



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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November 28, 2025

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

RE: 29 DE Reg. 352/14 DE Admin. Code 258 DDOE Federal Program General Complaint Procedures regulation (November 1, 2025)

Dear Secretary Marten:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) proposal to amend 14 Del. Admin. C. §258 concerning the complaint procedures for alleged violations of federal laws. Council **supports** the proposed amendments as these changes will require the DDOE to fully document responses to complaints, including the relevant laws, facts and reasoning for decisions. This additional information will provide clearer understanding of decisions. This change will also improve the ability of parents to know if they wish to pursue an appeal to the United States Secretary of Education. However, Council would like to share the following concerns.

The Proposed Regulation would reduce the timeframe for filing an appeal with the U.S. Secretary of Education from 60 days to 30 days. The Council requests clarification regarding the rationale for this change.

In addition, the Council recommends that the DDOE consider establishing an alternative state-level appeal option, such as filing with Delaware Superior Court, rather than relying solely on appeals to the U.S. Secretary of Education. This may be particularly important given the current federal administration's stated interest in eliminating the U.S. Department of Education.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions regarding these recommendations or requests. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William H. Doolittle

William H. Doolittle
Chairperson

WHD: kpc

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