

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 10-126 (Establishing Florida's Task Force on Excellent Teaching)

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution requires a high quality education for all Florida students; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the quality of the teacher is the single most important factor in the improvement of student achievement; and

WHEREAS, continued improvement of Florida's student achievement depends on the recruitment, retention, and professional development of high quality teachers; and

WHEREAS, effective strategies to identify and reward educators who improve student learning are valuable pieces of Florida's recruitment and retention policy; and

WHEREAS, broad stakeholder support and collaboration provided that 65 of Florida's 67 school districts, including 54 teachers unions, indicated their participation in Florida's ongoing efforts to win up to \$700 million in Phase II of the Race to the Top grant; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced in the Race to the Top application process, broad stakeholder support requires a collaborative, open, and transparent process for best determining how to meet such goals; and

WHEREAS, collaboration and broad stakeholder support are important parts of formulating strategies to meet the goals of attracting and retaining excellent teachers and to remove low performing teachers from the classroom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLIE CRIST, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

Florida's Task Force on Excellent Teaching (the "Task Force") is hereby created to make recommendations promoting and sustaining a high quality teacher workforce to meet Florida's education needs, enhance student achievement, compete in a global economy, and provide a forum for collaborating on teacher compensation and performance. The Task Force shall continue in existence until its objectives are achieved, but no later than June 1, 2011, unless extended by further executive order.

Section 2.

The responsibilities of the Task Force shall include the following:

- a. Reviewing performance appraisal systems and teacher certification systems.
- b. Identifying initiatives and strategies which honor Florida's quality teachers for dedicating their professional careers to teaching students.
- c. Examining the positive impact that teachers have on the state's ability to compete in a global economy.
- d. Identifying methods for establishing differential and performance-based merit pay for classroom teachers.
- e. Developing workable measures of student learning gains, including special education students.
- f. Formulating strategies for identifying and dealing with low performing teachers.

- g. Identifying successful strategies and initiatives for improving the recruitment, development and retention of quality teachers through:
1. Reviewing teacher preparation programs.
 2. Identifying linkages between teacher merit and student learning.
 3. Identifying effective peer-delivered professional development and support and the essential components of new teacher support programs.
 4. Identifying, disseminating, and replicating effective teaching practices, including strategies for teachers to collaborate.
 5. Identifying technologies proven to support teacher productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness.
 5. Identifying effective working conditions to retain beginning teachers.
 6. Examining compensation, benefits, and incentive issues.
 7. Examining options to define, recognize, and reward effective teachers.

Section 3.

The Task Force shall, no later than December 1, 2010, provide recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the State Board of Education that address the goals and objectives of the Task Force, including, recommendations regarding changes to Florida Statutes, administrative rules, policies, and/or procedures of the State in reference to all duties outlined above.

Section 4.

The Task Force will consist of members appointed by the Governor. Members shall serve a term that commences on the day of the appointment. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and the Governor may fill any vacancy that occurs. Membership of the Task

Force shall include a broad spectrum of interested parties, including, but not limited to:

- a. A public school teacher
- b. A school superintendent
- c. A public school principal
- d. A parent of a public school student
- e. A member of a school board association
- f. A member of a local teachers union
- g. A representative from a group that advocates for exceptional student education
- h. A representative from the business community
- i. A representative from a teacher preparation program
- j. A member of the Florida Senate
- k. A member of the Florida House of Representatives

Section 5.

From the members appointed, the Governor will appoint a Chair. The Commissioner of Education shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member. The Department of Education shall provide administrative support to the Task Force, and the Task Force is authorized to call upon any state agency, department, division or office to supply such data, reports or other information as it deems reasonably necessary to achieve its objectives.

Section 6.

Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation; however, to the extent allowed by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, members from public entities may be reimbursed for travel expenses at the discretion of their respective employers.

Section 7.

The meetings of the Task Force shall be noticed and open to the public.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 14th day of June, 2010.



Charlie Crist

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Rawn K. Roberts

SECRETARY OF STATE

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