Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: **January 31, 2025**

TO: **The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly**

FROM: **Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson**
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill (SB) No. 2 and Senate Bill (SB) No. 3 Absentee Voting**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill

➔ **House Bill 29**

House Bill 29 is sponsored by Rep. Shupe and Sen. Buckson, an co-sponsored by Reps. Hilovsky, Morrison, and Michael Smith and Sens. Lawson and Pettyjohn. The bill would
Change the requirements around Delaware's school data reporting, currently known as School Performance Data Reports (reports). These reports are available on the Department's website as the Delaware Report Card.

This Act revises current law to correspond with and codify current Department practices regarding these reports to:

1) Change the term "Education Profile" to "education-related data" to reflect the broad range of data that the Department publishes, in addition to the annual reports required under existing State and federal law.
2) Require that there is a link to these reports on the school choice website.
3) Require that these reports continue to include proficiency rates.
4) Require the inclusion of a list of career pathways offered at a high school.

In addition, this Act requires that the reports be linked on the home page of the Department's website, and makes technical corrections.

While the reports generally require data about discipline, presently rates of alternative placements under 14 Del. Admin C. 616.7 (not through expulsion) by school and district is not part of these reports. Alternative placements can be for lengthy time – sometimes a year or more, but under current regulations students are not entitled to as many due process protections as those students facing expulsion (and who practically may receive the same alternative placement). More transparency about the frequency of alternative placements would give a fuller picture of the students of Delaware students with disabilities, and others.

Recommendation: Councils may wish to support the bill but to take this as an opportunity to encourage the bill sponsors to specifically require these school data reports to include alternative placement rates in the discipline reporting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support of the proposed legislation. Please feel free to contact me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office should you have any questions.