



## GACEC COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2009-2010

1. *Outcomes for students with exceptionalities will be improved by monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Annual Performance Report (APR), State Professional Development Grant (SPDG), No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as the NCLB pertains to students with exceptionalities and review of the Department of Education (DOE) Special Education Regulations (formerly known as the Administrative Manual for Special Education Services-AMSES).*

Activities for this year could include:

- a. Review and comment on APR, SPDG, NCLB, DOE Special Education Regulations and the Correctional Education System Report. **(Full Council)**
- b. Review data and develop a baseline to determine Council impact on goals relevant to citizens with exceptionalities. **(Full Council)**
- c. Monitor, review and comment on Early Childhood elements of the DOE Annual Performance Report (APR), including transition, disproportionality and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). **(Full Council)**
- d. Review and comment on DOE monitoring results to promote program quality. **(Full Council)**
- e. Advocate for DOE enforcement of district compliance with State and Federal requirements. **(Full Council)**

2. *The delivery of special education and related services in the least restrictive and natural environments will be improved by removing funding barriers.*

Activities for this year could include:

- Review and comment on proposed code changes on needs-based funding programs across the State. **(Full Council)**
- Review and comment on Medicaid funding, programs and system for processing requests for individuals with special needs. **(Full Council)**
- Review and comment on proposed Department of Education regulatory changes. **(Full Council)**
- Advocate for adequate funding structure for qualified educational interpreters. **(Full Council)**
- Monitor and request reports on the expenditure of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds in education at the State and District level. **(Full Council)**

**3. *Programs and services for citizens with exceptionalities will be improved by reviewing and advocating for funding, policies, procedures and best practices that positively impact and empower citizens with exceptionalities.***

Activities for this year could include:

- a. Identify, review and comment on memoranda of understanding, inter-agency agreements, legislation and regulations. (Full Council and Policy and Law committee)
- b. Advocate for statewide driver education for people who are cognitively and/or physically challenged and advocate for timely, reliable and quality transportation services for citizens with disabilities. (Adult Transition Services committee)
- c. Advocate for DOE Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), autism spectrum disorders and deaf and hard of hearing training and materials for teachers and specialists. (Policy and Law, Children and Youth)
- d. Monitor regulation implementation of minimum standard qualifications for educational interpreters. (Policy and Law)
- e. Advocate for adequate direct service personnel and increased related service personnel, including speech language therapists, Masters level mental health providers, educational interpreters and mandatory Masters level social workers. (Children and Youth, Infant/Early Childhood)
- f. Advocate for increased training, goal setting and person centered employment opportunities for citizens with exceptionalities. (Adult Transition Services)
- g. Monitor implementation and progress of the Response to Intervention (RTI) initiative. (Children and Youth)
- h. Review Medicaid funding, programs and system for providing services for all Delawareans with exceptionalities with a focus on early childhood. (Infant/Early Childhood)
- i. Advocate for improvements in the provision of medical, dental, social and other health services for persons over the age of 18 who are transitioning into adult services. (Adult Transition Services)
- j. Advocate for the removal of barriers to access in public areas. Advocate for notice of access in public areas, to include recreational areas. (Adult Transition Services)
- k. Increase awareness of effective programs which provide services and information for parents of individuals with special needs. (Infant/Early Childhood)
- l. Advocate for adequate professional staff training and development related to the delivery of services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Natural Environments. (Children and Youth, Infant/Early Childhood)
- m. Monitor district use of assistive technology devices and professional development. (Children and Youth)
- n. Advocate for programs that offer increased necessary life skills/tools that will enable all individuals with disabilities to live independently and become active citizens in their community. (Adult Transition Services, Children and Youth)
- o. Monitor and advocate for increased and appropriate early transition process in all school systems. (Infant/Early Childhood, Children and Youth)
- p. Advocate for the needs of the gifted and talented and begin compiling data on this population. (Children and Youth)

***4. The GACEC will impact legislators, agencies, councils and other entities through more effective communication strategies.***

Activities for this year could include:

- a. Continue current modes of communication (letters, outside committee involvement, etc.). (Full Council)
- b. Encourage each Council member to contact at least one legislator during the year on a Council concern. (Full Council)
- c. Provide training for GACEC members on how to discuss issues with state legislators and on the GACEC Code of Ethics. (Full Council)
- d. Increase partnerships with other agencies and councils, such as Vision 2015, that are involved in promoting rights and quality of life for individuals with disabilities. (Full Council)
- e. Encourage diversity of participants in GACEC meetings, membership and activities. (Full Council)
- f. Encourage collaborative efforts between committees, particularly in working with the Policy and Law committee on issues of particular interest to individual committees. (Full Council)

***5. Delaware Department of Education standards-based reform and accountability efforts will be supported through review and advocacy for the inclusion of students with exceptionalities in all programs and initiatives.***

Activities for this year could include:

- a. Continue to review and comment on any changes to statewide accountability system as it relates to children with exceptionalities. (Full Council)