

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

**Advisory Council For
Exceptional Citizens**

MISSION

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) mission is to serve as the advisory panel to those agencies providing educational services/programs for children (birth through 21) and those agencies providing services for adults with disabilities in Delaware. GACEC serves as the review board for policies, procedures and practices related to delivery of all services for the Delaware exceptional citizen. GACEC's primary function is advisory, with an advocacy by-product when necessary to achieve its mission.

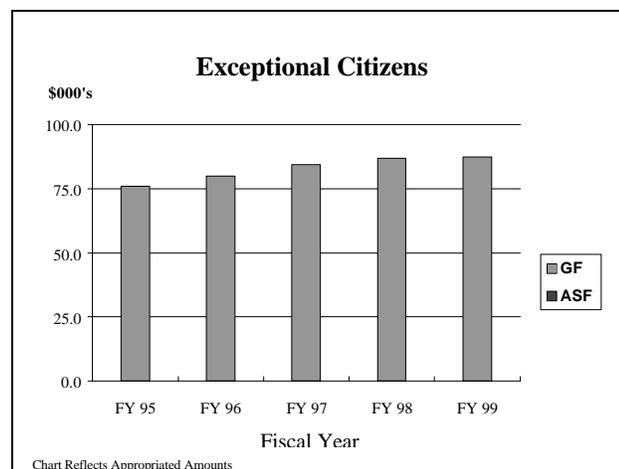
KEY OBJECTIVES

To achieve the mandate of providing recommendations for those agencies providing services for exceptional citizens, Council members must have the knowledge and information attained through a variety of means such as program visits, review of public reports, attendance at public meetings and research.

FY 1999 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend enhancement of \$.2 for electronic mail system services.



BUDGET

	FY 1997 ACTUAL	FY 1998 BUDGET	FY 1999 GOV. REC.
GF	81.3	86.4	87.4
ASF	2.5		
TOTAL	83.8	86.4	87.4

POSITIONS

	FY 1997 ACTUAL	FY 1998 BUDGET	FY 1999 GOV. REC.
GF	2.0	2.0	2.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	2.0	2.0	2.0

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At the state level, the GACEC has served since 1972 as the Advisory Council for Exceptional Children with a primary mandate to advise the State Board of Education in reference to the education of children with special needs, including those with outstanding talents. Delaware Senate Bill 353, passed in 1977, constituted Council as the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and expanded its responsibilities to cover a broad range of human service needs (including education) for all citizens.

GACEC has served as the State Advisory Panel for Special Education since the initial passage of the federal Education of the Handicapped Act in 1974 (EHA). GACEC continues to serve in this capacity under mandates delineated in the current Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), formerly referred to as EHA, and its amendments.

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ACTIVITIES

- Fourth Annual Planning Retreat
 - GACEC committee goals were established at the retreat as a direct result of the collaborative interaction between committee members and

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agency representatives. These goals promote the continuation of quality, family-focused services and programs for children and adults with disabilities in Delaware.

- Policy/Procedure Involvement
 - Reviewed DOE's 1997 Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Report; also served on CSPD Statewide Committee (1996-97).
 - Participated in the Exceptional Children Division, DOE, Comprehensive Compliance Monitoring System (CCMS) visits to seven individual school districts.
 - Currently participating in the Accountability Advisory Committee. This group is working on Education Reform in Delaware. This task force is directly responsible to the Secretary of Education.
 - Currently participating in the IDEA Implementation Planning Group. This planning is in anticipation of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visit to the Department of Education.
 - GACEC reviewed, commented upon and took action in reference to 40 pieces of proposed state legislation.