



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
No. 2016 - 6**

**CREATION OF THE  
GOVERNOR'S 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the state of Michigan in the Governor; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 authorizes the establishment of temporary commissions or agencies for special purposes; and

WHEREAS, under Section 1 of 1931 PA 195, being MCL 10.51, the Governor may, at such times and for such purposes as the Governor deems necessary or advisable, create special advisory bodies consisting of as many members as the Governor deems appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Section 17 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 empowers the Governor to present to the Legislature information as to the affairs of the state and recommend measures that he considers necessary or desirable; and

WHEREAS, an educated and knowledgeable population is critical to Michigan's economic and civic vitality and its quality of life; and

WHEREAS, a skilled, credentialed workforce capable of sustained success in a global, knowledge-based economy is a necessary outcome of a state's system of education; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's current system of local, regional, and state education entities is over five decades old and was designed primarily to produce a mid-skilled workforce for a manufacturing economy; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's current system of funding education hasn't been modified in over twenty years and there have been significant changes in the state's population and economy since that time; and

WHEREAS, Michigan falls below the national average in critical measures of educational attainment including the number of individuals with college degrees or work-valued credentials; and

WHEREAS, the current system of education is producing significantly disparate achievement results for minority and economically disadvantaged students and a growing

number of students seeking postsecondary credentials require costly remedial coursework in order to continue; and

WHEREAS, Michigan cannot hope to maintain its economic vitality and quality of life without making dramatic gains in the academic achievement and career preparedness of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, the people of Michigan have historically supported and invested in a system of public education to open the doors of educational opportunity and employment to all; and

WHEREAS, we must act now to ensure our system of education, its structure, governance, funding, and accountability, is focused on student achievement and success for the good of all residents and the vitality of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard D. Snyder, Governor of the state of Michigan, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Governor by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, order the following:

## **I. CREATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION COMMISSION**

A. The Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission (the "Commission") is created as a temporary commission pursuant to Article V, Section 4, of the Constitution of the state of Michigan of 1963 and shall serve as an advisory body within the Executive Office of the Governor.

B. The Commission shall be an independent and autonomous entity with the intent that its authority, powers, duties, and responsibilities be exercised free from the direction and supervision of the principal departments in the executive branch and shall be composed of twenty-five (25) members appointed as follows:

1. The Governor shall appoint sixteen (16) voting members to the Commission serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
2. The following five (5) voting members:
  - One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House;
  - One (1) member appointed by the House Minority Leader;
  - One (1) member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader;
  - One (1) member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
  - The President of the State Board of Education or his/her designee.
3. The following four (4) department heads or their designees from within their respective departments or agencies who shall be non-voting, ex officio members:
  - The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
  - The State Treasurer;
  - The Director of the State Budget Office; and
  - The Director of the Talent Investment Agency.

C. A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

D. The Commission shall include individuals representing the education, business, government, and nonprofit communities who have a particular interest or expertise in education. Specifically, Commission members will need to possess expertise in education system design at the state, regional, and local levels including how Michigan's system of public education providers are organized, governed, funded, and held accountable for successful education outcomes, Pre-K through credential/career attainment, and/or have knowledge of factors that both inhibit and enable that success.

## **II. CHARGE TO THE COMMISSION**

A. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the state of Michigan, and shall do all of the following:

1. Analyze top performing states and nations to determine how their systems of education (structure, governance, funding, and accountability) have led to academic and career success for students pre-school through career credentialing/post-secondary education.

2. Determine, for top performing states and nations, the similarities and differences between their demographic, cultural and economic realities and Michigan's demographic, cultural, and economic realities.

3. Based on this analysis of top performing states and nations, identify the structural (configuration of schools,) governance, funding, and accountability enablers and inhibitors impacting the academic success and career preparedness for Michigan students and residents, including distinct demographic and geographic variances as appropriate.

4. Recommend changes to restructure, as necessary, the configuration, governance, funding, and accountability of Michigan's education system to significantly improve student achievement and career preparedness, and ensure the high quality of all education options available to parents and students.

5. Prioritize the Commission's recommendations for implementation.

B. Provide other information or advice as directed by the Governor.

C. No later than November 30, 2016, shall complete its work and issue a final report to the Governor for his consideration.

D. A copy of the final report shall be transmitted to the Legislature and State Board of Education.

E. Ninety days (90) after issuance and transference of its final report, the Commission shall be deemed to have met the charges placed upon it by this Executive Order and shall cease operations.

### III. OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- A. The Commission shall be staffed by personnel from and assisted by state departments and agencies as directed by the Governor's Office.
- B. The Governor shall designate the Chairperson or Chairpersons of the Commission who shall serve as the Chair at the pleasure of the Governor.
- C. The Commission may select from among its members a Vice Chairperson.
- D. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson and as may be provided in procedures adopted by the Commission. Meetings of the Commission may be held anywhere within the state of Michigan.
- E. The Commission may establish workgroups or committees assigning Commission members to and inviting public participation on these workgroups or committees as the Commission deems necessary.
- F. The Commission may adopt, reject, or modify recommendations made by the workgroups or committees.
- G. A majority of the voting members of the Commission serving constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the Commission's business, notwithstanding the existence of one (1) or more vacancies. The Commission shall act by majority vote of its present and voting members.
- H. The Commission shall adopt procedures consistent with Michigan law and this Order governing its organization and operations.
- I. The Commission may, as appropriate, make inquiries, studies, investigations, hold hearings, and receive comments from the public. Subject to the Governor's approval, the Commission may consult with outside experts in order to perform its duties, including, but not limited to, experts in the private sector, government agencies, and the nonprofit sector.
- J. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. Subject to the Governor's approval and available funding, members of the Commission may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses according to relevant statutes and the rules and procedures of the Michigan Civil Service Commission and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.
- K. Subject to the Governor's approval, the Commission may hire or retain contractors, sub-contractors, advisors, consultants, and agents, and may make and enter into contracts necessary or incidental to the exercise of the powers of the Commission and the performance of its duties, as the Governor deems advisable and necessary in accordance with the relevant statutes, rules, and procedures of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.
- L. The Commission may accept grants of funds, donations of funds, property, labor, services, or other things of value from any public or private agency or person. Any donations shall be expended in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and procedures.

M. Members of the Commission, staff, or contractors shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts relating to Commission actions or activities to the Office of the Governor.

**IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. All departments, committees, commissioners, or officers of this state or of any political subdivision of this state shall give to the Commission, or to any member or representative of the Commission, any necessary assistance required by the Commission, or any member or representative of the Commission, in the performance of the duties of the Commission so far as is compatible with its, his, or her duties..

B. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to diminish the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 3 of Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, to provide leadership and general supervision over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except as to institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees; to serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education; and to advise the Legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith.

C. Any suit, action, or other proceeding lawfully commenced by, against, or before any entity affected under this Order shall not abate by reason of the taking effect of this Order.

D. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to change the organization of the executive branch of state government or the assignment of functions among its units in a manner requiring the force of law.

E. The invalidity of any portion of this Order shall not affect the validity of the remainder the Order.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon filing.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the state of Michigan this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen.



  
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RICHARD D. SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE  
ON 3/28/16 AT 1:06 pm