

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
No. 2016 - 18**

**CREATION OF  
MICHIGAN PreK-12 LITERACY COMMISSION  
  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the state of Michigan in the Governor; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 empowers the Governor to make changes in the organization of the Executive Branch or in the assignment of functions among its units that he considers necessary for efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the state of Michigan ensure that students are prepared to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; and

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan recognizes the importance of literacy in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, state government leaders formed a workgroup that undertook a review of the state's current policies concerning literacy; and

WHEREAS, a key finding of the workgroup was that an independent commission be established to provide policy recommendations and progress reports to the Governor and legislature as the state works to become a national leader in literacy; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a PreK-12 Literacy Commission within the Michigan Department of Education will advise and assist in matters relating to the assessment, professional development, education programming, socioeconomic challenges, best practices, collaboration, parental engagement, and teaching of literacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard D. Snyder, Governor of the state of Michigan, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Governor by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, order the following:

## **I. CREATION OF THE MICHIGAN PreK-12 LITERACY COMMISSION**

A. The PreK-12 Literacy Commission (the “Commission”) is created as an advisory body within the Michigan Department of Education (the “Department”).

B. The Governor shall appoint seven (7) members to the Commission, serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

- Two (2) members appointed to initial terms expiring October 31, 2017;
- Two (2) members appointed to initial terms expiring October 31, 2018;
- Two (2) members appointed to initial terms expiring October 31, 2019; and
- One (1) member appointed to an initial term expiring October 31, 2020;

After the initial appointments, members of the Commission appointed under this subsection shall serve terms of four (4) years.

C. The Governor shall additionally appoint six (6) members to the Commission as follows:

- Two (2) members submitted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction who shall serve terms of four (4) years;
- One (1) member submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall serve a term of two (2) years;
- One (1) member submitted by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives who shall serve a term of two (2) years;
- One (1) member submitted by the Senate Majority Leader who shall serve a term of two (2) years; and
- One (1) member submitted by the Senate Minority Leader who shall serve a term of two (2) years.

D. A vacancy on the Commission occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. A member may continue serving until his or her successor is appointed. A member may serve successive terms if reappointed.

E. The Commission shall include individuals representing the business, education, and philanthropic communities who have a particular interest or expertise in literacy in the state of Michigan.

F. The Commission shall include at least one member with literacy experience in an urban setting, at least one member with experience in Special Education literacy, and at least one member with experience in English-Language Learners.

## **II. CHARGE TO THE COMMISSION**

A. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the state of Michigan, and shall do all of the following:

1. Suggest PreK-12 literacy goals for the state and publish relevant progress reports to the public, Governor, and legislature on PreK-12 literacy in Michigan.
2. Advise the Governor, legislature, and Department on how state policy can better align to the unique literacy challenges that schools face based on the school's locale and socioeconomic status of the school's population.
3. Investigate, analyze, and advise the Governor, legislature, and Department regarding changes in state programs, statutes, regulations, and policies concerning PreK-12 literacy.
4. Monitor current PreK-12 literacy research, pilot programs, and policies nationwide and report on their applicability to adoption in Michigan.
5. Examine current literacy-focused professional development practices across the state and identify and publish best practices.
6. Promote partnerships between the state, schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropies towards the goal of PreK-12 literacy in Michigan.
7. Monitor nationwide trends in the use of assessments, intervention, and data-driven instruction relevant to PreK-12 literacy and make reports concerning those trends to the Governor, legislature, and Department.
8. Recognize the efforts of teachers, schools, and districts that have made great strides in PreK-12 literacy in Michigan.
9. Encourage collaboration between teachers, schools, and districts around resources, proven methods, and best practices concerning PreK-12 literacy.
10. Examine and report on proven methods to engage parents in promoting literacy amongst Michigan's PreK-12 students.
11. Review the preparation that Michigan teachers receive regarding literacy and report to the legislature and Governor regarding how state policy reflects current research and best practices.

B. As directed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (the "Superintendent"), Department staff shall assist the Commission with establishment of policies and procedures regarding the use of grants and other funds.

C. The Commission shall provide other information or advice as requested by the Governor, legislature, or the Department.

### **III. OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

A. The Commission shall be staffed and assisted by personnel from the Department as directed by the Superintendent. Any budgeting, procurement, and related management functions of the Commission shall be performed under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent.

B. The Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Commission.

C. The Commission may select from among its members a Vice Chairperson.

D. The Commission may select from among its members a Secretary. Commission staff shall assist the Secretary with recordkeeping responsibilities.

E. The Commission may create committees and advisory panels from among its members to assist in policymaking recommendations.

F. A majority of the members of the Commission serving constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the commission's business. The Commission shall act in making its recommendations by a majority vote of its serving members.

G. The Commission shall adopt procedures consistent with Michigan law and this Order governing its organization and operations, and may establish committees and request public participation on advisory panels as the commission deems necessary. The Commission may adopt, reject, or modify any recommendations proposed by committees or advisory panels.

H. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson and as may be provided in procedures adopted by the Commission.

I. The Commission may, as appropriate, make inquiries, studies, investigations, hold hearings, and receive comments from the public. The Commission may consult with outside experts in order to perform its duties, including, but not limited to, experts in the private sector, government agencies, and institutions of higher education.

J. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for necessary travel and expenses according to relevant statutes and the rules and procedures of the Michigan Civil Service Commission and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, subject to available funding.

K. In accordance with applicable state contracting and procurement procedures, the Commission may make or enter into contracts necessary or incidental to the exercise of the powers of the board and the performance of its duties, including

the hiring or retention of contractors, consultants, or agents, as the Superintendent deems advisable and necessary.

L. The Commission may accept donations of labor, services, or other things of value from any public or private agency or person. Any donations shall be expended in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and procedures.

M. Members of the Commission shall refer all legal, legislative, and media contacts to the Department.

**IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. All departments, committees, commissioners, or officers of this state or of any political subdivision of this state may give to the Commission, or to any member or representative of the Commission, any necessary assistance required by the Commission or any member or representative of the Commission, in the performance of the duties of the Commission so far as is compatible with its, his, or her duties.

B. The invalidity of any portion of this Order shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Order.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon filing.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the state of Michigan this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD D. SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE