**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 residents with exceptionalities/disabilities in Delaware. GACEC also serves as an advisory panel for agencies providing educational services/programs to children (birth through age 26) in Delaware through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). GACEC’s primary function is to advise and advocate as necessary in order to achieve its mission.

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

- Analyze state regulations and legislation.
- Participate in public meetings.
- Review of public reports.
- Participate in program visits.
- Coordinate on various research projects.

**BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since 1972, GACEC has served as the State’s advisory council for exceptional children. The agency advises the State Board of Education and the Department of Education (DOE) on all issues related to the education of children with special needs, including those with outstanding talents and gifts. Pursuant to Delaware Senate Bill 353, passed in 1977, the Advisory Council for Exceptional Children was renamed the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens, and its responsibilities were expanded to cover a broad range of human service needs for all residents 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.

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**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS**

**77-01-01**

**ACTIVITIES**

- Establish goals and activities to promote comprehensive, high-quality, family-focused services and programs for children and adults with disabilities in Delaware.
- Continue to provide input to DOE on the needs-based funding system reporting requirements for special education students.
- Participate with councils, boards or committees to provide input on issues relating to services for persons with disabilities or educational services for those with exceptionalities.
- Educate the disability community and the general public regarding disability issues and the need for services.
- Review state and federal regulations and legislation.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of letters on legislation and regulations written to elected officials and agencies</td>
<td>3,116</td>
<td>3,100</td>
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<td># of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td># of individuals reached via GACEC presentations, co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops by members and staff</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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