

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-23-09

WHEREAS California's leaders and residents recognize the value of high quality early learning experiences in preparing young children for success in school and life; and

WHEREAS early childhood development requires a comprehensive, coordinated approach to a child's care and learning experiences; and

WHEREAS research has recognized that investment in comprehensive, high quality early education can yield enormous economic benefits for future generations and local communities; and

WHEREAS research has documented that investment in comprehensive, high quality early education can save money by preventing future expenditures on remedial education, incarceration, and cash assistance; and

WHEREAS the needs of California's children are complex, and the network of services for California's children are managed by a myriad of agencies, often with different goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-134) requires the establishment of a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (State Advisory Council) in order to receive Head Start collaboration grants from the federal government; and

WHEREAS the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) included \$100 million in Head Start ARRA funds to support the scope of work of the State Advisory Councils in each state; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, sent a letter on May 11, 2009 to Governor Schwarzenegger reaffirming the Obama Administration's commitment to early childhood education and care and affirming that California would be eligible to compete for up to \$10.6 million for a three-year grant period to support the State Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced that application for these funds must be made by August 1, 2010 and must be submitted by the State Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS the goals of the State Advisory Council, as established by federal law, are similar to the goals of the Early Learning Quality Improvement System (ELQIS) Advisory Committee, a committee established when I signed Senate Bill 1629 (Chapter 307, Statutes of 2008) and which is charged with developing a policy and implementation plan for California's ELQIS; and

WHEREAS Education Code section 8300, subdivision (a) provides that the following 13 members shall sit on the ELQIS Advisory Committee:

1. Superintendent of Public Instruction (co-chair).
2. Secretary of Education (co-chair).
3. Senate President Pro Tempore (or designee).
4. Assembly Speaker (or designee).
5. A representative from the Department of Finance.
6. A representative from the Department of Social Services.
7. Chair of the California Commission on Children and Families (or designee).
8. Two appointees of the Governor.
9. Two representatives of local providers of early childhood education and development services appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.
10. Two appointments by the Speaker of the Assembly -- one from the early childhood education community who has experience with English learners, and one who is a local educational agency kindergarten teacher; and

WHEREAS the membership of the ELQIS Advisory Committee overlaps in part with the requirements for the membership of a State Advisory Council imposed by federal law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of California, do hereby order effective immediately:

1. The California State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care is hereby established. Membership on the council shall include the members of the ELQIS Committee. In addition to those thirteen members, I will appoint the following representatives to serve on the State Advisory Council:
 - The State Director of Head Start Collaboration.
 - One representative of institutions of higher education in the state.
 - One representative of the state educational agency, defined for federal purposes as the State Board of Education.
 - One representative of the state agency responsible for health or mental health care.
 - One representative of Head Start agencies located in the state, including migrant and seasonal and Indian Head Start programs.

2. The State Advisory Council will have three individuals, or their designees, serve as co-chairs. The chairpersons will be:
 - Secretary of Education (or designee).
 - Superintendent of Public Instruction (or designee).
 - Chairperson of the California Children and Families Commission (or designee).

3. The State Advisory Council will perform the following duties:
 - Submit an application for ARRA Head Start funding on behalf of the State of California by August 1, 2010.
 - Develop and recommend a statewide plan for making maximum use of federal dollars, including federal Early Learning Challenge Grants.
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination among entities carrying out federally-funded, state-funded and locally-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs.
 - Make recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.
 - Make recommendations for establishing a unified data collection system for publicly funded programs offering early childhood education, development, and services.
 - Make recommendations for a statewide professional development and career plan for early childhood education and care.
 - Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators.
 - Make recommendations for improvement in state early learning standards, as appropriate.

This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any rights or benefits, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California or its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I FURTHER ORDER that, as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 9th day of November 2009.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State