



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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December 30, 2022

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

RE: 26 DE Reg. 434/14 DE Admin. Code 601 DDOE Proposed Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies regulation (December 1, 2022)

Dear Secretary Holodick:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) proposal to amend 14 **DE Admin. Code** 601 School and Law Enforcement Agencies. Council **endorses** the proposed amendment as it addresses and alleviates concerns on cyberbullying.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure that "effective communication and working relationships exists between public schools and law enforcement agencies." The changes consist of approximately 20 grammatical or typographical differences, along with clarifications on reporting of cyberbullying incidents.

It is critical that cyberbullying is reported and addressed. According to a Pew Research study, almost 60% of teenagers experienced some form of cyberbullying in 2018. Research has also consistently shown that children with disabilities are bullied more frequently than their non-disabled peers.

Thank you for addressing this issue for all of our children. We appreciate this opportunity to share our endorsement of the proposed amendment with you. Please contact Pam Weir or me at the GACEC office if you have any questions on our comments.

Sincerely,

Ann C Fisher

Ann C. Fisher
Chairperson

ACF: kpc

CC: Shawn Brittingham, State Board of Education
Kathleen Smith, State Board of Education
Dale Matusевич, Department of Education
Emily Cunningham, Department of Education
Linnea Bradshaw, Professional Standards Board
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