

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FORTY-FIVE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: CREATING THE YOUTH RE-ENTRY EDUCATION TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED TO JUVENILES INVOLVED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND RETURNING TO THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has a compelling interest in ensuring that adults convicted of crimes, and juveniles adjudicated as delinquent, receive the services they need to become productive, law-abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, youth entering the juvenile justice system are often struggling academically when they arrive; and

WHEREAS, although many juveniles placed in secure facilities thrive in an environment where they are offered structure, education, and medical care, they are often discharged back to families struggling with socio-economic, health, and emotional issues; and

WHEREAS, for the above reasons, juveniles returning from secure care facilities are at significant risk of underperforming when they return to traditional educational settings; and

WHEREAS, of 184 juveniles in state custody last year, only 11 returned to a traditional school setting, while 91 withdrew or failed to return to school and 42 were in alternative placements; and

WHEREAS, public safety is compromised when youth leaving juvenile detention centers or out-of-home placements do not receive appropriate educational support when they re-enter their communities; and

WHEREAS, a study of Delaware's educational opportunities for juveniles re-entering the community after leaving juvenile secure care settings can best be carried out through a bipartisan and multi-disciplinary task force that brings together stakeholders in the advancement of educational opportunities for Delaware's children and youth; and

WHEREAS, a task force can provide a deliberative and rigorous process to evaluate recommendations for legislative and policy changes that will benefit our State.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JACK A. MARKELL, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. The Youth Re-entry Education Task Force (hereinafter, the "Task Force") is hereby established. The Task Force shall be comprised of the following members:

- a. The Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, who shall serve as the Chair;
- b. The Secretary of State;
- c. The Secretary of the Department of Education;
- d. The Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Services;
- e. The Secretary of the Department of Safety & Homeland Security;
- f. The Commissioner of the Department of Correction;
- g. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore, one from each caucus;
- h. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, one from each caucus;
- i. The Chief Judge of the Family Court;
- j. The Chair of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council;
- k. The Attorney General;
- l. The Public Defender;
- m. The Office of the Child Advocate;
- n. The Division Director of Youth Rehabilitative Services;
- o. A representative from a not-for-profit organization providing services to youth exiting a secure care setting;
- p. One citizen representative from each of the three counties in Delaware;
- q. One citizen representative from Wilmington;
- r. One Representative from the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council;
- s. The President of the Delaware State Education Association;
- t. One Executive Director, Principal or similarly situated representative from an Alternative School;

- u. President of the Chief School Officers Association;
- v. President of the Delaware School Board's Association;
- w. One Education Associate for Special Populations; and
- x. Such other persons as the Governor may from time to time appoint.

Members serving by virtue of position may appoint a designee to serve in their stead.

2. The Task Force shall develop recommendations for improving educational opportunities for juveniles who are leaving juvenile secure care facilities and returning to their communities to ensure that proper services and placements are available. In connection therewith, the Task Force shall conduct a review of the resources made available to parents and guardians in order to facilitate a transition to an appropriate educational setting. Recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2014.
3. In connection with the foregoing, the Task Force shall:
 - a. Examine the quality and availability of educational programs, including special education, alternative school programs, programs for English language learners, and career/technical training for juveniles returning from secure care settings;
 - b. Review access to quality educational opportunities for young people reentering the community, including post-secondary education, career/technical training, and necessary supports;
 - c. Examine ways to improve collaboration and information-sharing among stakeholders in a manner that facilitates improved access to quality educational opportunities;
 - d. Evaluate juvenile correctional and re-entry education improvement plans for juveniles re-entering the community, including the development of written education plans to be provided to parents and guardians;
 - e. Develop a system to collect and retain data in connection with correctional and re-entry education improvement plans, educational placements, and academic achievement in juvenile correctional facilities; and
 - f. Make policy recommendations consistent with the purpose and goals of this Task Force.
4. All Executive Branch departments and agencies shall, upon request of the Task Force or the Governor, provide requested services, information, and technical assistance to support the goals of the Task Force.

5. Until it delivers its findings and recommendations, the Task Force shall hold meetings by order of the Chair or by vote of the Task Force. Following the reporting of its findings and recommendations, the Task Force shall meet as needed to address adoption and implementation of its findings and recommendations.
6. The Chair may appoint a Vice-Chair to assist in facilitating the initiatives articulated in this Executive Order.
7. The Task Force shall be terminated on January 1, 2015, if not reconstituted by further Executive Order.



APPROVED this 5th day of May, 2014

Jack Allen Markell

Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Secretary of State