

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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) advisory panel to agencies providing educational services/programs for children (birth through age 21) and agencies providing services for adults with disabilities in Delaware. The 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

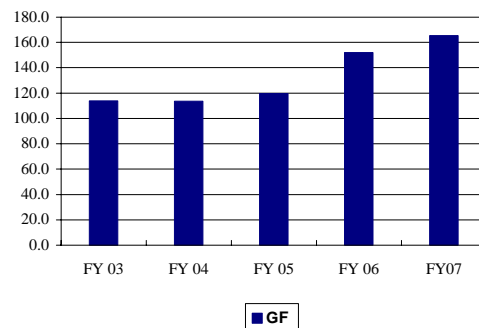
In order to fulfill the GACEC's advisory function, members must request and pursue information through various means such as program visits, review of public reports, analysis of regulations and legislation, attendance at public meetings and research.

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.

The 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.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	145.8	165.3	176.6
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	145.8	165.3	176.6

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	3.0	3.0	3.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	3.0	3.0	3.0

FY 2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend one-time funding of \$1.5 in the Office of Management and Budget's contingency for equipment and supplies.

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ACTIVITIES

- Review and comment on legislation, regulations and policy changes to public education, including

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charter schools, impacting individuals with disabilities.

- 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 services.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
# of letters on legislation written per year to elected officials	2,106	2,000	2,050
# of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members	36	40	42
# of individuals reached via GACEC presentations or co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops by members and staff	1,922	1,800	1,850
# of times the GACEC website accessed annually	4,550	4,700	4,750