

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 29

WHEREAS, the education of our children is the basic foundation on which an informed and involved society rests; and

WHEREAS, each child has the right to equality in educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the state has the responsibility to ensure that this basic right is not denied; and

WHEREAS, the present reliance on local property taxes as the primary source of revenue for public elementary and secondary school expenditures denies this basic right by fostering fiscal discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the present system of financing public education creates wide disparities in property tax burden throughout the state and makes the quality of a child's education a function of the wealth of his parents or community; and

WHEREAS, the soaring property tax burden in recent years has created tremendous pressure on the financial resources of individuals and districts and has further undermined the ability of the local to provide necessary educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the weight of property taxation has become intolerable to the general public, to the development of business and to the functioning of local districts and governments; and

WHEREAS, the disparity in property tax burden has come under attack by court rulings in other states and by the initiation of court action in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the courts have clearly indicated that the use of the local property tax for education financing violates the equal protection requirement of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, such court rulings have added urgency to the long-overdue need to end the disparity in educational financing and opportunity inherent in our present system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK J. LUCEY, Governor of Wisconsin, do hereby create

THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON
EDUCATIONAL FINANCING AND PROPERTY TAX REFORM

and charge the Task Force to:

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

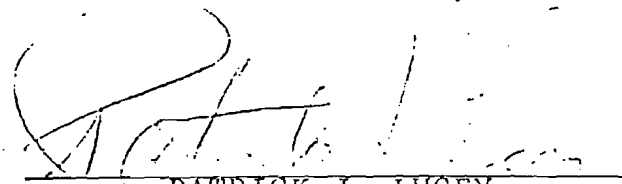
1. Re-examine the whole base for financing public elementary and secondary education in Wisconsin.

2. After careful consideration of alternatives, the recommendations for shifting the base of elementary and secondary school funding from the local property tax to other means of public support, therefore eliminating the disparity of educational opportunity and tax burden in our state caused by the financial discrimination inherent in our present property tax system.

3. Incorporate the recommendations in a final report which will be submitted within one year and which will include, but not be limited to, proposed legislation for the 1973 legislative session to enact state policy proposals by the Task Force.

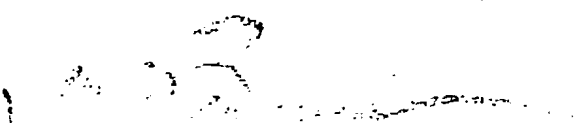
In order to fully carry out its charge, the Task Force or any committee thereof may hold public hearings and request all interested parties to testify and submit data. The Task Force will also have full authority to conduct independent research, publish interim and final reports, contract for services, accept grants and services and do whatever else might be required to complete its task. The staff support will be coordinated by an executive director who may request the cooperation of other state agencies as needed in support of the Task Force.

IN WITNESS 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 28th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.



PATRICK J. LUCEY
G o v e r n o r

BY THE GOVERNOR:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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