workshop Program

Date: February 18, 2004

Release Time: Immediate

Attorney General Peter W. Heed, Governor Craig R. Benson, and Department of Education Commissioner Nicholas Donohue are pleased to announce this cooperative effort to bring the NetSmartz Workshop to New Hampshire's children.

NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of America for children (ages 5-17), parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet. The goal of the NetSmartz Workshop is to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online.

Attorney General Heed believes that Internet crime and the protection of our children are two extremely critical needs that must be addressed in New Hampshire. According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's *Online Victimization: A Report on Our Nation's Youth* approximately one in five children received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet in one year. When Attorney General Heed first viewed the NetSmartz Workshop he immediately knew that "this is something that New Hampshire needs."

In response to New Hampshire's plans to introduce the NetSmartz Workshop Rick Minicucci, President, NetSmartz Workshop, a partnership between the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of America said: "We are very excited that Attorney General Peter Heed has chosen to implement the NetSmartz Workshop in the state of New Hampshire. Our goal is to help children

increase their awareness of Internet dangers and have a desire to positively change their online behavior.”

A version of the NetSmartz downloadable programs was designed for New Hampshire. When students complete activities in the New Hampshire version of the NetSmartz Workshop, they'll receive a computer-generated certificate signed by New Hampshire Attorney General Peter Heed. The New Hampshire version is available for download on the New Hampshire Educators Online web site at:

<http://www.nheon.org/netsmartz> .

The 'NetSmartz Workshop' was made possible via a public-private partnership with the United States Congress, United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It was designed to entertain children while educating them about Internet safety.