

CEC has a membership committed to its core values, especially inclusiveness, demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals.



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Special Education Today

News, resources, and tools for educators like you.

A Message from CEC President Mary Lynn Boscardin



As a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities, CEC has a membership committed to its [core values](#), especially inclusiveness, demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals.

During its April meeting, the Board of Directors took a series of actions that reinforce CEC's commitment to these core values. The actions included approval of a revised non-discrimination policy and clarification of the role of caucuses in CEC, as distinguished from units and divisions. [Learn more.](#)

CEC Is Updating Its Preparation Standards and We're Looking for Input

Join the co-chairs of CEC's Standards Development Workgroup on **Thurs., May 9**, for a [FREE webinar](#) to learn about the revisions and updates being made to CEC's Professional Standards. After the webinar, you'll be invited to review the complete draft of the CEC Initial Standards, Components, and Supporting Explanations and provide your feedback.



These standards are used in preparing future special educators and must be reflective of trends, developments, and evidence-based practices in the field. As a special education professional, we want to make sure you know what lies ahead and can help to inform this essential work.

[Learn more about the standards development process](#) and [register today.](#)

Tap into the CECommunity



When's the last time you checked out the [CECommunity all-member forum](#)? If it's been a while, you may want to take another look. Every day, special education professionals are tapping their colleagues for advice, resources, and peer-to-peer support in a safe environment with fellow educators they can trust.

Some of the latest posts members have weighed in on?

- "Does anyone know of research that supports the co-teaching model at the K-12 level?"
- "I'm looking for feedback on what others use for their de-escalation training..."
- "Any advice from those of you with experience in oppositional defiant disorder?"
- "What are some resources/curriculum to help with teaching health/sex ed...?"

[Log in and catch up on the conversation.](#)

Here's How to Become an Advocate

On July 7-10, 2019, special educators from all 50 states and the District of Columbia will take Capitol Hill by storm and urge Congress to protect the needs of children and youth with exceptionalities. You can join them when you sign up for the [2019 Special Legislative Summit](#) and receive quick, easy steps to make your voice heard on the day.



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 15!

No matter where they stand, every member of Congress has the power to ensure ALL students have access to high-quality education. But they need to hear it from you!

[Register today](#) to save \$100 and make the potential of every child and youth with exceptionalities our national priority.

End Autism Awareness Month with These Member-Approved Resources

Autism Awareness Month may have come to an end, but our efforts to promote understanding, awareness, and inclusivity for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders are far from over.



Check out the following member-approved resources as you continue to celebrate your students living with autism spectrum disorder throughout the year:

- [Autism Resource Center](#) – American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- [Mealtime and Children on the Autism Spectrum: Beyond Picky, Fussy, and Fads](#) – Indiana Resource Center for Autism
- [Autism Support Network Resources](#) – Autism Support Network
- [Moving to a New Place](#) – Center for Autism Research
- [Establishing Positive Sleep Patterns for Children on the Autism Spectrum](#) – Autism Society
- [30 Ways to Celebrate Autism Awareness Month](#) – PrAACtical AAC

And of course, don't forget to look into the latest [autism spectrum disorder resources](#) from CEC!

Policy Highlights

Creating an Information Culture



The Education Commission of the States has recently released [Using State Data Systems to Create an Information Culture in Education](#), a new policy guide offering guidance on how state leaders can create a culture that uses data to inform critical education decisions. [Read more.](#)

Alternative Assessments Technical Assistance Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Education is providing technical assistance opportunities to help states meet the requirement in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by ESSA, to assess only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities with an alternate assignment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards. [Read more.](#)



Earn Your EdD from Drexel University

Drexel University's online Ed.D. program is designed for academic professionals who seek to make an impact in the future of lifelong learning. [Get started today.](#)

Upcoming Events

CEC Standards: Training the Next Generation

CEC Webinar | May 9, 2019

Ohio CEC 2019 Annual Conference

Columbus, OH | June 3, 2019

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

GAO: States Vary Widely in K-12 Students Who Get Special Education Services:

Nationwide, about 13 percent of students qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. But according to a Government Accountability Office report released this week, that number varies significantly from one state to the next. [Read more.](#)

Is there a trade-off between racial diversity and academic excellence in gifted classrooms?:

According to the most recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics, just 4 percent of



black students are enrolled in gifted programs nationwide. [Read more.](#)

NEA: Latest salary data highlights teacher pay gap as salaries fail to keep pace with inflation:

Average starting salaries for teachers with a bachelor's degree increased slightly last year, but accounting for inflation, the average classroom teacher's salary in the U.S. has declined by nearly 5 percent over the last 10 years, according to the National Education Association's annual salary benchmark data released on Monday. [Read more.](#)

'Overwhelmed': Leaders Talk School Improvement Under ESSA:

In a recent Center on Education Policy report, education leaders who oversee school improvement say they are struggling with the role evidence must play in turnaround efforts – and some are worried about the sheer volume of schools that could get identified as needing some sort of intervention in the age of ESSA. [Read more.](#)

Pull-out programs focused on academics may accelerate learning for gifted students:

While some believe gifted education is meant to help higher-performing students gain access to advanced material, a new study from the National Center for Research on Gifted Education has found that many of these pupils are not getting this exposure. [Read more.](#)

What to Watch for When House Democrats Unveil an Education Spending Bill:

As Congress tackles legislation to fund the U.S. Department of Education for fiscal 2020, here's what to expect. [Read more.](#)



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