

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 53

WHEREAS, the early learning, development and education of young children is of critical importance to Alabama's families, education system and employers; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has invested in early learning, development, and education programs, and has made steady progress to assure that more children receive quality early learning and development services; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is committed to quality early learning opportunities that intentionally engage and support parents and families in their children's development and strengthen the parent-child bond; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, in the reauthorization of Head Start in Public Law 110-134 (Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007), has required states to have Advisory Councils dedicated to early education and care issues; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is a national leader in addressing early childhood quality through First Class, Alabama's voluntary quality pre-kindergarten program; and

WHEREAS, early learning systems building has a dedicated state department, the Department of Children's Affairs, established to build systems, collaborate and identify resources for children 0-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Alabama, do hereby establish the Alabama Early Childhood and Care Advisory Council ("ECCAC").

BE IT ORDERED that the mission of the ECCAC shall be to plan for the expansion of effective early learning and development services for young children, birth through school entry (age 5). Additionally, the purpose of the ECCAC is to make recommendations to ensure the strategic plans for early learning and development are implemented successfully.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the ECCAC will have the following powers and duties, consistent with federal law:

1. Conducting periodic needs assessments concerning the quality and availability of early childhood learning and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry;
2. Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally-funded and state-funded child learning, development, and education services, and early childhood programs and services;

3. Developing recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood learning, education and development programs;
4. Developing recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood learning, education, and development programs and services throughout Alabama;
5. Developing recommendations regarding Alabama's state-wide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators;
6. Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of 2-year and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in Alabama toward supporting the development of early childhood educators; including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre-kindergarten program; and
7. Making recommendations for improvements in Alabama's early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the ECCAC will consist of the following members designated by the Governor:

1. A representative of the state agency responsible for child care;
2. A representative of the state educational agency;
3. A representative of local educational agencies;
4. A representative of institutions of higher education in the state;
5. A representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services;
6. A representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services;
7. A representative from Head Start agencies located in the state, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;
8. The State Director of Head Start Collaboration;
9. A representative of the state agency responsible for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);
10. A representative of the state agency responsible for health and mental health care; and
11. Representatives of entities determined to be relevant by the Governor of the State of Alabama.

Chair, Co-Chair and Terms

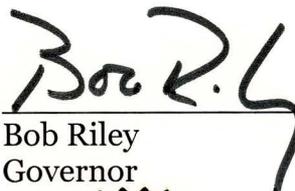
1. The Commissioner of the Department of Children's Affairs or designee shall serve as the Chair of the Council.
2. The Governor's Education Policy Advisor shall serve as the Co-Chair of the Council.
3. Members shall serve without compensation.
4. Council members appointed by the Governor and not serving by virtue of their official position with the state of Alabama will serve a term of three years, can be reappointed, or serve until their successor is appointed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the ECCAC operations will include the following:

1. The ECCAC will meet at least three times a year.
2. The ECCAC will hold public hearing and provide for public comment annually.
3. The ECCAC will submit an annual report of its activities to the Governor, Lt. Governor, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.
4. The ECCAC will invite members of the legislature to at least one of the meetings each year, where legislators will have the opportunity to ask questions about recommendations and activities.

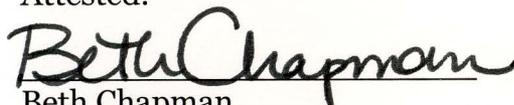
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by Executive Order of the Governor.

DONE AND ORDERED this 25th day of October 2010.



Bob Riley
Governor

Attested:


Beth Chapman
Secretary of State

