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[High-Leverage Practices in Special Education: A Professional Development Guide for School Leaders](#) is a downloadable guide that provides school leaders with practical tools for engaging their staff in high-leverage practices to enhance student learning in the school and district.

As a road map for guiding teacher preparation, professional development, and current self-assessment, the new guide is a great resource to support you in designing professional development opportunities that introduce high-leverage practices and encourage conversation about their potential use.

[Learn more about high-leverage practices in special education and download your FREE GUIDE today.](#)

Digital Recap: Lending CEC's Voice to the Dialogue Around #WorldAutismAwarenessDay

On April 2, individuals with autism spectrum disorders, families, special educators, and CEC members around the world shared their stories for World Autism Awareness Day. As the official kick-off for Autism Awareness Month, the social media campaign was designed to promote inclusivity and raise awareness for those on the autism spectrum.



View all the posts from World Autism Awareness Day on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) — and make sure you check out CEC's posts from the day! We hope you will continue to promote inclusion and education for ALL throughout the month of April by sharing your stories and adding your voice.

[Learn more](#) about how special education professionals can improve outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorders with the latest CEC research, publications, and resources.

CEC Honors Dr. Robert Hanson, Founder and CEO of National Professional Resources



After years of commitment to advancing the field and the quality of special education, the CEC Board of Directors recognized Robert (Bob) Hanson, Ed.D., for his notable contributions to the Council for Exceptional Children.

Dr. Hanson is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of National Professional Resources (NPR), a leading source for educators on an extensive variety of classroom and professional development resources. For 50 years, NPR has provided practical resources to help educators meet the needs of all students, particularly those with significant educational challenges.

In addition to his work at NPR, Dr. Hanson has been a CEC member for over 40 years, where he's worked to develop a collaborative, collegial, and constructive relationship with CEC Headquarters leadership with dedication and integrity.

Please join us in expressing our deep appreciation for Dr. Hanson and his many accomplishments.

Are You Ready to Advocate on Capitol Hill?

On July 7-10, CEC and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) will be holding the [2019 Special Education Legislative Summit](#). As the premier advocacy event of the year for special educators and early interventionists, advocates from across the country will gather at our nation's capital to educate policymakers about key issues.



You know what children and youth with exceptionalities and professionals need, so raise your voice and advocate with us during the 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit this July.

[Register today!](#)

Policy Highlights

Voice Your Support for Specialized Instructional Personnel!



Representatives Dave Loebsack (D-IA) & Bradley Byrne (R-AL) and Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) & Maggie Hassan (R-NH) recently introduced resolutions declaring April 8-12, 2019, as National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week. Show your appreciation for specialized instructional support personnel by urging your member of Congress to sign on to this resolution through [CEC's Legislative Action Center](#). [Read more.](#)

CEC Denounces Administration's Funding Commitment to Children and Youth with Disabilities

Last week, Secretary DeVos testified before the House and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS-Education to defend the President's proposed education budget. CEC made its position clear by denouncing level funding of the IDEA grants programs as a true commitment to improving outcomes for those with disabilities. [Read more.](#)



Florida CEC Holds First Legislative Summit



The Florida Council for Exceptional (FCEC) recently embarked on a new advocacy initiative in Tallahassee, the state's capital, by hosting its first legislative summit last month. [Read more.](#)



SEL System of Supports – Awareness of Self

SEL and social skills development starts with an awareness of self which then leads to awareness of

others, which leads to empathy, a cornerstone of SEL. [Click here for a free trial.](#)

Upcoming Events

Virginia CEC Hot Topics Workshops

Richmond, VA | April 6, 2019

State of the Profession: Challenges and Triumphs of Special Education

CEC Webinar | April 10, 2019

Preparing for Next Year's Co-Teaching: How to Improve Student Outcomes and Arrange Critical Teacher Supports

CEC Webinar | April 22, 2019

Ohio CEC 2019 Annual Conference

Columbus, OH | June 3, 2019

2019 Special Education Legislative Summit

Arlington, VA | July 7-10, 2019

News

Special Olympics Uproar Draws Attention to Other Disability Program Cuts:

Recent outcry over a proposal to defund Special Olympics is helping put the spotlight on other potentially devastating cuts to programs for people with disabilities, advocates say. [Read more.](#)

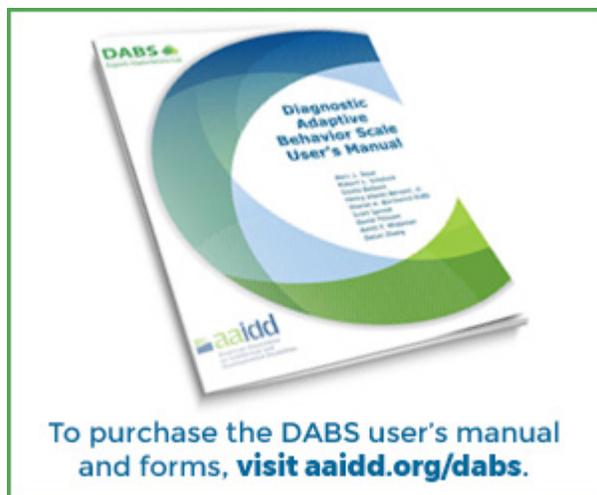
Lawmakers Look to Fully Fund IDEA:

Bipartisan legislation to substantially increase U.S. investment in special education is back on the table. [Read more.](#)

Feds Clarify What Qualifies as

'Community-Based': Federal officials have issued long-awaited guidance to help states determine which living arrangements for people with disabilities are considered community-based rather than institutional. [Read more.](#)

States Fall Short on School Data Transparency, Advocacy Group Says:



According to a report by the Data Quality Campaign, dozens of states are falling short in giving the public a clear window into the school data they're required to collect and report under the Every Student Succeeds Act. [Read more.](#)

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