

Executive Document

Governor's Executive Order Creating the Task Force on Middle Level Education.

Issued: May 27, 1998

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Task Force on Middle Level Education

Whereas, the middle school years are crucial transitional years during which a child undergoes rapid physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development;

Whereas, the state's middle schools have the difficult mission of providing to children in this age group not only excellence in academic instruction, but also a positive school climate, safety, counseling, parental involvement, and other elements conducive to a positive learning experience; and

Whereas, the state's efforts in supporting and improving our state's middle schools can benefit substantially from further study of middle school issues;

Now, Therefore, I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby order the following:

- (1) There is created the Governor's Task Force on Middle Level Education.
- (2) The task force shall study and make recommendations concerning issues relating to middle schools and the educational environment of children of middle school age. The issues to study shall include:
 - (a) school safety;
 - (b) developmentally appropriate instruction and environment;
 - (c) curriculum;
 - (d) parental involvement;
 - (e) class size;
 - (f) transition from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school;
 - (g) technology for instruction and home/school communication;
 - (h) teacher preparation and ongoing professional development;
 - (i) a review of the conceptual elements of effective middle school according to the literature; and

(j) other issues relating to middle school improvement, as identified by the task force.

(3) The task force shall consist of 15 members, appointed by the governor, including:

(a) a representative of the governor's office, who shall serve as chair;

(b) two middle school teachers;

(c) an elementary school teacher;

(d) a middle school principal;

(e) two parents of middle school students;

(f) a representative of the State Office of Education;

(g) a local school board member representing the Utah School Boards Association;

(h) a member of the House of Representatives recommended by the Speaker of the House;

(i) a member of the Senate recommended by the President of the Senate;

(j) a representative of the Utah Middle Level Education Association;

(k) a representative of a state institution of higher education that is engaged in preparing teachers for middle level education;

(l) a representative of the juvenile court system; and

(m) a superintendent from a local school district.

(4) The task force shall meet as often as necessary to complete its study. A majority of attendees constitutes a quorum for voting purposes, and all action shall be by majority vote.

(5) The task force shall make preliminary recommendations regarding suggested legislation by November 15, 1998, and shall make its final recommendations by December 31, 1998.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah on this 27th day of May, 1998.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

ATTEST:

Olene S. Walker
Lieutenant Governor

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