

EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION ORDER
E.R.O. No. 2007-19

388.999 Transfer of powers and duties of school district accountability board to state board of education; abolishment of school district accountability board.

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the State of Michigan in the Governor;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 empowers the Governor to make changes in the organization of the executive branch of state government or in the assignment of functions among its units that the Governor considers necessary for efficient administration;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests leadership and general supervision over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except as to institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees, in an elected State Board of Education;

WHEREAS, 1999 PA 10 removed the elected school board for the Detroit Public School District and replaced the board with an appointed board consisting of six appointees and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

WHEREAS, 1999 PA 10 also created within the Department of Education a School District Accountability Board consisting of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Treasurer, the State Budget Director, and two persons appointed by Governor John M. Engler to review district improvement plans submitted by the appointed school board and monitor any progress being made in achieving goals and benchmarks under the plan;

WHEREAS, under 1999 PA 10, the powers of the School District Accountability Board were limited to a qualifying school district in which an appointed school reform board is in place, such as the board appointed for the Detroit Public School District in 1999;

WHEREAS, the takeover of the Detroit Public School District by an appointed board mandated under 1999 PA 10 was a failure, resulting in a \$198 million deficit during Fiscal Year 2005;

WHEREAS, 2003 PA 303 amended 1990 PA 10 to end the state takeover of the Detroit Public School District, allowing Detroit voters, rather than Lansing lawmakers, to determine the powers of the Detroit School Board and what is best for their schools and their children;

WHEREAS, when given a choice, Detroit voters chose to govern their school district by an elected board in the same manner as other districts throughout this state, and the elected board they selected is now in place;

WHEREAS, return to an elected school board for Detroit Public Schools eliminates the need for a special School District Accountability Board to provide state oversight of an appointed board for the Detroit Public School District;

WHEREAS, the functions of the School District Accountability Board are best vested in elected officials directly accountable to the public;

WHEREAS, it is necessary in the interests of efficient administration and effectiveness of government to change the organization of the executive branch of state government;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, order the following:

I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Order:

A. "Department" means the Department of Education, a principal department of state government created under Section 300 of the Executive Organization Act of 1965, 1965 PA 380, MCL 16.400.

B. "School District Accountability Board" means the board created within the Department under Section 376 of The Revised School Code, MCL 380.376, consisting of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Treasurer, the State Budget Director, and gubernatorial appointees.

C. "State Board of Education" means the elected State Board of Education created under Section 3 of Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

D. "Superintendent of Public Instruction" means the principal executive officer of the Department appointed by the State Board of Education as provided under Section 3 of Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

II. ABOLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD FOR THE DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

A. All of the authority, powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, rule-making authority, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the School District

Accountability Board are transferred to the elected State Board of Education.

B. The School District Accountability Board is abolished.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall immediately initiate coordination to facilitate the implementation of the transfers under this Order.

B. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide executive direction and supervision for the implementation of all transfers to the State Board of Education under this Order. The functions transferred to the State Board of Education under this Order shall be administered under the direction and supervision of the State Board of Education, including, but not limited to, any prescribed functions of rule-making, licensing, registration, and the prescription of rules, regulations, standards, and adjudications.

C. All records, personnel, property, and funds used, held, employed, or to be made available to the School District Accountability Board for the activities transferred to the State Board of Education under this Order are transferred to the State Board of Education.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chairperson of the School District Accountability Board shall develop a memorandum of record identifying any pending settlements, issues of compliance with any applicable state or federal laws or regulations, or other obligations to be resolved by the School District Accountability Board.

E. The State Board of Education shall administer the assigned functions transferred under this Order in such ways as to promote efficient administration and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall make organizational changes within the Department as may be administratively necessary to complete the realignment of responsibilities prescribed by this Order.

F. The State Budget Director shall determine and authorize the most efficient manner possible for handling financial transactions and records in the state's financial management system necessary to implement this Order.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. All rules, orders, contracts, and agreements relating to the functions transferred under this Order lawfully adopted prior to the effective date of this Order shall continue to be effective until revised, amended, repealed, or rescinded.

B. This Order shall not abate any suit, action, or other proceeding lawfully commenced by, against, or before any entity affected under this Order. Any suit, action, or other proceeding may be maintained by, against, or before the appropriate successor of any entity affected under this Order.

C. The invalidity of any portion of this Order shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Order, which may be given effect without any invalid portion. Any portion of this Order found invalid by a court or other entity with proper jurisdiction shall be severable from the remaining portions of this Order.

In fulfillment of the requirements under Section 2 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the provisions of this Order are effective July 15, 2007 at 12:01 a.m.

History: 2007, E.R.O. No. 2007-19, Eff. July 15, 2007.