



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

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EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER TWENTY

- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa has enjoyed a proud history of developing and maintaining a well-educated population; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowa students have traditionally ranked among the nation's best in academic performance and overall student achievement; and
- WHEREAS,** the state's current educational system reflects a traditional approach, wherein the structure of education delivery is divided into three distinct, and somewhat disjointed, levels: (1) early childhood; (2) kindergarten through 12th grade; and (3) post-secondary, with each level being further divided into public and private educational systems; and
- WHEREAS,** our traditional educational system can sometimes lead to inefficiencies including: inconsistent admission criteria; service duplication; inefficient funding strategies; and delayed responses to critical state needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the current system is not well-suited for the development of a seamless and comprehensive approach to strategic planning, which can be designed to address the state's critical needs; and
- WHEREAS,** dramatic shifts in the nature of the state's economy are creating a growing demand for a highly educated and well-trained workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** a comprehensive effort to develop strategies for re-shaping the structure and nature of education in this state must include steps to coordinate the services that are delivered by all educational institutions within the State of Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order and direct the creation of the IOWA EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE.

- I. Purpose. The Iowa Education Roundtable shall be convened to examine the current structure of educational service delivery within the State of Iowa. The Iowa Education Roundtable shall advise this office on workable strategies for developing a well-coordinated and seamless service delivery system, wherein educators and administrators at all levels work together in a more cohesive manner to deliver and assess needed academic services.

The Iowa Education Roundtable shall address pertinent issues that lie at the heart of student achievement in the State of Iowa. Potential topical issues that the Roundtable may consider can include, but shall not be limited to: expanding access to early learning opportunities; smoothing student transitions between learning levels and across learning sectors; closing the achievement gap between students of different

backgrounds; upgrading teacher education and professional development; strengthening relationships between families/communities and schools; creating a wider range of learning opportunities and experiences for students in the final two years of their secondary education; improving and streamlining remedial services; coordinating programming and curricula; and assessing employer needs within the state and implementing those needs into a comprehensive educational policy.

- II. Organization. The Iowa Education Roundtable shall be composed of twenty-one members appointed by the governor. Initial appointments to the Roundtable shall expire on July 1, 2002, when the group submits its first written report to the Governor's Office for review. Participants of this group will include representatives from the Iowa General Assembly, the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Education, educational institutions within the state, and state residents.

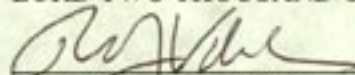
The Iowa Education Roundtable will receive administrative support from the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Board of Regents.

- III. Activities. The Iowa Education Roundtable shall convene no later than July 1, 2001. The Roundtable shall commence its activities by taking the following steps: (1) define the existing problem and identify a narrow set of priority issues to initiate the review (these issues shall consist of topics that have a significant impact on all sectors of education, and compliment existing efforts); (2) prepare an outline for examining the priority issues and seeking public input; (3) collaborate with existing governance authorities on the development of findings and proposed policy options; (4) generate recommendations for addressing priority issues and proposing the future direction and activities of the Roundtable.

The Roundtable shall submit a written report to the Governor's Office no later than July 1, 2002. The report shall contain Roundtable findings and recommendations, including a statement about whether Roundtable activities should be extended into the future.

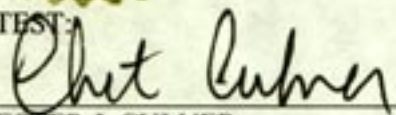


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE
HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE THIS
27TH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR OF OUR
LORD TWO THOUSAND ONE.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE