

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2-25

By the Governor

WHEREAS, “education” is “a fundamental, constitutional right in this State,” *State v. Beaver*, 248 W. Va. 177, 196, 887 S.E.2d 610, 629 (2022); and

WHEREAS, the Hope Scholarship Act, W. Va. Acts 2021, c. 99 (June 15, 2021) created the most expansive school choice program in the country; and

WHEREAS, that program has empowered thousands of West Virginian families to make educational choices that best suited their children’s needs; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia upheld the Hope Scholarship Program as constitutional in *State v. Beaver*, 248 W. Va. 177, 887 S.E.2d 610 (2022); and

WHEREAS, around the same time, the West Virginia Legislature also established and expanded the process for creating public charter schools, W. Va. Acts 2021 c., 98 (June 1, 2021)—giving West Virginia’s families yet another choice in pursuing and achieving their children’s educational goals; and

WHEREAS, the lives of thousands of school children in West Virginia have been enriched by these significant school choice options; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that West Virginia’s families have the broadest freedoms to choose programs and schools that maximize their children’s potential; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the State school systems—through further development and expansion of school choice options—will promote and facilitate the high-quality education West Virginians desire for their children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **DIRECT** and **ORDER** that:

1. The Office of the Governor shall:

- a. Collaborate with legislative leaders to ensure that West Virginia has the broadest and most effective school choice laws in the nation; and
- b. Dedicate any necessary resources to ensure that the school choice programs established in West Virginia succeed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Fourteenth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five in the One Hundred Sixty-Second Year of the State.



Patrick Morley

GOVERNOR

Krist Warner

SECRETARY OF STATE