

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER ONE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
RE: ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
A STATEWIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, our Nation's economic growth and future development depend on the ability of our schools to produce students capable of meeting the skill needs of the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, to accurately measure progress in improving student achievement and to assure equal opportunity in improving student performance across the State, a statewide testing system that focuses on student mastery of specific required knowledges, skills and abilities may be needed; and

WHEREAS, mastery examinations could measure how well a student has mastered specific subject matter as opposed to most standardized tests which only measure how well a student performs relative to others who took the test; and

WHEREAS, the State Task Force on Education for Economic Growth recommended that mastery examinations be used to raise standards for student performance and reduce the inconsistency of standards across the State; and

WHEREAS, after months of study the Task Force on Education for Economic Growth cited as its number one priority the need to improve student achievement in Delaware.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PIERRE S. du PONT, IV, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. That a study be undertaken to determine how mastery examinations might be instituted over a phased-in period for courses and subjects required for graduation in Delaware.
2. A Steering Committee to oversee the study of a mastery examination program in the State of Delaware is hereby established by the Governor. Dr. William B. Keene, State Superintendent of Public Instruction is hereby appointed Chairperson of this Committee. The Governor shall appoint a 15 member Committee which will include representatives from the Department of Public Instruction, institutions of higher education, local school districts, the Delaware School Boards' Association, the Delaware State Education Association, the Delaware Association of School Administrators, Parent-Teacher Associations and members of the community-at-large. Members of the Mastery Test Advisory Committee should be considered as the nucleus of this group.

3. The Steering Committee shall be charged with studying the means by which a plan for mastery examinations might be established. This plan shall be developed under the aegis of the Department of Public Instruction and shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Education Improvements Monitoring Committee as created by Executive Order No. 138, no later than January 30, 1985.

4. The Steering Committee in the development of the mastery examination program, may consider a combination of approaches, such as acquiring new tests, redesigning existing tests or identifying existing tests as mastery examinations.



APPROVED this *2nd* day of *July*,
1984.

Richard R. Roach
Governor

ATTEST:

William C. Ruckelshaus
Secretary of State