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## Special Education Today

News, resources, and tools for educators like you.

### Partnering for Change: Highlights from the VA Hot Topics Workshops



Support can make a big difference when it comes to navigating the day-to-day challenges of being a special education teacher. This weekend, we saw this first-hand as educators across the state of Virginia came together to workshop, share ideas, learn from the experts, and receive support from their VA CEC leaders and peers.

This weekend's events – which included a meetup and series of [VA Hot Topics Workshops](#) – were the direct result of a [partnership](#) between CEC, VA CEC, and the VA Department of Education to ensure that special educators have access to professional development, networking, and evidence-based resources.

As part of its continued commitment to successful student outcomes, the VA Department of Education provided first-year teachers with CEC membership, publications, and a free registration for this weekend's professional development event. Virginia CEC is equally committed to supporting its members and providing their professional home through state, local, and regional events. In the end, new and veteran teachers alike had access to resources and connections they could take back to their students with renewed energy.

As we reflect on the power of partnership and the value that a professional network of support can provide, here are just a few of the event highlights:

- **Virginia CEC's first meetup event on Friday**

In case you haven't already seen [the Facebook pictures](#), Virginia CEC has recently started a new series of member meetups across the state. The first meetup at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery on Friday, April 5, was a success, and the next

meetup event is projected for the month of July in Southwest Virginia. Date and location: TBD!



● **Saturday's co-teaching workshops with Dr. Marilyn Friend**

In her Saturday workshop sessions, co-teaching expert Dr. Marilyn Friend explored the updated roles and responsibilities of both general and special educators in co-taught classrooms, specially designed instruction (SDI), co-teaching structures, and actionable strategies for implementing co-teaching in the classroom setting.

● **Surviving as a first-year teacher, IEPs, and more with Clara Hauth and Catherine Creighton-Martin**

In these engaging and interactive workshops, attendees gained insight into effective practices to support students and families and writing the most important of all documents: the Individualized Education Program (IEP).



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## This National Autism Awareness Month, One Member Reflects on How Far We've Come



For this week's issue of Special Education Today, CEC member and special education teacher Richard Williams celebrates the progress we've made when it comes to meeting the exceptional needs of students with autism spectrum disorders. [Read more.](#)

## Knock Knock, Who's There? A Unique Leadership Opportunity Waiting for YOU

The Council for Exceptional Children is the leader in special education, and it's all thanks to member volunteers like you!



Being part of a [committee](#) is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and skills to help lead the organization you love, as well as to develop your professional network and leadership skills. Your background, professional interests, and volunteer leadership roles may make you a perfect fit.

Vacancies exist on the Student and Early Career Committee and Representative Assembly Committee for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2019. The deadline for all materials is **5:00 pm EDT, April 24, 2019**. [Learn more](#).

## Registration for the CEC 2019 Leadership Institute Is Now Open!



Held on July 5-7, 2019, in Arlington, VA, the CEC Leadership Institute is designed to bring together leadership teams — including CEC Units and Division Presidents, Presidents Elect, Treasurers, Membership Chairs, and [CEC State Children and Youth Advocacy \(CAN\)](#) Coordinators — with other CEC volunteers.

In addition to enhancing your leadership through powerful conversations and real-time collaboration, the Institute includes high-level discussions with association experts around the issues you've identified as critical to your organization's success: finance, membership, professional development, marketing, communications, and branding.

If you currently hold a leadership position in a CEC Unit or Division, or if you are interested in building your leadership skills – this event is for you! [Learn more](#).

## In Case You Missed It...



1,400 special education teachers shared their perspectives on their strengths and challenges in the recent CEC State of the Profession Survey. On Wed., April 10, CEC hosted a free member webinar on the survey results and their implications for our profession. In case you missed it, [check out the recording on our CECCommunity all-member forum](#).

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## Have You Completed a Co-Teaching Check-In?

Don't miss this exclusive webinar with Dr. Marilyn Friend! As the end of the year approaches, make sure you're ready to wrap up this year's co-teaching and prepare for the next.

Whether you're a teacher looking at your classroom practice, a principal anticipating co-teaching needs for 2019-2020, or a district leader building effectiveness and sustainability, you'll discover what you need to put a "bow" on your co-teaching and give yourself the gift of a well-earned summer break.

[Register now!](#)




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## Apply for the 2020 CEC Board of Directors



As a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities, we seek a board committed to our core values of visionary thinking, inclusiveness and integrity that reflects CEC's view of diversity and the constituencies we serve.

Applications for Member-at-Large positions on the Board of Directors are now being accepted. Three-year terms begin January 1, 2020. The deadline for receipt of all materials is **3:00 p.m. EST, May 22, 2019**. [Learn how to apply.](#)

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## Policy Highlights

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### U.S. Department of Education Seeks Peer Reviewers for Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program



The U.S. Department of Education seeks peer reviewers for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program with demonstrated experience in gifted and talented education, educator professional development, research project design and educating students who are English Language Learners (ELLs), students with disabilities, at-risk students and students who are economically disadvantaged. [Read more.](#)

## Update on Judicial Decision Regarding Significant Disproportionality

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia recently ruled the U.S. Department of Education's delay of the 2016 Equity in IDEA regulations "illegal" and required the 2016 final regulations to immediately go into effect. The U.S. Department of Education just recently posted to their IDEA website the following [statement](#). [Read more.](#)



## The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Announces FY 2019 Comprehensive Center Competition



The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, has announced grant opportunities for the FY 2019 [Comprehensive Centers](#) program competition. [Read more.](#)



### SEL System of Supports – Awareness of Others

Awareness of others is the beginning of interpersonal relationships and is an essential key to developing empathy, which is a cornerstone of SEL. [Access a free SEL trial.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### The End of the School Year Is Near: Have You Completed a Co-Teaching Check-Up?

CEC Webinar | April 22, 2019

### 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

## News

### Study Raises Questions About Promising Autism Therapy:

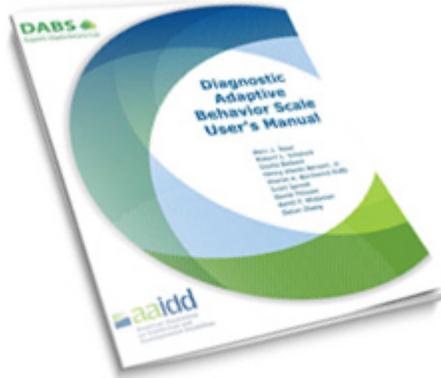
A large clinical trial of a heralded early intervention therapy for autism shows the treatment might not be as advantageous as previously believed. [Read more.](#)

### Target Expands Sensory-Friendly Offerings:

With an eye toward inclusivity, Target is rolling out a new collection of sensory-friendly products featuring everything from weighted blankets to floor cushions and chairs. [Read more.](#)

### State May Owe Feds \$223M For Short-Changing Special Education:

Officials in Texas thought they owed the federal government \$33 million for spending too little on special education, but revised estimates show that figure may be closer to \$223 million. [Read more.](#)



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