

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

CHARLESTON

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11-07

By the Governor

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence that investment in early care and education has a direct impact on economic development; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for early care and education is increasingly falling on individual states, requiring new vision, stronger partnerships and collaboration, enhanced understanding, and greater commitment and involvement at the state and local level by relevant agencies, organizations and groups; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia faces the growing responsibility of responding to and addressing the early care and education needs of its citizens with planning, foresight, and thoughtful use finite resources; and

WHEREAS, governance, which comprises the traditions, institutions and processes that determine how power is exercised, how constituents are given a voice, and how decisions are made on issues of mutual concern, is a vital component of any early care and education initiative in our State; and

WHEREAS, quality and accountability also are critical aspects of a successful early care and education system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOE MANCHIN III, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that:

1. The Partners in Implementing an Early Care and Education System ("PIECES") is hereby empowered to:

- a. study the issues of governance as it relates to early care and education;
- b. develop standards for a quality early care and education program; and
- c. examine the costs of financing a quality early care and education program.

2. Consistent with this Order, PIECES shall serve as a forum to:

- a. gather information and coordinate resources concerning various approaches to governance, the development of quality programs, and the costs of financing of quality programs;
- b. facilitate necessary dialogue among affected and interested agencies, organizations and groups;
- c. create a common vision and mission; and
- d. examine and analyze the functions of authority and accountability within an effective governance system.

3. For purposes of exercising its authority under this Order, PIECES shall establish such organizational and operational structures as it shall deem necessary or appropriate from time to time and shall provide opportunities for participation by such interested agencies, organizations, and groups as may be appropriate and desirable from time to time.

4. PIECES shall report its progress to the Governor no later than the thirtieth day of June, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven, and in the One Hundred Forty-Fifth year of the State.


GOVERNOR

By the Governor


SECRETARY OF STATE