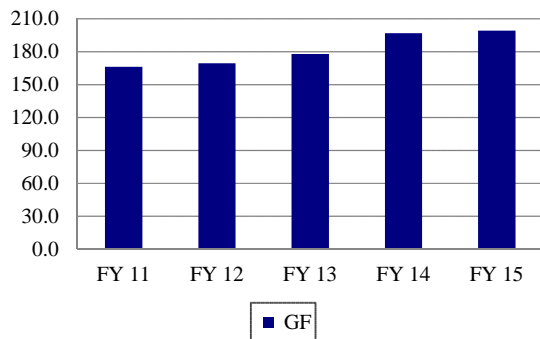


# ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

## Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens

### Five-Year Appropriation History



### FUNDING

	FY 2014 ACTUAL	FY 2015 BUDGET	FY 2016 GOV. REC.
GF	197.6	199.1	244.6
ASF	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>199.1</b>	<b>244.6</b>

### POSITIONS

	FY 2014 ACTUAL	FY 2015 BUDGET	FY 2016 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>

### 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 2014, 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 ongoing participation 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. GACEC continued to work on the recommendations of the State Transition Taskforce Report, including the creation of the DelAWARE DisABILITY Hub transition website. GACEC also continued the work of the Disability Education Awareness Program to meet the demand for awareness and acceptance in schools and other child-centered settings.

# ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

77-00-00

## 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.
- Provide input to DOE on the needs-based funding system reporting requirements for special education students.
- Provide input to DOE on implementation of Senate Bill 229 passed by the 147th General Assembly on developing an alternate assessment for students with severe cognitive disabilities.
- Promote Disability History and Awareness Month in October as established by House Bill 123 passed by the 146th General Assembly.
- 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.
- Review state and federal regulations and legislation.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Budget	FY 2016 Gov. Rec.
# of letters on legislation and regulations written to elected officials and agencies	2,133	2,200	2,200
# of boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members	83	80	80
# of individuals reached via GACEC presentations, co-sponsorship of conferences, press releases and workshops by members and staff	33,100	37,430	38,000