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STATE DOCUMENTS
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

COLUMBIA

March 31
Equalization
of Educational
Finance

EXECUTIVE ORDER

75-6.5

WHEREAS, public education is a state responsibility and consequently each child is an educational ward of the State and is entitled to an educational opportunity comparable to the educational opportunities provided other children in the State; and

WHEREAS, equal educational opportunity for all is essential for the economic, social and political health of the State; and

WHEREAS, the State has delegated a part of the responsibility for the education of its children and youth along with a share of the financing burden to local school districts; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the financial burden between taxpayers within school districts and between school districts of the State be made fair and equitable; and

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence that substantial numbers of children and youth are not receiving the quality of educational opportunities their counterparts in other districts or sections of the State are receiving; and

WHEREAS, the tax burden is not being equitably shared by taxpayers in different school districts or between taxpayers who own property of different classifications within and between districts; and

WHEREAS, all dollars being spent on public education throughout the State apparently are not producing the greatest possible returns in quality educational experiences; and


WHEREAS, there is great need for an improved financing plan in South Carolina as evidenced by unfulfilled educational needs, continuously greater difficulty in meeting school budget requirements in some school districts, the apparent approaching time when other agencies, as the courts in other States have done, will step in and mandate different financing plans or even dictate the specific plan to be followed,

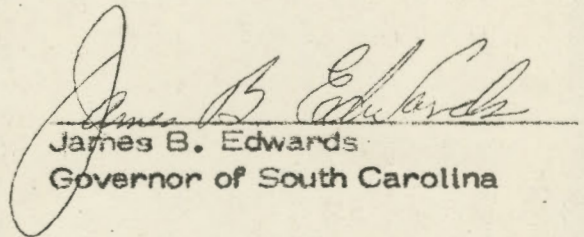
NOW, THEREFORE, by the virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and laws of this State, I hereby establish a committee for Equalization of Educational Finance, to study the financing of public education in South Carolina comprehensively and intricately and charge it to devise and recommend a plan of financing education that will substantially equalize educational opportunities for all children and youth throughout the State and, as a part of this plan distribute the tax burden equitably among all property


owners in support of this plan.

I further establish a broadly based advisory committee of sponsors to advise and assist this committee and to disseminate the information that will be gathered to implement such a plan to equalize education finance and opportunities for all the children of this State.

Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of
South Carolina, at Columbia,
South Carolina, this 31st
day of




James B. Edwards
Governor of South Carolina


O. Frank Thornton
Secretary of State