



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is deeply committed to the education and care of our youngest citizens; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2008, there were more than 700,000 children ages birth to five throughout all 159 counties; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has made funds available for a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Council); and

**WHEREAS:** The Council is needed for planning better coordinated systems, facilitating working relationships among essential partners, and moving towards integrated delivery of services to young children and their families, and will also reinforce and strengthen statewide management among existing programs such as pre-kindergarten, child care, Head Start, and other early childhood care and education programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care is hereby created.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That Dr. Holly Robinson shall chair the Council, and the other members of the Council shall be Jen Bennecke, Stephanie Blank, Dawn Coleman, Kathy Cox, Arlinda Eaton, Carla Denise Edwards, Kevin Fletcher, Tony Foskey, Janice Haker, Carolyn Ormsby, Frank Shelp, Gaye Smith, Justine Strickland, BJ Walker, and Susie Wilcher.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the Council shall be directly aligned with The First Lady's Children's Cabinet.

**IT IS FURTHER**


**ORDERED:** That the Council shall work together to plan better coordinated systems, facilitate working relationships among essential partners, and move towards integrated delivery of services to young children and their families. The Council shall also work to

- reinforce and strengthen statewide management among existing programs such as pre-kindergarten, child care, Head Start, and other early childhood care and education programs;
- prepare a needs assessment and comprehensive plan recommending a direction for early learning policy in Georgia, that includes recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in high-quality early learning and care programs;
- prepare recommendations for
  - improving early learning standards and assessment,
  - improving oversight and monitoring of early learning programs,
  - developing a unified data collection system,
  - improving outreach to the parents of young children,
  - improving the ability of higher education to train early childhood educators and strengthening overall teacher and provider quality,
  - improving statewide professional development and career advancement plans,
  - coordinating health screenings and programs supporting healthy child development with early learning and care programs, and
  - whatever other issues the Governor or the Council find necessary to address in order to improve the quality of education and quality care for young children in Georgia.

This 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

  
Executive Secretary