

# STATE OF DELAWARE



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER: NINETY-SIX

TO: ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: READINESS FOR SUCCESS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, developmentally appropriate education, health, and nutritional services for young children are essential for their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated that effective delivery of services to young children can have long-term benefits for children and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, parents are a child's first and most important teacher and yet too many are unprepared to provide the support and guidance needed to ensure future success; and

WHEREAS, children attending child care and Head Start benefit from quality care in a nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, the potential exists to improve our financial resources by better coordinating medicaid eligibility with educational programming and;

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-457 requires maximum coordination of services for preschool children and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of children to ensure their success in school by providing a smooth transition from preschool programs to early elementary grades.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. Effective immediately and until terminated by notice from the Office create the READINESS FOR SUCCESS COMMISSION to oversee the following objectives:

- (a) Identify early childhood program needs and goals
- (b) Develop a strategic plan for coordinating services by removing regulation, funding, legislative or organizational barriers to unify and leverage State resources
- (c) Develop recommendations for cabinet officials to create programs, budget requests, and coordination of services among and within their agencies
- (d) Receive reports from state-established committees, agencies and task forces dealing with early childhood issues and ensure full coordination of State efforts
- (e) Execute a coordination agreement between Head Start programs and State and Local social services to ensure a smooth transition into public kindergarten and elementary school programs, to access public health programs and share training resources
- (f) Establish State policies for transition from preschool to kindergarten to ensure continuity of developmentally appropriate education and to provide access to social services

2. The Commission shall develop assessment measures and issue an annual report card on progress toward achieving school readiness

3. The Commission shall be composed of 10 members appointed by the Governor.

4. Of the 10 members, 7 shall be appointed from the public and will serve at the pleasure of the Governor

5. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, the Secretary of the Department for Children, Youth and their Families and the Superintendent of Public Institution will also serve on the Commission.

6. The Chairman of the Commission will be appointed by the Governor from the public members.

7. The Commission will meet at least quarterly or more often as called by the Chair.

8. The Commission is empowered to call on State agencies for staff support as needed to accomplish the responsibilities detailed above.



APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of September, 1991.

Michael N. Castle  
Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Secretary of State