



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2008-05S

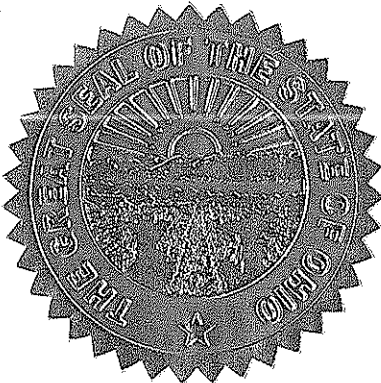
Making Ohio More Competitive in the Global Economy by Consolidating and Transitioning Ohio's Workforce Development Programs

- 1. Workforce Development is an Essential Element of Ohio's Long-Term Economic Strategy.** The knowledge and skills of Ohio's workforce are fundamental to Ohio's ability to compete successfully in a global economy. The State's workforce development programs enhance the quality of Ohio's workforce by helping Ohioans maximize employment opportunities and by facilitating employers' access to skilled workers. Still, the State must make continuous improvements to programs that work to align training and skills development with the workforce needs of Ohio's businesses and that match skilled workers with jobs.
- 2. Currently, the Skill-Set of Ohio's Workforce Is Not Consistent With the Needs of the State's Employers.** Because of the changing nature of work responsibilities, the shifting economy, and continuing technological advancements, the skills of Ohio's workforce often do not match the current demands of the State's employers. As a result of the demand for employees with enhanced skills and advanced educational and training experiences, many jobs go unfilled while, at the same time, many Ohioans remain unemployed.
- 3. The State's Workforce Development System Can Be Enhanced Through Collaborative Partnerships with Its Stakeholders.** The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR), and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) each play a significant role in the State's workforce development efforts. These agencies are committed to collaborating with their stakeholders (business, colleges and universities, and Ohioans in pursuit of gainful employment) to create a workforce development strategy that meets, and when possible exceeds,

business needs for customized, flexible and industry-driven skills training. This objective can be accomplished by ensuring that employees have access to educational and training opportunities, by developing ongoing relationships with employers so that they become satisfied business customers, by expanding the universe of workforce development programs and services available to meet the needs of employers and employees, and by the State providing maximum focus on the efforts to develop talent. As a result of this collaboration, agencies with workforce development programs will be better able to serve the workforce needs of their primary customers and maximize the benefit of their particular area of workforce development expertise.

4. **Consolidation and Transition of Workforce Development Programs.** In order for the State to bolster its position in the global economy, it must maximize the operational efficiency and effectiveness of its workforce development system, provide access for potential and incumbent workers to world-class training and education that is flexible and affordable, and enhance its partnership with employers doing business in Ohio through the creation of a more skillful and educated workforce. In order to effectuate these important goals, I hereby order the following to occur by no later than July 1, 2008:
 - a. ODOD, OBOR, and ODJFS will continue to share responsibilities for the administration of the workforce development system. Those responsibilities, however, will be allocated so that each agency will oversee that portion of the system which it is best equipped to handle. To that end:
 - i. ODOD, which routinely works with businesses, will be responsible for workforce development relating to businesses
 - ii. OBOR, which coordinates activities among Ohio's colleges and universities, will be responsible for workforce development relating to skill development and job training
 - iii. ODJFS, which coordinates a variety of services for individual Ohioans, will be responsible for workforce development that assists Ohioans in competing in the State's evolving job market
 - b. ODJFS will transfer authority over, and responsibility for, the following workforce development programs to ODOD:

- i. Strategic policy for employer-focused programs supported with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) discretionary funding and administration of lay-off aversion and incumbent worker services,
 - ii. One-Stop business support services, and
 - iii. Business services which facilitate the efforts of employers to expand in or relocate to Ohio (known as Wagner-Peyser business services)
- c. OBOR will transfer authority over, and responsibility for, the targeted-industries training grants programs to ODOD, and
- d. ODJFS will transfer authority over, and responsibility for, the Ohio Skills Bank program to OBOR
5. **Logistics Associated with Transferring Workforce Development Responsibilities.** In addition to the transfer of the foregoing workforce development programs and responsibilities, I also hereby order the Chancellor of OBOR and the directors of ODOD and ODJFS to work collaboratively in an effort to ensure that the appropriate funding levels and staff are maintained when these programs are transitioned and that there is no gap in services to Ohioans and the business community. These objectives may be achieved through means including, but not limited to, interagency agreements.
6. I signed this Executive Order on March 27, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio and it will remain in effect until it is rescinded.



Ted Strickland
Ted Strickland, Governor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State