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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

DANNEL P. MALLOY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11

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

WHEREAS, one in four Connecticut children enters Kindergarten without the knowledge and social skills needed to succeed, which further contributes to the achievement gap;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has spent billions of dollars over the years on early childhood programs, with limited success, because we lack an integrated, comprehensive early childhood system;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to improve the health, development and educational outcomes of Connecticut's children, to reduce the achievement gap and build a highly-skilled workforce;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, through Public Act 11-181, has required the creation of a coordinated system of early care and education and child development by July 1, 2013 and vested the authority to plan such coordinated system in the planning director within the Office of Policy and Management;

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to ensuring that Connecticut's children have access to high-quality care and education;

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 Early Childhood Office within the Office of Policy and Management to plan for and develop a coordinated, comprehensive and aligned system of early care, education and child development.

2. The Office shall:

a. Study and develop recommendations for creating a coordinated system of early care, education and child development, consistent with Public Act 11-181;

b. Convene and coordinate with the Departments of Education, Social Services, Developmental Services, Children and Families, Public Health and the Office of Policy and Management to foster an integrated system of care, education, and child development;

c. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including municipalities and local education agencies; and

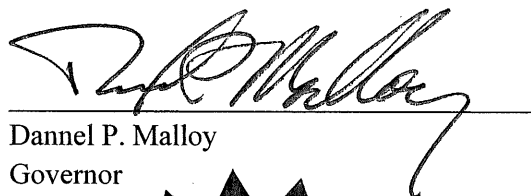
d. As necessary, enter into memoranda of agreement with and accept donations from nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to accomplish the purposes of the Office, in accordance with sections 3-39a and 4-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes and any other provisions relating to the receipt of gifts, contributions, and other income from private sources by state agencies.

3. The Office shall, as necessary, consult with other Executive Branch agencies including, but not limited to, the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Transportation to assist in the execution of its duties. All Executive Branch agencies shall cooperate with the Office as requested and within available appropriations.

4. The Office shall be led by the planning director for the planning and development of the coordinated system of early care and education and child development as established through Public Act 11-181. Within available appropriations and as otherwise authorized by law, the planning director shall employ such other staff as necessary for the performance of the functions and duties of the Office.
5. The Office shall complete its work and forward its recommendations to the Governor no later than July 1, 2013.
6. The planning director shall prepare and furnish such other reports as required by Public Act 11-181 or other law.
7. The Office shall terminate and this Executive Order shall be deemed rescinded on July 1, 2013.
8. Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to contradict or supersede any statute or constitutional provision, and this Order is not intended to suspend, modify or revoke any statutory provision enacted by the General Assembly, including Public Act 11-181.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 17th day of October, 2011.


Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

By His Excellency's Order



Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State

