

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

**Advisory Council For
Exceptional Citizens**

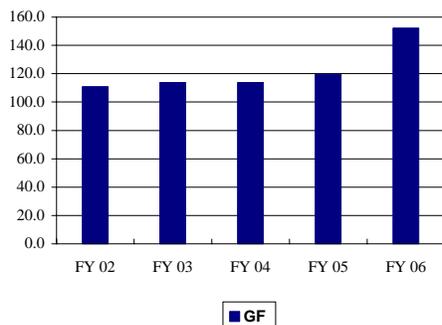
MISSION

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 age 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 the delivery of services for all citizens with exceptionalities in Delaware. GACEC's primary function is advisory, with an advocacy byproduct when necessary to achieve its mission.

KEY OBJECTIVES

In order to fulfill GACEC's advisory function, members must request and pursue information through various means such as program visits, review of public reports, attendance at public meetings and research.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 BUDGET	FY 2007 GOV. REC.
GF	115.0	152.1	161.8
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	115.0	152.1	161.8

POSITIONS

	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 BUDGET	FY 2007 GOV. REC.
GF	2.0	3.0	3.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	2.0	3.0	3.0

FY 2007 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend one-time funding of \$3.5 in the Office of Management and Budget's contingency to purchase computers and office furniture.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

GACEC has served as the advisory panel for Special Education since the initial passage in 1974 of the federal special education statute, Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA). GACEC continues to serve in this capacity under the reauthorized law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and its amendments.

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ACTIVITIES

- Established GACEC council and committee goals at the retreat as a direct result of the interaction between committee members. Each committees' goals and activities were designed to promote comprehensive, high-quality, family-focused services and programs for children and adults with disabilities in Delaware. At the retreat, Council heard from a panel of persons with disabilities on transition issues, the availability of services and unmet service needs.

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- Reviewed, commented on and took action in reference to 28 pieces of proposed state legislation and 57 pieces of proposed regulations.
- GACEC continues to participate in the DOE State Improvement Plan (SIP).

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Budget	FY 2007 Gov. Rec.
# of letters on legislation written per year to elected officials	1,428	1,440	1,450
# of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members	32	34	36
# of individuals reached via GACEC presentations or co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops by members and staff	1,546	1,560	1,600
# of times GACEC website accessed annually	5,646	6,000	7,000