

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER FORTY-SIX**

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: CREATING THE CITY OF WILMINGTON EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP TO PROVIDE INPUT TO EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEADERS IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

WHEREAS, a high-quality education is essential for our children to reach their full potential;

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has made tremendous progress in improving its education system and outcomes for students, as indicated by higher graduation and college attendance rates, lower drop-out rates, and more students meeting their personal growth targets; however, students in some communities continue to need additional support;

WHEREAS, many schools serving Delaware's children with high needs are struggling to show significant progress, and the six lowest-performing district schools in the state are all located in the City of Wilmington;

WHEREAS, high-needs students, disproportionately from the City of Wilmington, begin each school year significantly academically disadvantaged, frequently fail to meet their growth targets, and fall even farther behind their peers in a cycle that continues year after year;

WHEREAS, children who perform poorly academically are less likely to obtain a college degree or professional certification that they need in order to start a successful career path;

WHEREAS, we must do everything within our power to enhance educational opportunities for those students who need our help the most;

WHEREAS, engaging community leaders, activists, parents, teachers, and family members is essential to combating the inequalities that plague our schools within the City of Wilmington;

WHEREAS, to improve our education system for students from the City of Wilmington, it is vital that we listen to the voices of community leaders and engage parents and guardians who seek the advancement of educational opportunities for Delaware's children; and

WHEREAS, an advisory group can review and evaluate educational opportunities available to students from the City of Wilmington and provide recommendations to my administration to help ensure that all of our children receive the education they need to reach their full potential.

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 City of Wilmington Education Advisory Group (hereinafter, the "Advisory Group") is hereby established. The Advisory Group shall be comprised of at least fifteen community members with a special interest in the City of Wilmington, appointed by the Governor in consultation with elected representatives who serve the City. The Governor will appoint the Chair, who shall convene meetings and present recommendations of the Advisory Group to the Governor and the Secretary of Education as appropriate.

2. The Advisory Group shall advise the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Education on all issues relevant to providing excellent educational opportunities for students in the City of Wilmington. This shall include but not be limited to making recommendations for improving educational outcomes, community involvement, family engagement, social services, and access to extracurricular activities.

3. In connection with the foregoing, the Advisory Group may:

- a. Examine the quality and availability of educational opportunities for students in the City of Wilmington;
- b. Examine social issues that are specific to the needs of students in the City of Wilmington;
- c. Examine ways to improve collaboration and information-sharing among community members, educators, administrators, policymakers, and families to facilitate improved access to high-quality educational opportunities; and
- d. Make policy recommendations consistent with the purpose and goals of this Advisory Group.

4. The Advisory Group shall hold meetings by order of the Chair or by vote of at least one-half of the members of the Advisory Group.

5. The Chair may appoint a Vice-Chair to assist in facilitating the initiatives articulated in this Executive Order.

6. The Advisory Group shall be terminated on December 31, 2016, if not reconstituted by further Executive Order.



APPROVED this 25th day of September, 2014

Jack Markell
Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Secretary of State