

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

B 2011-001

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Governor's Education Leadership Council

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Governor's Education Leadership Council to be housed in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order B 003 07 creating the Governor's P-20 Education Coordinating Council.

I. Background, Need, and Purpose

Colorado is a resource rich state, and its most vital resource is its people. Just as we cultivate our natural resources to make Colorado a more prosperous state, so too we must invest in and cultivate our citizens. Each successive generation must foster the development of its future teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, small business owners, and professionals. To be competitive in the global marketplace, Colorado's businesses and industries require increasing numbers of highly skilled employees. The state's economic competitiveness and the prosperity and quality of life of its individual residents depend on the universal excellence and competitiveness of its public education systems. Colorado must educate its way to a stronger economy.

The 21st century talent pipeline must be inclusive, diverse, and reach all communities, regardless of their location, setting, or resources. It must be a seamless continuum from cradle to college, encompassing the state's early childhood efforts at one end and world-class postsecondary institutions at the other. It must cultivate talent from the earliest stages of life, prepare students for successful entry into formal education systems, train students to be ready for entry into postsecondary or workforce pursuits upon completion of compulsory education, and ensure that only motivation and interest determine whether a student will enter into and complete postsecondary studies.

Between 2007 and 2010, the Governor's P-20 Education Coordinating Council was successful in fulfilling the requirements of Executive Order B 003 07. The P-20 Education Coordinating Council created numerous recommendations for the improved alignment and design of the state's early childhood, K-12 and postsecondary education systems. During this same timeframe, the Colorado General Assembly passed several additional laws and the Colorado State Board of Education passed rules with profound

and far reaching implications for reforming the state's education systems; the Colorado Commission on Higher Education prepared a forward-looking strategic plan and launched a statewide master planning process; and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission adopted the Early Childhood Colorado Framework as a strategic guide.

If implemented successfully, these initiatives hold the promise to align the state's education systems, improve the quality of instruction throughout the state, and allow all students, regardless of their geographic location, ancestry, or personal wealth, to prepare for full participation in the increasingly demanding and competitive Colorado economy. The successful implementation of these laws is not the responsibility of one agency or board, but is a shared obligation of the executive and legislative branches of government, locally elected school boards and district administrators, educators in classrooms, early childhood providers, and postsecondary governing boards and administrators. Additionally, the ultimate success of these initiatives requires the involvement and support of parents, health care and human service providers, community partners, and the private sector.

Therefore, to deliver on the collective promise of the state's recent education reforms and continue the cross-system dialogue that recently facilitated broad agreement on the direction of the future and functions of the state's education systems, it is imperative that the Office of the Governor continues to provide a meaningful forum through which the state's leadership can examine the current status of education policies, analyze the systems' near-term opportunities and challenges, and make recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and governing boards regarding potential long-term improvements to the state's education systems that facilitate the goals of closing achievement gaps in schools, reducing the high school dropout rate, and dramatically increasing the number of postsecondary degrees and certificates earned by the state's citizens.

For these purposes, the Education Leadership Council has been created.

II. Mission and Scope

- A. The Education Leadership Council shall be housed in the Lieutenant Governor's office. The Lieutenant Governor will be responsible for chairing the council, scheduling the meetings, setting the agenda, and reporting to the Governor.
- B. The scope of the Education Leadership Council shall be to improve Colorado's standing in the country as a leader in providing 21st century learning opportunities from birth through graduate school.
- C. The purpose of the Education Leadership Council shall be to provide a forum for discussing the progress of the implementation and synchronization of the education reform initiatives recently enacted and

any additional major reform initiatives that are enacted during the duration of the council.

- D. The Education Leadership Council shall also provide a forum to discuss policy initiatives that should be created, implemented or promoted for the purpose of addressing any of the issues identified in the Background, Need and Purpose statement of this Executive Order as well as efforts intended to address the following topics:
1. improving school readiness;
 2. reducing dropout rates;
 3. easing transitions between systems and institutions;
 4. closing achievement gaps among members of different income, racial and ethnic groups;
 5. reducing remediation rates for students entering higher education;
 6. increasing student retention and graduation rates;
 7. increasing the number of degrees and certificates awarded; and
 8. removing barriers for entry into college and the performance of graduates.
- E. The Education Leadership Council shall facilitate conversations to discuss the status of reform initiatives and, as needed, formulate recommendations, including possible legislative and policy remedies, needed for their accomplishment.
- F. The Education Leadership Council shall guide the efforts of the Governor to strategically and intentionally engage the private sector and foundation community to address current gaps in the education pipeline by leveraging their resources with existing public sector dollars.
- G. The Education Leadership Council shall provide a report on its activities and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, State Board of Education, and Colorado Commission on Higher Education at the end of each calendar year of its formal existence.
- H. The Education Leadership Council shall meet regularly and shall determine its own meeting schedule.

III. Membership

- A. The Education Leadership Council shall be composed of members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
- B. Required members of the Education Leadership Council shall include, but not be limited to the following members:
 - 1. the Lieutenant Governor, who will serve as Chairman of the Council,
 - 2. the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education or his or her designee from the Department of Higher Education,
 - 3. the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee from the Department of Education,
 - 4. the Chairman of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education or his or her designee from the CCHE,
 - 5. the Chairman of the Colorado State Board of Education or his or her designee from the SBE,
 - 6. the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee or his or her designee from the Senate Education Committee,
 - 7. the Chairman of the House Education Committee or his or her designee from the House Education Committee,
 - 8. the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission or his or her designee,
 - 9. the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services,
 - 10. at least one member who is a member of a local school board,
 - 11. at least one member who is a school superintendent or building principal,
 - 12. at least one member who is a classroom teacher,
 - 13. at least one member who is a board member of or administrator at a public charter school,

14. at least one member who is a postsecondary administrator representing the two-year sector,
15. at least one member who is a postsecondary administrator or instructor representing the four-year sector,
16. at least one member who represents private businesses or industries in Colorado,
17. at least one member who represents an organization that supports or has expertise in infant health and development, and
18. any other citizens of the State of Colorado that the Governor considers suitable for the council.

- C. The Education Leadership Council may create subcommittees as needed to address specific issues and may, at the discretion of the Council, invite experts, consultants, and ex officio members to support the work of the subcommittees.

IV. Staffing and Resources

Staff in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and Office of the Governor shall provide to the Education Leadership Council necessary support, information, data, analytical information, and administrative support.

The Education Leadership Council shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities and persons only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses. Any money contributed to the Education Leadership Council shall be directed to the Office of the Governor and deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Colorado in an account within the Office of the Governor's budget. Members of the Education Leadership Council shall serve without compensation, but may, at the discretion of the chair and approval of the Office of the Governor, be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred.

V. Directive

The Governor's Education Leadership Council is hereby created. This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order B 003 07 creating the Governor's P-20 Education Coordinating Council.

VI. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this eleventh day
of January, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", written over the printed name and title.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor