



**Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)**  
**516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904**  
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March 26, 2026

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

**RE: 29 DE Reg. 742/14 DE Admin. Code 503 DDOE Proposed Instructional Program Requirements regulation (March 1, 2026)**

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. section 503 on instructional program requirements as a result of recent statutory changes. The GACEC **supports** the proposed amendment and would like to share the following observations.

According to Disability Justice, "financial fraud is one of the fastest growing forms of abuse targeting seniors and adults with disabilities." Adding financial literacy will be important for all students but particularly so for students with disabilities. Council would recommend that students with disabilities, online and social media safety be addressed in the curriculum, as individuals with ill intent target individuals with disabilities in this way.

The DDOE made one additional change, striking the word "such" from 5.4 regarding waiver of physical education requirements upon excuse from a qualified licensed healthcare provider or religious beliefs. It is unclear if 5.4 is being used to exempt students with disabilities from gym, or if waivers are utilized in cases of temporary physical limitations (e.g. broken leg). Therefore, Council would like to inquire and suggest that the DDOE consider guidance to districts about adaptive physical education for students with disabilities, and or future language changes to ensure adaptive education is considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our observations and recommendations with you. We look forward to a more collaborative partnership with you on behalf of the students of Delaware. Please contact us if you have any questions on our comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*William H. Doolittle*

William H. Doolittle  
Chairperson

WHD: kpc

CC: Jon Sheehan, State Board of Education  
Kathleen Smith, State Board of Education  
Dale Matusевич, Department of Education  
Michael Saylor, Department of Education  
Linnea Bradshaw, Professional Standards Board  
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