

# 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 residents with exceptionalities or disabilities in Delaware. GACEC also serves as an advisory panel for agencies providing educational services and 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 public reports.
- Participate in program visits.
- Coordinate various research projects.

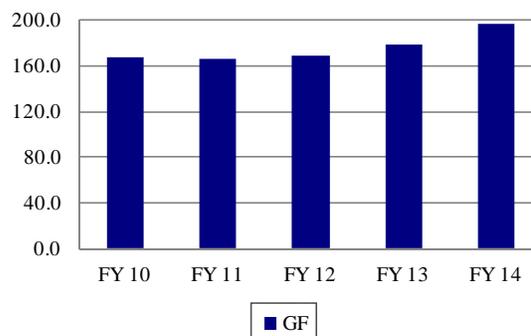
### BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 by the 129th General Assembly 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.

In Fiscal Year 2013, GACEC actively participated in the development and passage of legislation impacting the overall development, education and general welfare of children and adults with disabilities. This included participating in the State Transition Taskforce for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs, which was created as a result of Senate Concurrent Resolution 34 passed by the 146th General Assembly. In addition, GACEC expanded the Kids on the Block disability awareness puppet program into the Disability Education Awareness Program to meet the increased demand for awareness in schools and other child-centered settings.

### Five-Year Appropriation History



### FUNDING

|              | FY 2013<br>ACTUAL | FY 2014<br>BUDGET | FY 2015<br>GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF           | 191.8             | 196.8             | 198.7                |
| ASF          | --                | --                | --                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>191.8</b>      | <b>196.8</b>      | <b>198.7</b>         |

### POSITIONS

|              | FY 2013<br>ACTUAL | FY 2014<br>BUDGET | FY 2015<br>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>           |

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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.
- Continue to provide input to DOE on the needs-based funding system reporting requirements for special education students.
- Educate the disability community and the general public regarding disability issues and the need for services.
- Review state and federal regulations and legislation.
- 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.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

|  | FY 2013<br>Actual | FY 2014<br>Budget | FY 2015<br>Gov. Rec. |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| # of letters on legislation and regulations written to elected officials and agencies  | 2,580             | 2,600             | 2,600                |
| # of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members   | 53                | 60                | 60                   |
| # of individuals reached via GACEC presentations, co-sponsorship of conferences, press releases and workshops by members and staff | 32,500            | 33,000            | 33,000               |