

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

**Advisory Council For
Exceptional Citizens**

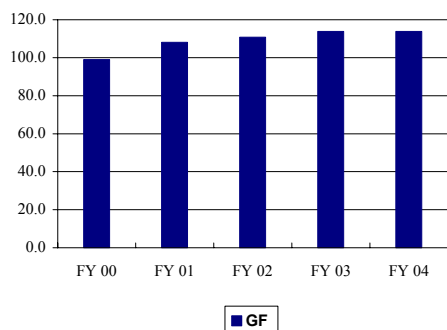
MISSION

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 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 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 BUDGET	FY 2005 GOV. REC.
GF	104.2	113.7	116.7
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	104.2	113.7	116.7

POSITIONS

	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 BUDGET	FY 2005 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 of Education 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 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

- Tenth Annual Planning Retreat: GACEC council and committee goals were established 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.
- GACEC reviewed, commented on and took action in reference to 33 pieces of proposed state legislation and 45 pieces of proposed regulations.
- GACEC continues to participate in the Department of Education (DOE) State Improvement Plan (SIP).
- GACEC commented extensively on Delaware's Continuous Improvement Self Assessment to the Department 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.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Budget	FY 2005 Gov. Rec.
# of letters on state legislation per year to state elected officials.*	2,046	2,046	2,035
# of personal contacts with key legislators and executive branch personnel related to proposed legislation	12	15	18
# of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members	24	26	28
# of individuals reached via GACEC presentations or co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops on education and disability related issues, by members and staff	1,383	1,400	1,450
# of times GACEC website homepage accessed annually	10,549	11,500	12,500

* # of informational mailings decreasing in order to allow for more personal forms of communication such as visits or phone calls.