

This week, we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the ADA, highlight our new publication arrivals, and share information on the 2020 Yes I Can Awards Program.

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

## Happy Anniversary, ADA!



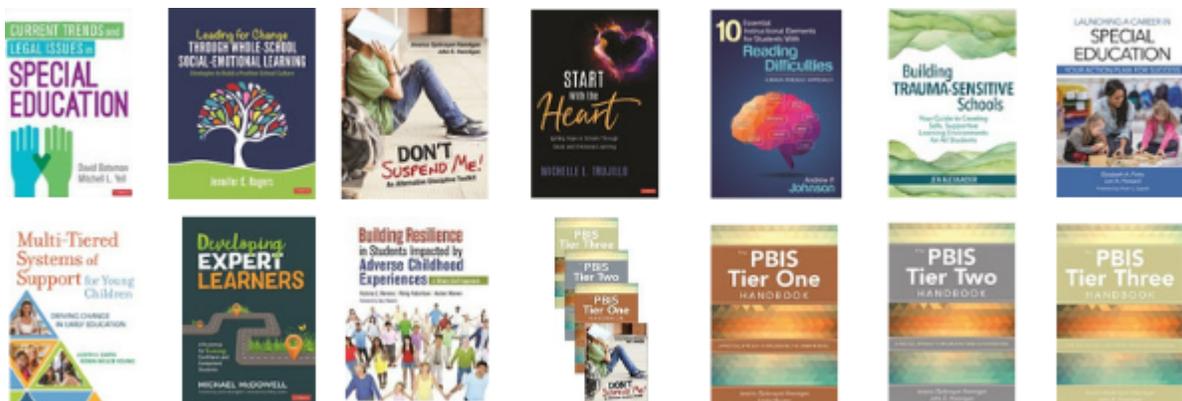
On July 26, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is turning 29, which means it's the perfect time to take a step back and reflect on how the landmark legislation has impacted our field, our students, and our practice.

Over the past 29 years, the ADA has broken down barriers and enabled society to benefit from the skills, talents, and purchasing power of individuals with disabilities with critical goals such as quality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency – to name a few!

Join us in celebrating the ADA Anniversary nationwide on July 26 with the ADA Celebrations Tool Kit – Connect, Share & Pledge On! to the ADA. Visit [adaanniversary.org](http://adaanniversary.org) to find recorded webinars, FAQs, sample social media posts, trainings, and more!

## Explore the ADA Anniversary Toolkit

## Have You Checked Out Our New Summer Reads?



Summer is the perfect time to reflect on your practice, gain new skills, discover new strategies, and find inspiration from experts and peers. That's why we're excited to share our new CEC publications arrivals, fresh off the press! From social emotional learning to

behavior management, our latest reads are the perfect addition to your summer reading list - and your special educator toolkit.

**Check out our new arrivals!**

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**Yes I CAN!**



Do you have an outstanding student with exceptionalities who exceeds expectations? Nominate them for the 2020 Yes I Can Awards, presented each year at the CEC Convention & Expo. Nominations close September 16!

**Learn more about the Yes I Can Awards nominations process!**

*P.S. Has your CEC unit honored any Yes I Can Award winners this year? If so, we'd love to highlight them! Email [alexandrag@cec.sped.org](mailto:alexandrag@cec.sped.org) with any photos, stories, and background information for the opportunity to feature local winners on CEC channels.*

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## **Policy Highlights**

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### **Joint Statement on Maintaining Least Restrictive Environment Requirements of IDEA**

Last week, a diverse coalition of professional, legal and advocacy organizations, including the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC),



met with Department of Education Chief of Staff Nate Bailey, Acting General Counsel Reed Rubenstein and OSERS Assistant Secretary Johnny Collett to discuss what the coalition considered to be an imminent threat generated by credible information of a policy reinterpretation of the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) provisions, which is a cornerstone of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). [Read more.](#)

## IES Posts FY 2020 Research Funding Webinars

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) will be posting a series of on-demand webinars for those who are interested in Fiscal Year 2020 funding opportunities and learning more about IES. [Read more.](#)

**IES** Institute of  
Education Sciences

## Upcoming Events

### **Educating Students with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorders: Research-Based Practices**

University of Arkansas | July 29, 2019

### **MAASE Summer Institute 2019**

Acme, MI | August 11-14, 2019

### **Data-Based Behavior Plans: What Do They Look Like?**

CEC Webinar | September 11, 2019

### **42nd Annual MO-CASE Special Education Administrators' Conference**

Osage Beach, MO | September 22-24, 2019

## News

### **Survey: Teachers need time, training to support students' social-emotional needs:**

While 78% of teachers feel that "helping students develop strong social and emotional skills" is part of their job, only 40% feel they "have adequate strategies to use when students do not have strong social and emotional skills," according to an Education Week survey.

### **Civil rights commission calls for schools to combat racial disparities in**



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**discipline:** Students of color who have disabilities are disciplined at a higher rate than their white peers in school, according to a report from the US Commission on Civil Rights.

**Influential Reading Group Makes It Clear: Students Need Systematic, Explicit Phonics: Influential Reading Group Makes It Clear: Students Need Systematic, Explicit Phonics:** The International Literacy Association has put out a new brief endorsing "systematic and explicit" phonics in all early reading instruction.

**Study: Most children with ADHD lack school readiness skills:** More than three-fourths of young children with symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are not ready for school, compared to only 13% of other children, according to a new study appearing in the journal Pediatrics.

**Administration Cautioned Against Changing IDEA Policy:** Disability advocates and former federal special education officials are warning of possible Trump administration moves to alter policy related to a central tenet of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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