



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER THIRTY

- WHEREAS,** this office announced the creation of the Iowa Education Roundtable, on June 27, 2001, through the issuance of Executive Order Number Sixteen; and
- WHEREAS,** EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SIXTEEN directed the newly-formed Council to examine the current structure of educational service delivery within the state of Iowa; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council advised the governor's office on workable strategies for developing a well-coordinated and seamless service delivery system, where educators and administrators at all levels work together in a more cohesive manner to deliver and assess needed academic services; and
- WHEREAS,** on July 1, 2002, the Council submitted its report to this office, which contained recommendations to move towards a coherent set of learning opportunities that responds to the needs of all Iowans; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council recommended that a working group of key statewide educational leaders meet on a regular basis as a P-16 steering committee whose purpose should extend beyond regularly communicating activities and issues of mutual interest and engage education stakeholders in discussions that enhance community development; and
- WHEREAS,** the children and the economic development of the State of Iowa will benefit from the recommendation of a P-16 steering committee; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order the creation of the IOWA LEARNS COUNCIL.

- I. Purpose: The Iowa Learns Council shall work towards the ambitious goal of 90% of Iowa children having a quality pre-school experience, and 90% of Iowa high school graduates will go on to complete at least two years of college; shall promote, gather, and share information regarding Iowa's progress to ensure seamless pathways across education sectors and the workplace; shall identify the necessary steps to ensure that Iowans--from pre-school to graduate school--are supported by a well coordinated seamless system of learning and support to provide for successes from early childhood through higher education, and into the workforce in our communities.
- II. Membership: The Iowa Learns Council shall be chaired by the Governor. The Council shall be made up by members representing the following entities: Regents, Independent Colleges, Community Colleges, Administrators, Counselors, School Board of Education, Elementary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, AEAs, the Department of Education, Business, Early Childhood Groups, and Community Empowerment.
- III. Structure: The membership shall make up a body called the steering committee. The steering committee shall coordinate and review the

progress of the subgroups. Members of the steering committee will chair and may participate in subgroups. Each subgroup shall have a staff team assigned to assist them in their duties. The subgroups are as follows:

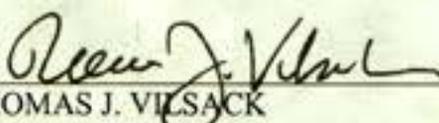
- a. Focus on Early Childhood; this subgroup shall focus on the following goals:
 - i. Identify learning outcomes necessary for success
 - ii. Determine a definition of "quality preschool" and the impact of quality child care and learning environments on readiness to learn and success beyond school
 - iii. Identify strategies to support parents of young children and to assist them in being their child's first and best teacher
 - iv. Aid connections between educators, parents and caregivers
- b. Focus on k-12 Students
 - i. Examine and recommend changes in high school exit requirements and in postsecondary entrance requirements
 - ii. Recommend strategies to better align these exit and entrance requirements
 - iii. Identify strategies to support parents and students in good decision making
- c. Strengthening the Education-Economic Growth Connection
 - i. Develop strategies to connect education experience and meaningful Iowa employment opportunities
 - ii. Identify strategies to support students in making thoughtful career decisions
 - iii. Identify skill sets critical for success in the Iowa Economy.

IV. Timeline:

- a. The Steering Committee shall meet at the call of the Governor. Subgroups shall determine their own meeting schedule. Objectives should be finalized within one year of the date of this executive order.

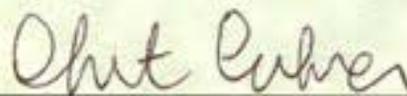


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 25th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand three.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE