



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)**  
**Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**6:00 PM, May 5, 2026**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Ann Fisher, Kristina Horton, Jessica Heesh Mensack, Molly Merrill, Trenee Parker, Erika Powell, and Jennifer Pulcinella.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Weir/Executive Director and Theresa Moore/Operational Support Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tika Hartsock and Beth Mineo

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:**

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment tonight

**MOTIONS:**

Motion: All Council members shall have access to all GACEC Teams channels, with the exception of channels containing confidential or personal information. This access is intended to support transparency, collaboration, and a comprehensive understanding of Council activities, not to edit or alter another individual's work without permission.

- (The motion as stated during the meeting was not fully articulated in detail. The language included above reflects staff's best understanding of the intent of the motion based on the discussion and action taken by the body.)
  - Moved by: Bill Doolittle
  - Seconded by: Molly Merrill
- Vote:
  - No objections.
- Result: Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION:**

## **1. Opening Discussion: Federal Indicator Review Process**

The meeting opened with a discussion regarding the review and organization of the 18 federal education indicators and the process for submitting feedback to OSEP regarding proposed changes.

- The intent to align indicators with committee jurisdictions so that subject matter experts within each committee can provide more informed analysis and recommendations was explained.
- Members emphasized the importance of this work in preparation for the 2027 State Performance Plan development cycle.
- Concerns were raised regarding proposed modifications to several indicators, particularly:
  - Potential removal of indicators related to disproportionality.
  - Proposed revisions to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) measurements.
- Members discussed concerns that such changes could significantly impact accountability and oversight practices.
- Members requested that all supporting documents and proposed indicator revisions be shared through the meeting chat and Teams platform to ensure accessibility for all members.

## **2. Monitoring Indicator Changes**

The members reviewed proposed monitoring changes affecting Indicators 4, 9, and 10 related to suspension, expulsion, and disproportionality.

- Members emphasized that these proposed changes may shape state performance planning through 2032 and require close review.
- The members discussed establishing a more direct process for receiving notices and updates from OSEP rather than relying on delayed communications from the Department of Education.
- Members acknowledged ongoing challenges in locating current policy notices and indicator-related information.
- Members noted that community engagement and stakeholder feedback have positively influenced prior policy discussions and should continue to be prioritized.

## **3. Children and Youth Indicators Review**

Discussion continued regarding committee responsibilities for reviewing indicators related to children and youth.

- Committee members were encouraged to focus on indicators most relevant to their committee expertise.
- Comprehensive school indicator data dating back to 2015 has been posted for council review.
- Members discussed concerns regarding Indicator 8 parent surveys, noting that many schools continue to receive very limited response rates.
- Members expressed frustration regarding continued resistance to improving survey collection and parent engagement practices.

#### **4. Feedback Process Streamlining Initiative**

The committee discussed methods for improving organization and member participation in council feedback activities.

Decisions Made:

- A centralized Microsoft Teams channel will be created.
- All active feedback requests and deadlines will be consolidated into this channel to improve accessibility and participation, particularly for newer members.
- A user-friendly dashboard was proposed that would:
  - Highlight active items requiring council feedback.
  - Provide quick-access navigation links.
  - Include upcoming meetings and current priority projects.
- Members acknowledged ongoing challenges managing communication through email alone.
- Members expressed interest in increasing direct engagement with legislation impacting on special education.
- Monthly virtual meetings with legislators were suggested to strengthen collaboration and communicate council expertise more effectively.

#### **6. Teams Access and Transparency Improvements**

The committee reviewed access permissions and transparency within Teams channels.

Agreements Reached:

- Most committee work and advocacy materials will be made visible to all council members using read-only permissions.
- Sensitive personal information and confidential materials will remain restricted.
- A review of all existing Teams channels was proposed to remove outdated or irrelevant materials and improve organization.

#### **7. Teams Channel Configuration**

The group discussed technical implementation of the new Teams structure.

- Staff expressed uncertainty regarding technical setup requirements for read-only channel permissions.
- The Chair clarified that read-only permissions could likely be managed through Teams channel settings rather than individual document restrictions.
- The Chair agreed to seek technical assistance to ensure proper configuration and implementation.

#### **8. Reding Project Timeline Update**

The Chair provided an update regarding the Reding project timeline.

- The project deadline has been extended to February 15, 2027.

- Members agreed that the extension provides additional time to develop a more comprehensive and thoughtful plan and prepare council input.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:15 pm.

### **NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

- Al to draft commentary on the proposed OSEP indicator changes, particularly focusing on those relevant to the children and youth committee, and circulate to the group for review.
- Bill to follow up with staff to explore options for receiving OSEP policy change notices directly and earlier, to maximize council lead time for public comment.
- Pam to forward the relevant emails from Dale (including indicator documents and monitoring protocols) to all council members.
- Create a centralized Teams channel for current council initiatives (e.g., indicators, FOIA, legislation, regulation) and ensure all relevant documents and feedback forms are accessible in one place.
- Chair: Investigate and obtain technical support to properly configure Teams access settings so all council members can view and access appropriate channels and documents, with read-only or appropriate permissions as needed.
- All council members: Review the indicator documents and provide feedback via the centralized Teams document as they are able, focusing on indicators relevant to their expertise or committee.
- Committee chairs: Coordinate and consolidate feedback from their committees for the indicator review process.
- Pamela and staff: Plan for monthly virtual meetings with legislators to facilitate council engagement and information sharing.
- Pamela and staff: Provide clear instructions and links in emails for council members regarding where and how to provide feedback on current initiatives (e.g., single Teams document for indicator feedback).