

# ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

## Advisory Council For Exceptional Citizens

### MISSION

The mission of the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) is to serve as the review board for policies, procedures and practices related to the delivery of services for all citizens with exceptionalities/disabilities in Delaware. GACEC also serves as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) advisory panel to agencies providing educational services/programs for children (birth through age 26) in Delaware. GACEC's primary function is advisory, with an advocacy byproduct when necessary to achieve its mission.

### KEY OBJECTIVES

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

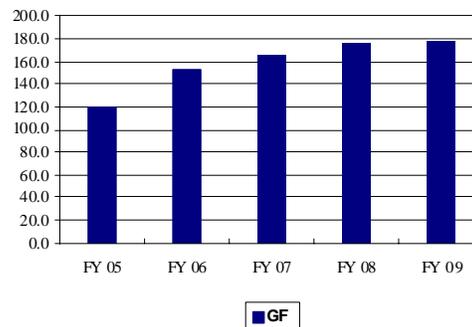
### BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 on 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 for Exceptional Citizens 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. GACEC continues to serve in this capacity under the reauthorized law, IDEA, and its amendments.

The GACEC has reviewed, commented on and taken action in reference to 33 pieces of proposed state legislation and 71 proposed regulations or policy drafts impacting individuals with disabilities.

### Five-Year Appropriation History



### FUNDING

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	181.6	178.8	175.0
ASF	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>181.6</b>	<b>178.8</b>	<b>175.0</b>

### POSITIONS

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	3.0	3.0	3.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>

## FY 2010 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

### OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend (\$1.0) in Strategic Reduction/Investment Target to identify additional expenditure reductions and/or revenue enhancements necessary due to deteriorating economic conditions.
- ◆ Recommend (\$3.0) in Travel to reflect a reduction in operating expenditures.

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### ACTIVITIES

- Establish goals and activities to promote comprehensive, high-quality, family-focused services and programs for children and adults with disabilities in Delaware.
- Provide recommendations to the Department of Education for inclusion with legislative recommendations.
- Review the Department of Education's plan to codify the needs-based funding system for special education students.
- Participate on other councils, boards or committees to provide input on issues relating to services for persons with disabilities or educational services for students with exceptionalities.
- Educate the general public and disability community regarding disability issues and the need for services.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<b>FY 2008 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2009 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2010 Gov. Rec.</b>
# of letters on legislation written per year to elected officials	3,466	3,475	3,500
# of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members	45	47	49
# of individuals reached via GACEC presentations or co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops by members and staff	1,690	1,600	1,550