This week, we share stories from CEC advocates and highlight the latest in special education.

Our Top 5 Policy Issues

1. KEEPING PUBLIC FUNDS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

2. EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

3. MENTAL HEALTH: BUILDING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER & EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDER SHORTAGES

5. IDEA INVESTMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
Last year, we asked you to identify your top 5 policy issues via a short survey.

This year, we were able to use your input to inform the development of our 5 Issue Briefs for the 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit – which are now available under the Resources tab on specialeducationlegislativesummit.org.

Check out the 2019 briefs and learn more about the issues!

Join Advocates Like Donette
I’ve had the opportunity to attend the Special Education Legislative Summit for the past 3 years, and each time, I come away more dedicated to the work of supporting students with disabilities and their families. I don’t know another conference or professional development that gives us – teachers, administrators, parents – an opportunity to go to the people making decisions and share our knowledge, passion, and hope for the future of special education. This is a powerful experience.”

DONETTE DALCIN, SPECIAL EDUCATOR FROM PA

Speaking of the Special Education Legislative Summit, did you know you can join your fellow early childhood and special education advocates when you register for the main event on July 7-10? The 2019 Summit is only 2 WEEKS AWAY, so you’ll need to sign up ASAP to make it to Capitol Hill!

You can also find experiences and quotes from other advocates who attended the Special Education Legislative Summit in Policy Insider.

Read more stories from CEC advocates!

And Don’t Forget About Our CEC Awards Programs…
If there’s one thing we know about special educators, it’s that you are fierce advocates for your profession – as well as the children and youth with exceptionalities you serve each day.

Show the community your work matters by recognizing a special education professional who has made invaluable contributions to the CEC mission; a graduate or undergraduate student who is preparing to step into the field; or an outstanding youth with exceptionalities who has exceeded the expectations that have been set for them.

This year, we’re offering the following award programs, presented on the big stage at the CEC 2020 Convention & Expo:

- Professional Awards
- Student Awards
- Yes I Can Awards

Take me to the nominations!

Policy Highlights

House Votes to Increase IDEA Funding

IDEA programs were increased in the recently House-passed FY 2020 funding bill. In addition, there were overall increases for early childhood, K-12, and higher education programs. Read more.

GAO Reports on Inaccuracies in Federal Restraint and Seclusion Data

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Congressional watchdog agency, found that data used by the Department of Education in its enforcement of civil
rights laws does not accurately or completely reflect all incidents of restraint and seclusion. Read more.

![GAO Logo]

### Upcoming Events

**2019 Leadership Institute**
Arlington, VA | July 5-7, 2019

**2019 Special Education Legislative Summit**
Arlington, VA | July 7-10, 2019

**What's Happening in Washington**
CEC Webinar | July 17, 2019

### News

**3 ways educators nationwide are working to disrupt dyslexia:** A number of states and districts are embracing more research and science-based approaches to literacy instruction amid growing awareness of the learning disability.

**Young Teachers May Be 'Digital Natives' But Need Support in Using Tech, Studies Find:** According to a pair of studies discussed at the 2019 International Society for Technology in Education (ITSE), millennial teachers may have grown up with Snapchat and iPads - but that doesn't mean that they feel prepared to enter the classroom ready to integrate technology into their lessons.

**DOL proposes overhaul of US apprenticeship approval process:** New rules, and more than $280 million in funding, are being proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor to set new standards for training, structure, and curricula for...
industry-recognized apprenticeship programs.

**7 ways $1.6 trillion in student loan debt affects the U.S. economy:** Research over the past few years has shown the economic impact about $1.6 trillion in student loan debt has had on borrowers and the larger US economy.

**Study: Can Music Class Make Students Smarter in Other Subjects?:** Achievement in music is a good predictor of academic achievement, according to a study of the educational records of 110,000 students in British Columbia.

**5 Tools for Technology Transformation in Schools:** A new report from the Consortium for School Networking explores five ways that technology has the ability to accelerate K-12 innovation.