



**Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)**  
**516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904**  
**302-739-4553 (voice) 302-739-6126 (fax) <http://www.gacec.delaware.gov>**

February 25, 2021

Department of Education  
Office of the Secretary  
Attn: Regulation Review  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: 24 DE Reg. 753/14 DE Admin. Code 1203 [DOE Proposed Scholarship Incentive Program Regulation (February 1, 2021)]**

Dear Secretary Bunting:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) proposal to amend this section in cooperation with the Delaware Higher Education Office (DHEO). The proposed amendment would update the definition of academic merit to align with federal standards for receiving financial aid at a college or university. It also updates the application process. Council **supports** the proposed amendments but would like to share the following recommendation.

Proposed section 3.2.2 establishes the new application process for the Scholarship Incentive Program, pursuant to 14 Del. C. §3411. Specifically, it eliminates the submission of paper applications by mail, fax, or email. Online applications would be completed through the DHEO Student Account website. Council would like to recommend that the DDOE consider alternative submission options for persons with disabilities who may be unable to use technology and individuals who may not have access to the internet.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments with you. Please contact Wendy Strauss or me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Ann C Fisher*

Ann C. Fisher  
Chairperson

ACF: kpc

CC: Whitney Sweeney, State Board of Education  
Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Department of Education  
Emily Cunningham, Department of Education  
Linnea Bradshaw, Professional Standards Board  
Jenna Ahner, State Board of Education  
Rae Mims, Esq.  
Darryl A. Parson, Esq.  
Carla Jasrosz, Esq.