

Executive Order

WPC-89-19

ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND DESCRIBING THE SCOPE OF ITS EFFORTS AND METHODS OF OPERATION

WHEREAS, providing the children of Texas with the opportunity to receive a quality basic education in our primary and secondary public schools is essential to the economic and social development of the state and of primary concern to all Texans; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Supreme Court has held that the public school system is not efficient, meaning "effective or productive of results" and connoting the "use of resources so as to produce results with little waste" and that the public school system does not afford students "a substantially equal opportunity to have access to educational funds"; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to examine the state's public school system from the perspective of improving performance and increasing accountability and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Select Committee on Education completed a comprehensive review of the Texas public educational system in 1988 which should be used as the foundation on which this Task Force will build; and

WHEREAS, increasing state expenditures without making necessary structural changes to the public educational system will not provide a permanent solution to the issues addressed in the Edgewood v. Kirby decision;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, do hereby create and establish the Task Force on Public Education, hereinafter referred to as the TASK FORCE.

I. SCOPE OF THE TASK FORCE EFFORTS

The primary mission of the TASK FORCE is to develop a blueprint for restructuring public education in Texas to produce an efficient system of public free schools.

To that end the TASK FORCE shall:

- A. Delineate the components and features of a quality basic education which fulfills the State's responsibilities;
- B. Outline a system which most efficiently utilizes resources in delivering a quality basic education, and recommend a method for determining the cost of delivering that quality basic education;
- C. Recommend a system of funding which most effectively delivers that quality basic education; and
- D. Recommend methods and programs which will both measure the results of Texas' public educational system in terms of student, teacher and administrator performance and communicate the results to parents, taxpayers and elected officials, thereby ensuring greater accountability.

II. ORGANIZATION

- A. The TASK FORCE shall consist of twelve members. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate four members of the TASK FORCE.
- B. The Governor shall designate the Chair and Vice-Chair from the membership, both of whom shall serve in those positions at the pleasure of the Governor.
- C. The Chair of the TASK FORCE shall establish any committee or sub-committee of the TASK FORCE.
- D. The members of the TASK FORCE shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

III. REPORTS

The TASK FORCE shall submit its report and recommendations regarding the charge given to it herein to the Governor on or before March 1, 1990.

This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas on November 9, 1989.

TRD-8910944 William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas

