

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

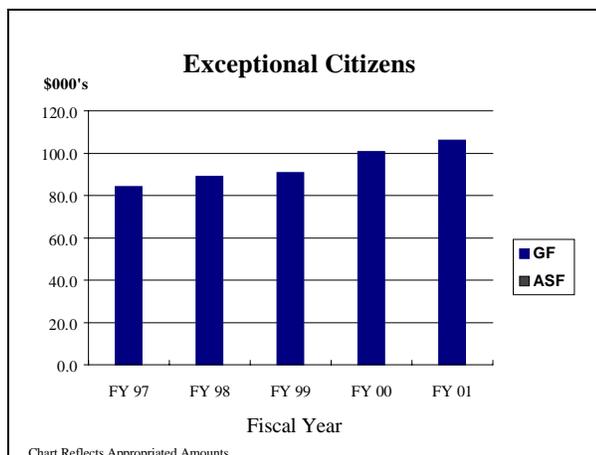
**Advisory Council For
Exceptional Citizens**

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 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

In order to fulfill Council'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.



BUDGET

	FY 1999 ACTUAL	FY 2000 BUDGET	FY 2001 GOV. REC.
GF	91.0	100.9	106.1
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	91.0	100.9	106.1

POSITIONS

	FY 1999 ACTUAL	FY 2000 BUDGET	FY 2001 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 the primary mandate to advise the State Board and Department of Education in all issues related 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 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

- Seventh Annual Planning Retreat
 - GACEC committee goals were established at the retreat as a direct result of the interaction between committee members. Each committee's goals and activities were designed to promote comprehensive, high quality, family-focused services and programs for children and adults with disabilities in Delaware.
- GACEC reviewed, commented on and took action in reference to 52 pieces of proposed state legislation.

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- GACEC participated in the Comprehensive Compliance Monitoring System (CCMS) visits to six individual school districts by the Exceptional Children Division of the Department of Education.
- GACEC commented extensively on the State's Accountability Plan to the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education. In addition, GACEC has continued to monitor the plan's implementation and to provide comments as needed.