



GACEC COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2013-2014

GOAL 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), Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver, Race to the Top (RTTT) for Early Childhood, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as the NCLB pertains to students with exceptionalities and review of the Department of Education (DOE) Special Education Regulations.

Activities for this year include:

1. Ensure compliance of IDEA and RTTT by monitoring and reporting on results of:
 - Annual Performance Report
 - State Professional Development Grant
 - No Child Left Behind
 - DOE Special Education Regulations
 - Doe Focused Monitoring reports for all districts and charter schools, including Needs Based Funding Verification
 - ESEA Flexibility Waiver
 - Early Childhood RTTT
 - Overall DOE enforcement and district compliance of State and Federal requirements.
2. Work with DOE when a district non-compliance issue arises until it is resolved.
3. Advocate for professional development for teachers, paraprofessionals and specialists in area of students with exceptionalities.
4. Advocate for service personnel at the appropriate levels with the appropriate qualifications.
5. Monitor and facilitate implementation of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program.

GOAL 2: Programs and services for students with exceptionalities will be improved by monitoring and advocating for the delivery of evidence-based special education and related services in the least restrictive and natural environments.

Activities for this year could include:

1. Review and comment on Medicaid funding, including programs and system for processing requests for all individuals with special needs. Comments will be sent to DMMA and Medicaid Representatives.
2. Review and comment on proposed Department of Education regulatory changes. Comments will be sent to DOE, State Board of Education and Professional Standards Board for discussion at the State Board of Education meetings.

3. Advocate in order to ensure that educational services and materials, particularly accessible instructional materials (AIM), will be available in all settings.
4. Foster collaboration among agencies that address special education in the State of Delaware.
5. Review and comment on proposed charter school regulations and the development of the charter school framework.
6. Review educational programs in the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCY&F) for compliance with FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education).
7. Research and advocate for appropriate physical education services for students with exceptionalities.
8. Advocate for participation of students with exceptionalities in school sponsored athletic teams and activities.
9. Facilitate the development and implementation of student-oriented regulations on the use of restraints and seclusion as mandated by Senate Bill 100.
10. Provide commentary on school discipline regulations and collaborate with the Department of Education on improving Annual Performance Report Indicators relating to discipline.

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

Activities for this year could include:

1. Identify, review and provide comments on memoranda of understanding, inter-agency agreements, legislation and regulations. Send comments to the lead agency in the memoranda with copies to the other agencies involved.
2. Promote implementation and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. Advocate for increased and appropriate transition services statewide in accordance with the recommendations of the State Transition Task Force for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs developed by Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 34.
4. Advocate and promote partnerships working toward the development and implementation of a transition website as recommended by the report from the State Transition Task Force for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs.
5. In implementation of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 31, facilitate completion of a report to policymakers by June 25, 2014 with recommendations for development of a resource website for use by families of children with exceptionalities from birth through age 13.
6. Advocate for programs that enable individuals with exceptionalities to live independently and become active citizens in their community.
7. Foster partnerships with other agencies and councils to promote rights and quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities.
8. Review and comment on prison education system and adult educational services.
9. Advocate for and promote the expansion of the Disability Education and Awareness Program/Kids on the Block Puppet Programs throughout all schools, childcare facilities and community settings in Delaware.
10. Monitor and support the inclusion of students with disabilities in the Delaware Stars rating system.

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

Activities for this year could include:

1. Continue current modes of communication (letters, outside committee involvement, etc.).

2. Provide training for GACEC members on how to discuss issues with state legislators and on the GACEC Code of Ethics.
3. Increase partnerships with other agencies and councils that are involved in promoting rights and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.
4. Encourage diversity of participants in GACEC meetings, membership and activities.
5. Encourage collaborative efforts among committees, particularly in working with the Policy and Law Committee, on issues of overlapping interest to individual committees.
6. Encourage Council members to contact their legislators each year to introduce themselves and the GACEC and report back to the Council.

GOAL 5: Delaware Department of Education standards-based reform and accountability efforts will be reviewed in order to provide advice and advocacy for the inclusion of students with exceptionalities in all programs and initiatives.

Activities for this year could include:

1. Review and comment on any changes to statewide services and the educational accountability system in relation to the needs of children with exceptionalities.
2. Participate on Department of Education committees and workgroups in order to provide input on issues impacting students with exceptionalities.