

STATE DOCUMENT

The State of Wisconsin



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Legislative Reference  
Bureau

EXECUTIVE ORDER #76

Relating to the Commission on Schools  
for the 21st Century

WHEREAS, President Bush and the nation's Governors have stated that education must forge a well-informed and enlightened citizenry for our country to remain free and strong; and

WHEREAS, to ensure all citizens remain knowledgeable and productive throughout life, our school systems should address the goals of informed citizenship, useful employment and personal initiative; and

WHEREAS, school systems must recognize and respond to the needs of a larger society; and

WHEREAS, the demographics of Wisconsin's teaching and administrative work force and the increasing diversity of employment opportunities may greatly affect the state's future supply and quality of classroom teachers and administrative leaders; and

WHEREAS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress indicates that most 17 year-old students have not learned the higher order skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science which are essential to continued personal growth and informed citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the public needs assurances that student achievement is accurately measured and that education tax dollars are wisely invested; and

WHEREAS, elementary and secondary schools must modify their organizational structure to enable students to cope with an expanding universe of knowledge under pressures both in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the method used to fund education has not undergone a comprehensive review to determine its future effectiveness in promoting our children's achievement; and

WHEREAS, without a responsive, innovative and accountable educational system, Wisconsin and this nation will not be able to maintain the skilled and motivated workforce needed to preserve our standard of living in a highly competitive and changing global economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, and specifically by Wisconsin Statute section 14.019, do hereby:

1. Establish the Commission on Schools for the 21st Century. The Commission is directed to examine and recommend appropriate changes to the major school inputs influencing student achievement and future productivity, including but not limited to:

- (6) Gather statistical data on the policies of other industrialized nations regarding length of school day and school year, student-teacher ratios, physical plant utilization, graduation requirements and other pertinent information.
- (7) Examine methods to enhance literacy courses and remedial programs.

(d) Educational Assessment

- (1) Determine the current types, extent and use of achievement testing in school districts and how the state can uniformly assess student achievement as it relates to meeting state educational standards.
- (2) Determine how statewide assessment instruments can be used to improve student achievement.
- (3) Determine how to make every school accountable to every parent and how to enable parents to assess school performance.
- (4) Identify measures to be used to determine whether schools are maximizing student achievement.
- (5) Determine what the role of the state and the local school board should be if a school's achievement levels are not satisfactory.
- (6) Identify measures to be used to determine teacher and administrator performance.

(e) School Organization

- (1) Identify barriers in the organization of education which hinder innovation and effective teaching.
- (2) Determine the effect additional parental choice would have on educational quality and ways to implement additional choice.
- (3) Determine how parents, teachers and the public can become more directly responsible for the operation of schools.
- (4) Determine how to ensure a continuing supply of capable school administrators.
- (5) Determine ways to enhance the school administrator's role in promoting a positive learning environment and educational innovation.
- (6) Examine organizational strategies which enhance efficient use of resources in school districts with low enrollments.
- (7) Examine the responsiveness of urban district management (school boards, central administration) to the needs of individual schools.

(f) School and Community

- (1) Determine the most effective way to coordinate social service and educational agencies to reinforce student learning.
- (2) Determine how to promote ongoing interaction between schools, parents and business and industry to identify changing educational needs.

(a) Student Readiness

- (1) Identify strategies which increase the value placed on education by children and families.
- (2) Determine the extent to which schools should address the outside pressures which affect students' ability to learn, e.g. drugs, nutrition, health and poverty.
- (3) Define the elements of student readiness that are properly the responsibility of parents and recommend ways schools can promote significant parental participation in readiness activities, especially with at-risk students.
- (4) Determine the kinds of programming and activities that can be provided to children-at-risk to better prepare them for learning.
- (5) Determine the kinds of preschool/early childhood preparation that will enhance student readiness for school.

(b) Teacher Supply and Quality

- (1) Develop strategies to ensure that Wisconsin maintains a continuing supply of excellent teachers, with special attention to the needs of rural and central city areas.
- (2) Identify ways to increase the supply of talented teachers in science, mathematics, technology and foreign languages.
- (3) Identify ways to attract more minorities to the teaching profession.
- (4) Determine what steps should be taken to further professionalize teaching and to maintain high teacher quality and morale.
- (5) Determine the need for ongoing training of practicing teachers and ways to enhance collegial interaction between teachers, with particular attention to teachers in rural school districts.

(c) Curriculum & Standards

- (1) Establish specific educational standard aimed at academic achievement, cultural literacy and citizenship which are meaningful to students, teachers, parents and employers.
- (2) Determine what knowledge and skills students graduating from school should have in the 21st century.
- (3) Explore the need for Wisconsin to incorporate its educational standards into a uniform curriculum as is done in other industrialized countries.
- (4) Identify ways that school districts with low enrollment can provide academically sound, diverse and up-to-date curricula.
- (5) Examine the basic institutional designs in education including the length of the school day and school year, class size and when children should begin and end their formal education.

- (3) Identify ways that the schools and the community can reinforce for students the connection between school learning and success in the work world.
- (4) Examine the role of schools as centers for community education including parent education, preschool services, adult education and recreation, and services for senior citizens.
- (5) Examine ways to use the community as a classroom, including student and teacher internships with business, industry and community agencies, and involving community members in classroom activities.

(g) Technology, Science and Mathematics

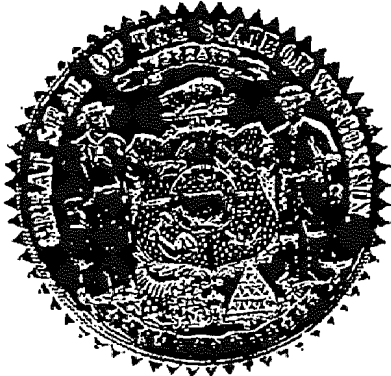
- (1) Examine how state government and local school districts can employ distance learning technology especially for rural and low enrollment schools.
- (2) Investigate how Wisconsin schools can take advantage of computer assisted learning, especially for at-risk students.
- (3) Explore the need to make teachers familiar with and capable of using the technology available to assist with instruction.
- (4) Determine the extent to which there is a shortage of teachers who specialize in science and math, and develop a strategy to continue the flow of good teachers in these fields.
- (5) Examine the proficiency of Wisconsin students in science and mathematics and compare this with the proficiency needed to compete in a world market.

(h) Finance

- (1) Examine whether Wisconsin schools are adequately funded, whether teachers have adequate funding for supplies and other curricular materials and whether current funding is being used effectively.
- (2) Examine the relationship between funding and educational results.
- (3) Determine the extent to which local schools should be funded from state or local revenues. Also, examine if additional state funds should be directed to the general educational program or should be targeted to specific services or programs.
- (4) Identify strategies the state can use to reward successful schools and provide incentives for less successful schools to improve.
- (5) Review state mandates to schools and their fiscal effect.
- (6) Evaluate requirements for school district physical plants.

2. Provide that the chairman and members of the Commission be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure;
3. Direct the Commission to present to the Governor a written report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 1990;
4. Direct the Departments of Administration and Public Instruction to provide staff support for the Commission, including the hiring of consultants.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fourteenth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine.



*Tommy G. Thompson*  
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TOMMY G. THOMPSON  
Governor

By the Governor:

*Douglas La Follette*  
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DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State