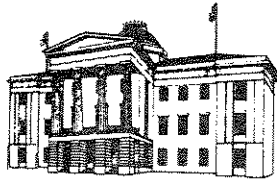


# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 80 ACCELERATING TEACHER AND OTHER PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEEDED ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN IN LIGHT OF JUDICIAL MANDATES, BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS, AND IMPENDING SCHOOL OPENINGS

**WHEREAS**, the 2004 General Assembly enacted S.L. 124, "The Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2004" (hereinafter the Act), which was signed into law on July 20, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 General Assembly enacted H.B. 1631, which keeps state government operating through August 5, 2005, and which provides additional funding for enrollment increases and which was signed into law on July 19, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, in the budget adjustments submitted to the General Assembly for the 2005-06 fiscal year, I recommended funding to meet the increased operation costs of our public schools while providing for the needs of disadvantaged students; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools across the state must plan now for their opening in a few weeks, and the state court monitoring of North Carolina's effort to ensure a sound, basic education for every student continues; and

**WHEREAS**, in the school funding lawsuit, known as *Leandro*, the Court stated that at a minimum every school must be provided the resources necessary to support an effective instructional program within that school so that the educational needs of all children, including at-risk children, can be met; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 24, 2005, the Court isolated the particular problems of meeting the needs of at-risk students in North Carolina's high schools and outlined the need for the state to bring together the "combined expertise, educators, resources, and money to fix the 'high school problem' so that the children attending those schools will be provided with the opportunity to obtain a sound, basic education;" and

**WHEREAS**, on July 11, 2005, the Court scheduled a hearing for August 9, 2005, for the state to show how in the upcoming school year it will address the problems associated with the “poor academic performance” of North Carolina high schools and an update on statewide *Leandro* compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 622, “The Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2005,” under consideration by the House and Senate has not been passed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act allocated funds to support the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten program for at-risk children, the Learn and Earn program, and supplemental funding for LEAs in low-wealth counties; and these programs are necessary for improving educational opportunity and outcomes for children across North Carolina; and these programs are fundamental to addressing the needs of at-risk students, eliminating the achievement gap, reducing the state's persistently high dropout rate, increasing college enrollments, and meeting other education challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the current proposed budget includes expanded funding for the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund, Learn and Earn program, Specialty Schools Pilot program, supplemental funding for LEAs in low-wealth counties, teacher training, and child and family support teams; and

**WHEREAS**, while the General Assembly continues working to ratify a final budget I can approve, the school year for the majority of North Carolina's children is about to begin and preplanning, hiring, and facilities preparation must take place; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent that additional funds be used for low-wealth supplemental funding to recruit and retain high quality teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, by better connecting public schools with health, mental health, and social services the capacity for multi-disciplinary assessments, referral, and coordination of care for at-risk students and their families will be enhanced through the use of School-Based Child and Family Support Teams utilizing school-based nurses and social worker teams, Local Management Entities' Care Coordinators, and Child and Family Teams Facilitators.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in light of the factual circumstances set forth above, including the decision in *Leandro*, and under the legal authority vested in me as Governor by Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of North Carolina (which states that “The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.”), Article III of the Constitution of North Carolina, and N.C.G.S. §143-23, I hereby **AUTHORIZE AND INSTRUCT**:

Section 1. The Director of the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program to recruit the teachers necessary to expand the program; and,

Section 2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, working with and through local school system superintendents, to recruit and hire the staff necessary to

operate Learn and Earn high schools and economic development-themed high schools; and

Section 3. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, working with and through local school system superintendents, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, working through local agencies, to recruit and hire the nurses and social workers necessary to operate child and family support teams in our public schools; and

Section 4. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, working with and through local school system superintendents, to put into place the additional teachers and academic support programs needed to support the achievement of at-risk students in districts eligible for Low Wealth Supplemental Funding and Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding; and

Section 5. The Presidents of the University of North Carolina and North Carolina Community College System to implement the 2+2 Teacher Education Initiative; and

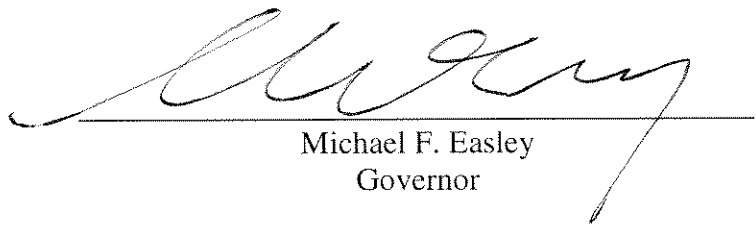
Section 6. The President of the University of North Carolina to implement the program to improve the effectiveness of new principals; and

Section 7. The State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction to place accountability on existing funding for at-risk students from the At-Risk Student Services and Improving Student Accountability allotments to ensure these funds are invested in proven strategies for improving student achievement in the most cost effective manner.

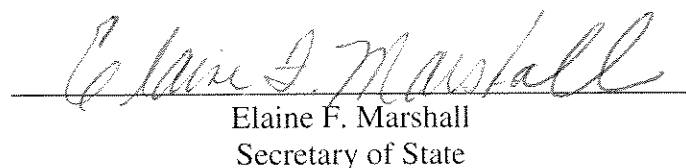
This Executive Order is effective July 20, 2005.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh this the 20th day of July, 2005.



  
Michael F. Easley  
Governor

**ATTEST:**

  
Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State