

STATE OF DELAWARE



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER TWENTY-ONE**

RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the quality of early care has a significant impact on children's development and their long-term performance in school as stated in the report of the Delaware Commission for Reading Success that "recent research on the brain and children's early development has shown that the experiences of children during their first five years of life have a lasting impact on their ability to succeed in school and become productive, responsible adults" and that "a child's early learning and experiences help to determine brain structure, thus shaping their learning, thinking and behavior for the rest of their lives"; and

WHEREAS, it has also been shown that parents are more productive and dependable employees when quality care is available for their children and that there is strong community and business commitment in Delaware on behalf of families and children; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Delaware's children and families for the private and public sectors to work together collaboratively to ensure that early care and education services in Delaware meet the needs of parents and prepare our young children for success, and

that the early childhood investments being made within the state by parents, state agencies, businesses and communities are yielding positive results; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for resources and support are increasingly available, especially at the private, foundation and federal levels, for coordinated and strategically targeted plans that support and enable increased quality with a focus on cost-effectiveness, better professional development, dissemination of best practices and linkages to health and social services; and

WHEREAS, demand for early care and education is increasing throughout the state with more than 40,000 Delaware children currently receiving care in over 2,300 licensed family child care homes and child care centers and the cost of that care being subsidized by the state for nearly 12,000 of those children; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Delaware early childhood professionals, policymakers, business and community members reached agreement on critical issues facing Delaware's early childhood community, and those recommendations are presented in the report: "Early Success: Creating a Quality Early Care and Education System for Delaware's Children," with the goals of

- Ensuring that all Delaware's children are safe while their parents work
- Ensuring that all Delaware's young children are fully prepared for school and, as a result, are far more effective students
- Ensuring equality, continuity, and efficiency in an early care and education system for all Delaware's young children and their families

I, RUTH ANN MINNER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, HEREBY
ORDER ON THIS 18th DAY OF OCTOBER 2001:

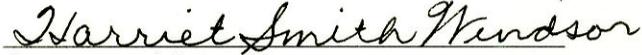
1. The establishment of the Delaware Early Care and Education Council, comprised primarily of private sector members, who shall advise the Interagency Resource Management Committee annually concerning early care and education services in Delaware based on the recommendations of the Early Success Report.

2. The Early Care and Education Council shall be appointed by the Interagency Resource Management Committee, shall represent the racial, economic and geographic diversity of our state and shall consist of the following twelve members:
 - One center-based early care and education provider;
 - One family-home based early care and education provider;
 - Two parents whose children receive care in a licensed home or center, one of whom shall be a parent of a child with special needs;
 - One Delaware Head Start/ECAP Association representative;
 - One public school district representative;
 - One higher education representative;
 - Two business community representatives;
 - Two community members; and
 - One chairperson.
3. The Delaware Early Care and Education Office in the Department of Education shall staff the Council with support from the Interagency Resource Management Committee agencies as needed.
4. The Council may establish subcommittees to assist in meeting its responsibilities.
5. The Council will report annually to the Interagency Resource Management Council on the status of its work.
6. A summary of the Council's work shall be included in the Interagency Resource Management Committee's Annual Report.




Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State