

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 15

WHEREAS, adult illiteracy has grown to alarming proportions in Alabama, with some 931,180 adults lacking a high school diploma or GED, and some 456,278 adults who are functionally illiterate (performance below the 9th grade level);and

WHEREAS, Alabama ranks as one of the four states having the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the national shift from an industrial-based economy to an information-based economy emphasizes the need to improve the level of basic skills in our state's workforce.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Fob James, Jr., Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, and for other good and valid considerations, do hereby direct that there is created a bipartisan State Literacy Workforce Development Council (hereinafter called "the Council") to be composed of the following persons:

- (1) The Governor or his designated representative,
- (2) The Lieutenant Governor,
- (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives,
- (4) The State Superintendent of Education,
- (5) The Chancellor of the Department of Postsecondary Education,
- (6) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources,
- (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections,
- (8) The Governor's Education Liaison,
- (9) The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education,
- (10) The Executive Director of the Alabama Education Association,
- (11) The Director of the Alabama Development Office,
- (12) The Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs,

- (13) The Director of the Adult-Education-SDE Office,
- (14) Five members selected by the Governor from the business community,
- (15) Five members selected by the Lieutenant Governor from the business community, and
- (16) Five members selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the business community.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Council shall perform the following tasks:

- (1) Provide the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education and the Legislature with a summary description of the problem of adult illiteracy and its economic impact on the state.
- (2) Recommend to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature achievable solutions for the total eradication of adult illiteracy in Alabama in five years through a comprehensive plan, which, when accomplished, will lead to significant economic and cultural development.
- (3) Develop and submit to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature any required legislation and an estimated assessment of costs to implement the comprehensive five-year plan for adult education.
- (4) Recommend to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature strategies to expand and enhance the "grassroots" involvement of business and industry, community-based organizations, and the citizens of this state for the eradication of illiteracy.
- (5) Recommend to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature priorities and performance standards for the state in adult education and design measurements and procedures to be reported through a management information system so that continual growth and timely improvements can be made to ensure that a literate workforce is available to meet the needs of business and industry.
- (6) Recommend to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature the restructuring and coordination of existing adult education programs offered through state agencies with a "lead agency" facilitating the services in order to provide consistency throughout the state and to eliminate the overlap in services and any waste in current spending.

(7) Evaluate and advise the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature of the feasibility of a process for implementation of this entire charge utilizing state-of-the-art technology.

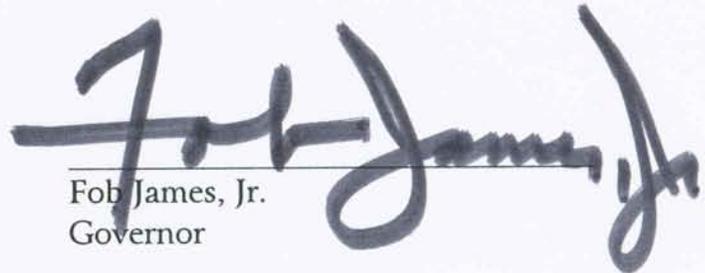
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Council submit a progress report by March 15, 1996, complete its work and submit to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the State Department of Education Adult Education Section provide leadership to the Council in implementing the directives of this executive order.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall become effective immediately upon the Governor's signature and shall remain in effect until amended or modified by the Governor.

DONE AND ORDERED this 12th day of February, 1996.




Fob James, Jr.
Governor

Attested:


Jim Bennett
Secretary of State