

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING
THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON LITERACY**

WHEREAS, an estimated four of every ten adults in Illinois lack the basic literacy skills to function in today's workplace;

WHEREAS, literacy skills are essential to assure quality of life, educational achievement and workforce opportunities;

WHEREAS, parents need good reading skills to help them help their children succeed in school;

WHEREAS, there is a series of Illinois literacy initiatives in state education agencies and other state and local governments which will be strengthened through more collaboration and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, while Illinois businesses, community based organizations, libraries and schools have made inroads in reducing illiteracy in Illinois there is still work to be accomplished towards our goal;

THEREFORE, I, George Ryan, order the following:

1. There shall be established the Governor's Office on Literacy to be headed by a statewide literacy coordinator.
2. The office will have responsibility for the coordination of literacy programs among the various state agencies and offices in order to maximize state and federal resources committed to reducing illiteracy in Illinois; to minimize duplication of effort; and to enhance literacy efforts at both the state and local level.
3. The Governor's Office on Literacy will be assisted by a Governor's Advisory Council on Literacy to be appointed by the Governor and not to exceed 20 members. Members will be representative of, but not limited to, education, libraries, community based organizations, literacy providers, researchers, business, state government and the public. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses.
4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor

May 27, 1999