

# STATE OF DELAWARE



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER: NINETY-EIGHT

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES  
RE: INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON ADULT LITERACY

WHEREAS, the most basic component of learning is reading, yet significant numbers of Delawareans either cannot read at all or have inadequate reading skills; and

WHEREAS, the demands of a changing society in a global, technologically advanced economy are rapidly raising the level of literacy essential for day-to-day survival; and

WHEREAS, in Delaware, one out of three adults does not possess a high school diploma and one out of six has less than an eighth grade education; and

WHEREAS, if Delaware is to become a fully literate State, a broad spectrum of services must be provided designed to meet the literacy needs of Delawareans regardless of age; and

WHEREAS, attaining a "Literate Delaware" by the year 2000 is imperative to ensure the State's continued economic competitiveness as well as to provide an enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, a Literate Delaware will only be possible through commitment, coordination, and collaboration between the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, in September, 1990 Lieutenant Governor Dale E. Wolf convened an Adult Literacy Summit at which time seventy-five leaders of government, business, education, general community and industry in Delaware met in an effort to address the problems associated with adult education; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Adult Literacy Summit a Task Force on Adult Literacy was formed which developed an Action Strategy to Achieve a Literate Delaware.

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. The Interagency Council on Adult Literacy (ICAL) is hereby established. Its purpose is to assume the ongoing responsibility for the implementation of the Action Strategy to Achieve a Literate Delaware.

2. A Chairperson shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure. Other officers may be elected by the ICAL from among its members.

3. To ensure steady progress toward Delaware's literacy goals, three categories of membership are hereby established for the ICAL including permanent, rotating and special memberships.

4. In addition to the Chairperson, permanent members of the ICAL shall include the following individuals or their designees: the Supervisor of Adult Education of the Department of Public Instruction, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, the Commissioner of the Department of Correction, the Executive Director of the Private Industry Council, the Director of the Delaware Development Office, the State Librarian, the President of the Delaware Association for Adult and Community Education, the President of a Delaware institution of higher education, and the Chairman of the Delaware Coalition for Literacy, Inc. The permanent members shall serve concurrent with the status of their positions.

5. The rotating members of the ICAL, to be appointed by the Governor, shall include the following individuals: six adult education providers, one from each county and three at-large; one representative of a labor union; four representatives of business; two State legislators, including one member of the House of Representatives and one member of the Delaware State Senate; three representatives of county government, one from each county; and the President of The United Way. The terms of the rotating members shall be three years.

6. The members of the ICAL, acting through the Chairperson, may appoint special members to represent specific priority populations. The terms of any special members shall

be one year. Special members may be reappointed for an additional one year term.

7. In order to meet its responsibilities, the ICAL should work closely with various educational organizations and groups which provide basic education and/or literacy skills to students and adults. Various educational organizations and groups should be solicited by the ICAL for the purpose of sharing information, building consensus, and developing strategies pertaining to the ICAL's adult literacy efforts.

8. In addition to overseeing the implementation of the Action Strategy to Achieve a Literate Delaware the ICAL shall:

- a. develop an adult literacy policy;
- b. plan for present and future implementation of said policy;
- c. coordinate with other agencies regarding delivery of services for existing and future programs;
- d. review and recommend target populations;
- e. gather and analyze literacy data;
- f. recommend appropriate literacy-related legislation;
- g. monitor and evaluate literacy-related activities in an effort to attain its goals;
- h. construct a consensus regarding current and future literacy objectives;
- i. advocate for resources necessary to carry out these objectives;
- j. publicly highlight the on-going literacy problems in Delaware;
- k. devise a plan to provide access to literacy services;
- l. issue an annual report on progress being made; and
- m. identify funding and staffing needs of the ICAL.

9. In order to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the ICAL, several standing committees shall be formed. Each standing committee shall address one of the following issues: marketing and awareness; monitoring and evaluation; advocacy; or planning. The standing committees may from time to time be supplemented by ad hoc committees. Each standing committee shall provide information and recommendations to the full ICAL for its consideration.

10. The ICAL is authorized and empowered to employ such staff as may be necessary to accomplish the above responsibilities within the limitations of the budget.

11. The ICAL shall provide periodic reports, in addition to its annual report, on relevant issues concerning adult literacy and shall issue such other reports or provide such assistance as the Governor shall from time to time require or request.



APPROVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day  
of September, 1991.

Michael A. Castle  
Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Secretary of State