



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 721

ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA STEM COUNCIL

WHEREAS our Nation has long been a world leader in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (“STEM”);

WHEREAS, over the past decade, Alabama has emerged as a national leader in STEM fields such as aerospace, biotechnology, biomedicine, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing;

WHEREAS these STEM fields—and indeed, over three quarters of Alabama’s in-demand occupations—require sustained, quality STEM education at the secondary and postsecondary levels;

WHEREAS, in recognition of STEM’s importance, I established the Governor’s Advisory Council on Excellence in STEM in October 2018, consisting of 78 STEM leaders and chaired by Dr. Neil Lamb;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2019, this advisory council presented me with a plan to improve STEM education across Alabama and to create a workforce pipeline critical to filling the more than 850,000 STEM-related jobs that will be needed in the State by 2026;

WHEREAS this plan featured 24 recommendations across six priority areas, including one to establish an “Alabama STEM Council” to promote and improve STEM education in Alabama in a systemic, long-term manner;

WHEREAS Representative Terri Collins sponsored House Bill 293 to establish the Alabama STEM Council during the 2020 Regular Legislative Session;

WHEREAS, after achieving unanimous passage by the Alabama House of Representatives on March 5, 2020, House Bill 293 was unable to advance in the Alabama Senate due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in Act Number 2020-169, the Legislature appropriated funds from the Education Trust Fund to a "STEM Council" for use in Fiscal Year 2021 and hopefully will provide further such appropriations in future years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby establish the Alabama STEM Council (the "Council"), effective immediately, as further set forth below:

1. **Purpose and duties.** The Council's purpose shall be to advise the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the State Department of Education on ways to improve STEM-related education, career awareness, and workforce development across the State. Specifically, the Council shall do the following:
 - a. Serve as the primary point of contact for communicating with state and national STEM organizations;
 - b. Revise, as necessary, and, to the maximum extent possible, facilitate implementation of, the state STEM strategic plan, developed by the Governor's Advisory Council on Excellence in STEM;
 - c. Coordinate communication efforts to increase STEM awareness, illustrate the value of STEM learning, and highlight STEM careers, with particular emphasis on reaching under-represented segments of the population;
 - d. Develop and implement a Governor's STEM "seal of approval," using an evidence-based rubric to recognize individual programs or periodic events that advance STEM principles and learning across the State;
 - e. Collaborate with the Office of the Governor to incorporate a STEM Career Exploration and Discovery module into the Alabama College and Career Exploration Tool that allows stakeholders to identify STEM opportunities offered across the State including after-school, out-of-school, and summer programs and professional learning opportunities;

- f. Conduct comprehensive, external evaluations, as requested, of STEM-based curricula and educational initiatives that receive funding from the Education Trust Fund, beginning with the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Initiative and the Alabama Science in Motion program to track the implementation of the initiatives' continuous improvement plans;
- g. Develop assessment rubrics for STEM-based curricula and educational initiatives that incorporate criteria relevant to the goals and intended outcomes of each initiative, including impact on learning, effectiveness of human capital and organization performance, fidelity of implementation, and equitable access;
- h. Develop evidence-based interventions for improving STEM-based curricula and educational initiatives including those defined in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95);
- i. Conduct comprehensive evaluations, as requested, of state pre-service preparation and in-service programs for educators teaching STEM subjects including both traditional and alternate pathways;
- j. Identify evidence-based and effective STEM initiatives, instructional and professional learning strategies, and scale their utilization across Alabama schools, after-school programs, and other educational settings, with particular emphasis on reaching under-represented segments of the population;
- k. Expand opportunities for STEM career exploration and discovery, especially among groups that are under-represented in the STEM professions;
- l. Collaborate with the State Board of Education and two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in the State to develop educational certifications and endorsements related to the STEM fields, as well as incentives for an educator to earn these certifications and endorsements;
- m. Collect and aggregate relevant STEM data to track progress against the state STEM strategic plan, including data from the

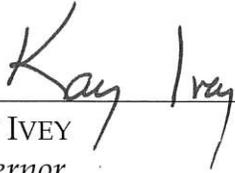
- ATLAS on Career Pathways, STEM labor market information, measures of STEM achievement, and measures of both STEM and STEM career awareness, attitudes, and perceptions from learners across the education and workforce-development continuum;
- n. Provide annual reports on progress towards implementing the state STEM strategic plan to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education and House Ways and Means Education Committees, the State Board of Education, and the State Superintendent of Education; and
 - o. Perform other relevant tasks as requested by the Governor.
2. **Membership.** The members of the Council shall be determined and reimbursed as set forth below.
- a. **Composition.** The Council shall consist of the following persons:
 - i. Two members appointed by the Governor for their expertise in STEM education or workforce development, one of whom the Governor will designate as Chair of the Council;
 - ii. One member appointed by the Governor from each of the State's congressional districts;
 - iii. Additional members appointed by the Governor as representatives of the State's STEM stakeholders, including:
 - A. Representatives of STEM industry sectors that are present across Alabama;
 - B. Representatives of higher education, postsecondary training institutions, and career and technical education; and pre-K, early childhood, elementary, middle, and secondary education; and
 - C. Representatives of after-school, out-of-school, and informal STEM educational organizations; and

- iv. The following public officials or their designees: the State Superintendent of Education; the Secretary of the Department of Early Childhood Education; the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System; the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education; the Secretary of Labor; the Secretary of Commerce; the Chair of the Alabama Workforce Council; the Chair of the Alabama State Workforce Investment Board; and the Chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents.
 - b. **Length of service.** Each Council member appointed by the Governor shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - c. **Reimbursement.** Members of the Council shall serve without compensation but may receive the same per diem and travel allowance paid by law to state officers and employees for each day they are actively engaged in service on the Council as determined by the Council Chair. Such expenses shall be paid using any funds available for use by the Council in the same manner as is provided by law for state officers and employees.
- 3. **Committees.** The Council shall have committees as set forth below.
 - a. **Executive committee.** The Council's business shall be conducted by an executive committee, which shall consist of the individuals identified in paragraphs 2.a.i and 2.a.ii of this order and which shall be led by the Council Chair. The executive committee may launch initiatives, make final recommendations, and take any other action in furtherance of the Council's purpose and duties, consulting with the other members of the Council as it deems appropriate.
 - b. **Other committees.** The Council Chair may form other committees to address issues concerning the Council's purpose and duties. For each committee, the Council Chair shall designate a committee chair (who must be a member of the Council), its members (who may, but need not, be members of the Council), and its duties.

4. **Meetings.** The Council and its committees shall conduct meetings as set forth below.
 - a. **Initial meeting.** The Council shall hold an initial organizational meeting within 90 days after the issuance of this order.
 - b. **Regular meetings.** Regular meetings of the Council shall be held at least twice a year and otherwise from time to time at the call of the Council Chair. Committee meetings shall be held at the call of the Council Chair or of the committee chair.
 - c. **Public notice.** Meetings of the Council and its committees shall be appropriately publicized and open to the public in compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.
5. **Support.** The Council may receive support in furtherance of its purpose and duties as set forth below.
 - a. **Administrative support.** Administrative and clerical support shall be provided by an employee of the Department of Commerce, whom the Secretary of Commerce shall designate as the Executive Director of the Council on the advice and consent of the executive committee. In supervising the Executive Director, the Secretary of Commerce shall consult with the executive committee.
 - b. **Outside expertise.** On behalf of the Council, the Department of Commerce may retain the services of outside experts using any funds available for use by the Council.
6. **State-agency cooperation.** State agencies and other state-funded entities shall cooperate with the Council and provide information to the Council as requested.

DONE AND ORDERED this 21st day of September 2020.





KAY IVEY
Governor

ATTESTED



JOHN H. MERRILL
Secretary of State