



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

DATE: March 26, 2026

TO: The Honorable Laura Sturgeon, Delaware State Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Kim Williams, Delaware State House of Representatives Education Committee

FROM: William H. Doolittle, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: Senate Bill (SB) No. 253 School Bullying

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 253 relating to school bullying policies. The bill revises the parent notification requirements for school bullying policies by repealing the requirement that notification be made using a form generated by the Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ), which is DOJ's current practices and procedures related to involvement with student behavior issues. It also makes technical corrections. Council **supports** the proposed legislation. However, we would like to share a couple of suggestions with you.

Council would like to suggest the following:

1. The DOJ or DDOE be responsible for developing a uniform form to be used.
2. We would also suggest inserting the word "alleged" in relation to the victim and the perpetrator as this is relating to incidents being investigated.
3. Council would recommend that information on resources for assistance, such as the Student Advocacy Center (Public Education Ombudsman Program), Parent Information Center, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. and/or the contact information for the Delaware State Bar Association lawyer referral service be provided in the proposed legislation.
4. Council would recommend that the notices go out at the time of the initiation of a bullying investigation.
5. Council would recommend the inclusion of a requirement that parental notification include a statement that DDOE will be notified.

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