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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

DANNEL P. MALLOY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 41

WHEREAS, improving the education level of Connecticut's population is a basic and fundamental obligation of state government;

WHEREAS, Connecticut's economic growth depends upon a well-educated workforce, prepared for the challenges of a global economy;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has one of the widest and most persistent educational achievement gaps in the nation;

WHEREAS, providing a quality education for students requires rigorous instruction and a wide range of experiences, benchmarked to college and career readiness standards, from kindergarten through 12th grade;

WHEREAS, in May 2009, Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan signed a memorandum of agreement on the Common Core State Standards and the State Board of Education passed a resolution to adopt such standards on July 7, 2010;

WHEREAS, the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council allowed school districts to exclude the Smarter Balanced assessment from teacher evaluations for the school years 2013-14 and 2014-15, and the State Department of Education requested a waiver allowing for flexibility from federal education requirements on February 28, 2014;

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has committed funds to support professional development and investments in new technology in order to help school districts prepare for implementation of the Common Core State Standards;

WHEREAS, Connecticut teachers and education professionals have raised legitimate concerns that preparations for the implementation of Common Core State Standards and the incorporation of Common Core State Standards into the teaching curriculum have been uneven across the state; and,

WHEREAS, I respect and understand the concerns raised by Connecticut teachers and education professionals and believe that the implementation of Common Core State Standards can be improved by establishing a task-force to share lessons-learned, and that Connecticut teachers and students alike will benefit;

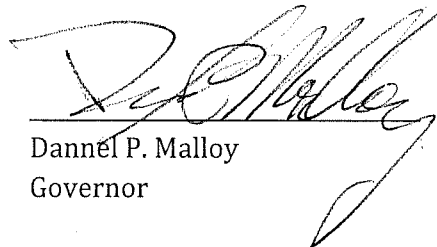
NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANNEL P. MALLOY, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of the State of Connecticut do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. There is established an Educators' Common Core Implementation Taskforce (the Taskforce), composed of education professionals and other stakeholders, that shall examine gaps in existing common core implementation at the school, district and state level, and identify opportunities to share best practices across schools and school districts.
2. The Taskforce will be administered through the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Governor and the State Department of Education will jointly provide staffing support.
3. The Taskforce shall:

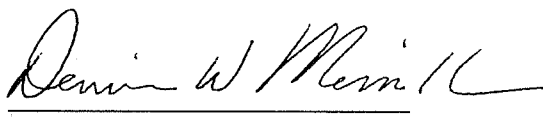
- a. Identify challenges and gaps in Common Core preparation and make recommendations for improving the quality and consistency of Common Core implementation efforts;
 - b. Consider ways to advance the translation of Common Core State Standards into curricula;
 - c. Consider ways to strengthen the professional development opportunities available to classroom teachers and school leaders;
 - d. Identify and highlight best practices and lessons learned by teachers, schools and school districts across the state and nation; and
 - e. Deliver recommendations on how Common Core implementation can be improved to the Governor, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education no later than June 30, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year.
4. The Taskforce shall be comprised of 25 individuals as follows:
 - a. Twelve practicing teachers or education professionals who teach in elementary, middle or high school, and represent the geographic diversity of Connecticut,
 - b. Four principals from either an elementary, middle or high school, and represent the geographic diversity of Connecticut,
 - c. Four Superintendents or district curriculum leaders,
 - d. Two parents, each from a different school district within Connecticut,
 - e. Two members of local boards of education, each from a different school district, and
 - f. The Chief Academic Officer of the State Department of Education.
 5. The Governor shall appoint two co-chairs of the taskforce from among its membership.
 6. The Taskforce shall terminate no later than June 30, 2014.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 11th day of March, 2014.


 Dannel P. Malloy
 Governor

By His Excellency's Order


 Denise Merrill
 Secretary of the State

