



**Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)**  
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May 28, 2024

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

**RE: 27 DE Reg. 822 DE Admin. Code 1217 DDOE Proposed Mental Health Services Scholarships regulation (May 1, 2024)**

Dear Secretary Holodick:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) proposal to amend an existing regulation relating to mental health services scholarships. The proposed amendment removes the provisions requiring application to "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" or "FAFSA" as part of an applicant's eligibility for an award. This change may enable more individuals to make use of this program, which in turn could help Delaware address mental health work force shortages. Council **supports** the proposed revision as it could potentially increase the pool of individuals seeking professions in mental health services.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our observations and support 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 Matusevich, Department of Education  
Emily Cunningham, Department of Education  
Caitlin Gleeson, Department of Education  
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