



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2011-21K

Creating Authority and Accountability for Early Childhood Education and Development

WHEREAS, on basic measures of early literacy, nearly sixty percent (60%) of all Ohio children and nearly seventy-five percent (75%) of disadvantaged children entering school in Ohio need some degree of additional instruction to be ready for kindergarten.

WHEREAS, on the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, just twenty-two percent (22%) of economically disadvantaged Ohio fourth graders were proficient in mathematics, and only fifteen percent (15%) were proficient in reading.

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these disadvantaged kids will struggle throughout their academic life and many will not graduate from high school.

WHEREAS, extensive research confirms that a high-quality early education experience is a fundamental component of an educational continuum that ensures that children, especially high-needs children, have the necessary foundation to succeed in the K-12 system, postsecondary education and in life.

WHEREAS, the state's current approach to early childhood education is fragmented, lacks cohesive leadership, and is not sufficiently accountable.

WHEREAS, my Administration understands that Ohio's economic vitality and future prosperity is dependent on a skilled and educated workforce ready to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

WHEREAS, my Administration is committed to aligning and coordinating efforts across the continuum, from birth to graduation, through the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

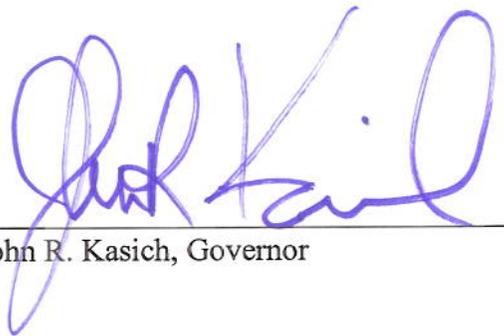
1. The position of Early Education and Development Officer ("Officer") is hereby created within the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education. The Officer's work within that Office will elevate the importance of the education of young children in the state and seek to improve kindergarten readiness results in Ohio. The Officer will

be accountable to oversee and implement the policies set forth in this Executive Order.

2. The Officer, through the resources of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education, shall work through, and in conjunction with, current state agencies to:
 - a. **Define and measure kindergarten readiness**, as well as develop and implement a comprehensive kindergarten readiness assessment process that determines the extent to which children entering school are ready for kindergarten. This assessment process will include academic, social and emotional, and physical health measures of readiness. Assessment results will be reported publicly and will be used as the basis for early childhood system improvements.
 - b. **Break down silos** that exist between agencies and programs to ensure that all government support to high-need children is coordinated, streamlined and effective.
 - c. **Improve system performance** by:
 - i. Including outcome and performance measures within the statewide quality rating and improvement system;
 - ii. Ensuring that all publicly funded, licensed early learning and development providers are part of the quality rating system;
 - iii. Evaluating and implementing innovative financing strategies that support high quality services for Ohio's young children; and
 - iv. Engaging parents as resources in the development of state policies and programs
3. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall comply with any requests or directives issued by the Officer and/or the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education as they relate to implementing the policies described in this Executive Order, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors. This requirement extends, but is not limited to, the cabinet directors and employees of the following agencies and departments:
 - a. Ohio Department of Education
 - b. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 - c. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
 - d. Ohio Department of Mental Health
 - e. Ohio Department of Health
 - f. Office of Health Transformation
 - g. Office of Budget and Management
4. The Early Education and Development Innovation Committee ("Committee") is hereby established. The Committee will advise me, the Officer and my Office of 21st

Century Education on (i) methods to mobilize business partnerships at the local level to achieve community and statewide kindergarten readiness goals; (ii) opportunities to bring private-sector tools and resources to early education and development; and (iii) methods and opportunities to disseminate information to the legislature and leaders in local communities on the status of school readiness in Ohio. The Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by me: two (2) leaders from the business community, one (1) leader from the philanthropic community, one (1) leader from the research community, and one (1) leader from a children's health care organization.

I signed this Executive Order on October 14, 2011 in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.



John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State