

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
AT CHARLESTON
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9-10

By the Governor

WHEREAS, the early learning, development and education of young children is of critical importance to West Virginia's families, education system, and employers; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia is committed to quality early learning opportunities that engage and support parents and families in their children's development; and

WHEREAS, a council to study early childhood education and care would ensure that the children in this State continue to receive quality early learning opportunities and would enhance the services already offered to them; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, requires states to establish advisory councils dedicated to early education and care issues that serve children from birth to school entry; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of this council would assist the State and would provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage in the process of policy development for the education of young children in West Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOE MANCHIN III, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Governor of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** the following:

(1) The West Virginia Early Childhood Advisory Council (Council) is hereby established, in accordance with Section 642B(b)(1)(A) of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.

(2) The Council shall consist of the following representatives, to be appointed by the Governor:

(a) The Director of the Division of Early Care and Education, Bureau for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Resources.

(b) A representative of the Department of Education;

(c) A representative of local educational agencies;

(d) A representative of institutions of higher education in the State;

(e) A representative of local child care providers of early childhood education and development services;

(f) A representative from Head Start agencies located in the State;

(g) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration;

(h) A representative of Early Head Start Programming;

(i) The Director of West Virginia Birth to Three, Office of Maternal Child and Family Health, Bureau for Public Health, Department of Health and Human Resources, as established under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);

(j) A representative of the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Special Programs, as established under Section 619 of the IDEA;

(k) A representative of in-home family education;

(l) A representative of the early childhood advocate community;

(m) A representative of the business community;

(n) A representative of the Office of Maternal Child and Family Health, Bureau for Public Health, Department of Health and Human Resources;

(o) A representative of the Governor's Office;

(p) A representative of labor

(q) The Secretary of the Department of Education and the Arts, who shall be the chairperson.

(r) Any additional representatives determined necessary by the Governor.

(3) The Council, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor, shall:

(a) Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality prekindergarten services for low-income children in the State;

(b) Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs;

(c) Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

(d) Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;

(e) Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;

(f) Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program; and

(g) Make recommendations for improvements in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

(4) The Council shall hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities described in paragraph three. The Council then shall submit a statewide

strategic report addressing the activities described in paragraph three to the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Health and Human Resources, the Department of Education, and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration. The Council shall meet periodically thereafter to review any implementation of the recommendations in the report and any changes in state and local needs. The Council may facilitate the development or enhancement of high-quality systems of early childhood education and care designed to improve school preparedness. The Council may adopt bylaws to implement the provisions of this Order.

(5) Members receive no compensation. Each state employee member of the Council is entitled to be reimbursed by their employing agency for reasonable actual and necessary expenses incurred for each day or portion thereof engaged in the discharge of official duties in a manner consistent with guidelines of the travel management office of the Department of Administration. Each public member shall be reimbursed consistent with the standards set forth above for state employee members, but only by Council funds to the extent that such funds are available.

(6) The Council shall be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Education and the Arts, who may receive and spend grant monies on the Council's behalf and may hire staff to assist the Council. The Department of Education and the Arts shall provide staff or data support, or both, to the Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this thirteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Ten, and in the One Hundred Forty-Eighth year of the State.



[Handwritten Signature]
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

[Handwritten Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE