

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 58

WHEREAS, the education of the children of New Jersey is critically important to the State's economy and future prosperity; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to improving the current system of public education in New Jersey, as well as its statewide coordinating structure; and

WHEREAS, the central purpose of our public education system is to maximize the number of public school students who graduate from high school ready for college and career; and

WHEREAS, effective education is based on a partnership between accountability for results and empowerment of educators to determine the right strategies to achieve those results; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education must transform its focus from input measures to output measures, most significantly producing college and career ready graduates; and

WHEREAS, excessive and unnecessary State mandates often force school districts to spend time and incur costs that can interfere with the State's core educational mission of ensuring equal educational opportunity while raising student learning for all; and

WHEREAS, overly prescriptive rules and regulations inhibit the initiative of teachers, school leaders and administrators, and dilute accountability for local decision making; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to ensuring that New Jersey's schools, school districts, and the Department of Education are operating at their maximum potential while making the most effective and efficient use of available resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the

Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created a New Jersey Education Transformation Task Force, hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force."

2. The Task Force shall consist of up to seven (7) members appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall select a chairperson from among the members of the Task Force. The Task Force shall consist of individuals who have practical experience, knowledge or expertise in the areas of education policy or administration, including at least one teacher, principal, school business administrator, and superintendent. All members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. The Task Force shall organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of its members. The Task Force may retain outside consultants, including legal counsel, in furtherance of its charge.

3. The Task Force is charged with completing a comprehensive and thorough review of all current administrative regulations that affect public education. The Task Force shall evaluate all such regulations to determine the extent to which they increase the quality of instruction for students, improve the academic achievement of students, improve teaching effectiveness within schools or improve the safety and wellbeing of students. The Task Force shall also review the statutes supporting these administrative regulations. The Task Force shall prepare recommendations to the Governor and Commissioner of Education regarding all statutes and regulations affecting public education that are overly prescriptive.

4. The Task Force shall also review existing accountability systems and resulting incentive structures for public schools and public school districts, including the Quality Single Accountability Continuum ("Q SAC"). The Task Force shall provide recommendations to the Governor on a revamped accountability system which would grant more autonomy to public schools and public school districts while maintaining strict measures of accountability in the areas of student performance, safety, and fiscal responsibility.

5. In formulating its recommendations pursuant to this Order, the Task Force may elicit public input from school and school district leaders, teachers, other education professionals, community groups, the State Board of Education, and other interested parties.

6. The Task Force shall issue an initial report containing its recommendations to the Governor no later than August 15, 2011. Thereafter, the Task Force will continue to meet as needed to continue to review and revise, if necessary, the recommendations following the receipt of comments from the public, stakeholders and the State Board of Education, pursuant to a schedule to be developed by the Department. The Task Force shall expire upon the Governor's receipt of a report containing their final recommendations pursuant to this Executive Order. The final recommendations shall be provided by no later than December 31, 2011.

7. The final report of the Task Force shall be provided to the Legislature and the State Board of Education, and shall be made available to the public.

8. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
4th day of April,
Two Thousand and Eleven,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor