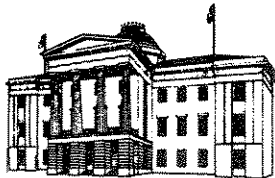


# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 120 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 2007 General Assembly enacted House Bill 2044, which keeps state government operating through July 31, 2007, and which provides additional funding for enrollment increases and which was signed into law on June 29, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, in the budget submitted to the General Assembly for the 2007-09 fiscal years, 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**, the Court has isolated 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**, the Court has scheduled a *Leandro* hearing for August 1 and 2, 2007, to inquire into the proficiency of middle schools and the best practices for ensuring proficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children and class size reduction are necessary for improving educational opportunities and outcomes for children across North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 educational challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1473, "The 2007 Appropriations Act," under consideration by the House and Senate has not been passed; 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.

**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. §143C-6-4, 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 put into place the additional teachers and academic support programs needed to support the achievement of at-risk students in districts eligible for Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding and to keep class size ratios at current levels.



This Executive Order is effective July 20, 2007.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this twentieth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.



  
Michael F. Easley  
Governor

**ATTEST:**

  
Elaine F. Marshall   
Secretary of State *Chief Deputy Secretary*