

What exactly is the Special Education Legislative Summit? How can I support students during Mental Health Awareness Month? Find answers to these questions and more.



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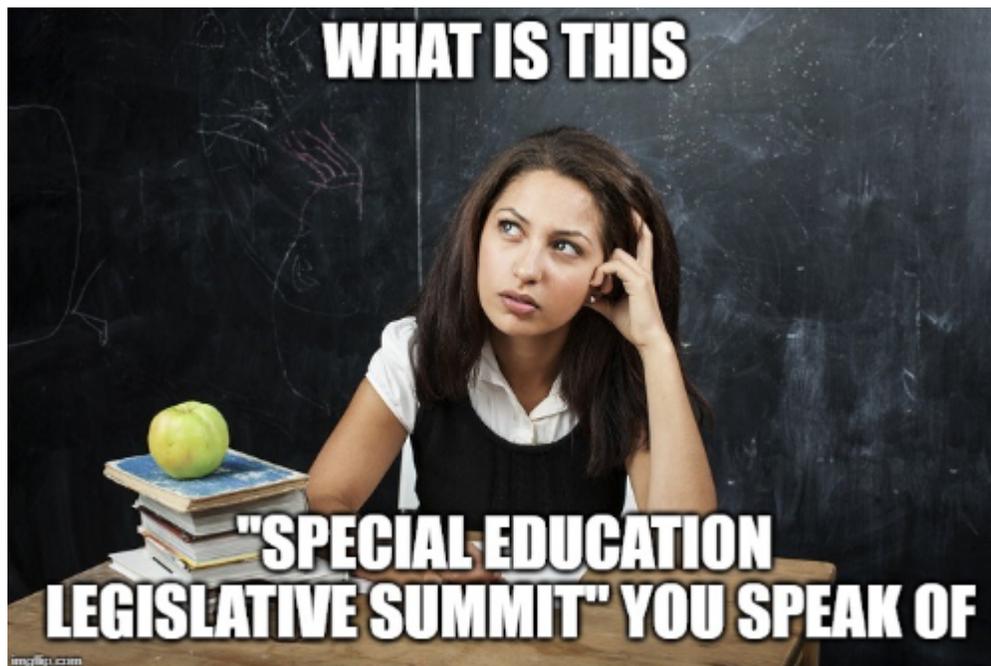
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**Council for
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Special Education Today
News, resources, and tools for educators like you.

Everything You Want to Know About the Special Education Legislative Summit (But Don't Want to Ask)



Do you want to advocate on Capitol Hill with hundreds of other special educators? Join us for a [FREE webinar](#) on **Thurs., May 23 from 5-5:30 p.m. ET**, to learn about the [2019 Special Education Legislative Summit](#) and why you should attend.

What exactly is the Special Education Legislative Summit? What is it like? Who will be there? We'll give you the answers to these questions and more so you can start preparing to champion special education and early intervention on the Hill.

[Register now.](#)

Calling All 2020 Professional Awards Nominations

At CEC, we know special educators rarely receive the overwhelming appreciation they deserve for their work in meeting the needs of children and youth with exceptionalities. That's why we offer the [CEC Professional Awards program](#), which recognizes outstanding professionals who have worked tirelessly to advance the field and the quality of special education.



From groundbreaking research to exemplary teaching practices, CEC honors the integral contributions of the special education community through the following awards, presented each year on the main stage of the CEC Convention & Expo:

- J.E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award
- Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award
- Special Education Research Award
- Frederick J. Weintraub Outstanding CEC Leadership Award
- Business/Organizational Award

Nominations for the 2020 Professional Awards are officially open, with the deadline for all materials being July 15, 2019, so make sure you take advantage of this unique opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of your colleagues and peers.

[Learn more about the 2020 CEC Professional Awards and nomination process.](#)

Unit and Division Leaders, Are You Coming to the 2019 Leadership Institute?



If not, make sure you register and book your hotel while rooms are still available! We look forward to meeting you in Arlington, VA, on July 5-7 to enhance your leadership skills through powerful conversations, real-time collaboration, and high-level discussions around issues critical to your organization's success.

[Register today.](#)

Mental Health Matters

Happy Mental Health Awareness Month! Every day, the special education community fights stigma, implements evidence-based strategies, and advocates for policies that support mental health both in and out of the classroom.



With an increased focus on school safety and the impact of trauma on the developing brain, it's essential to have high-quality, proactive social and emotional learning and a positive climate in schools and early childhood programs.

As you advocate for the mental health of children and youth with exceptionalities this month, make sure you check out [CEC's latest issue brief on mental health supports](#). This topic will also be one of our 5 major "asks" for Congress during the [2019 Special Education Legislative Summit](#), so stay tuned for additional information, resources, and more.

Policy Highlights

House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Committee Increases Education Funding



Last week, the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Committee passed its FY 2020 appropriations [bill](#) which included \$75.9 billion, a 6 percent increase for education. Way to go CEC advocates! [Read more.](#)

ED Seeks Comments on IDEA State and Local Implementation Study 2019

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension of an existing information collection. [Read more.](#)



Upcoming Events

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

Education Department to Appeal Decision on Special Education Bias Rule:

The action is the latest in a long-running legal dispute that has the potential to affect millions of dollars in federal special education funding. [Read more.](#)

Study Finds 'Huge Gaps' In Support For Job Seekers With Autism:

According to a study published recently in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, access to services through vocational rehabilitation varies dramatically from one state to the next. [Read more.](#)

Teachers assessing pupils could replace formal exams, study says:

Teachers could assess their students' proficiency as a replacement for formal exams, according to a paper published in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. Researchers found the teachers' assessments were accurate and assert their findings to make the case to decrease the use of multiple, high-stakes exams. [Read more.](#)

Preschool has enduring benefits for disadvantaged children - and their children, new research finds:

Enrolling in high-quality preschool programs can improve outcomes for a student's siblings and their future children, according to studies from the University of Chicago. [Read more.](#)

Individual 'Success Plans' for Every Student? Harvard's Education Redesign Lab Proposes 10 Guidelines for How Educators & Communities Can Unite to Support the Whole Child:

In a new report, the Education Redesign Lab at Harvard recommends that a kind of

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individualized assistance be available for all children, starting at birth. [Read more.](#)

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