A Message from the President: CEC Policy and Advocacy Update

Beginning Oct, 1, 2019, Stride Policy Solutions, an Alexandria-based policy consulting firm focused on education, will be taking on the critical role of CEC’s policy and advocacy work, including developing and implementing strategies to advance CEC and its mission, elevating CEC’s profile as the primary resource for educational success for children with exceptionalities with policymakers, fostering federal and/or state relationships, and keeping the CEC team informed of the ever-changing policy landscape.

Following vigorous, thoughtful discussions with the Officers of the Board and staff as part of the strategic planning process, this new phase marks both a critical investment in innovative approaches and proven strategies and a necessary budgetary decision that will help advance the organization and position CEC so it will thrive. We have selected a firm that is reputable and ethical. These qualities are important when consultants represent more than one client. The firm that was selected will ardently represent CEC and be dedicated to serving special education professionals well.

The legislative environment in Washington, D.C., has become increasingly competitive around available federal resources and support for public education. It’s more important than ever for CEC to lead a vibrant policy and advocacy program. In the words of Stride, "we look forward to working with the Units and Divisions to advance CEC as the 'go-to' organization for issues impacting and driving the provision of services to students with exceptionalities."

We could not be more grateful for past CEC Policy Director Dr. Deb Ziegler’s leadership. We recognize and appreciate the impact Dr. Ziegler has made through her decades' of service and contributions to CEC. These decisions are never easy, and we look forward to growing through this transition.

If you have further questions, please contact me directly at president@cec.sped.org.
We Want You!

As a CEC member, are you looking for more ways to get involved and make your voice heard?

If you answered yes, then we’ve got good news! We’re looking for dedicated members to fill spots on five of CEC’s committees.

This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and skills to help fulfill our mission of advancing the success of children and youth with exceptionalities. No matter what your background is or where your professional interests lie, there's a CEC committee that will benefit from your experience and unique perspective.

CEC is the leader in the field of special education, and it's all thanks to volunteers like you! The deadline for application is 3:00 pm ET, Nov. 6.

Learn more about the committees and application requirements!

Calling All Teachers

Special education teachers - we are delighted to invite you to submit a Teacher2Teacher session proposal for the CEC 2020 Convention & Expo in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 5-8.

In a Teacher2Teacher session, you have the opportunity to showcase what really works in the classroom, help your fellow teachers, and share your students’ success stories.

You can learn more about the proposal process and requirements by viewing a short presentation that shares the vision for these sessions and information to consider before submitting. We have also pulled together some examples of accepted Teacher2Teacher sessions. Submission site closes Oct. 31, 2019.

Submit a proposal today!

https://cec.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlWQ9ODg0NTk3NyZzdWJzY3JpYmVyaWQ9MTA1MzkyOTg4N...
Your Guide to Introducing and Sharing the HLPs

“High-leverage practices are essential to effective teaching and fundamental to supporting student learning.”

If you’ve been following along, then you may know that CEC and the CEEDAR Center developed a FREE professional development guide to support school district leaders in introducing and sharing the high-leverage practices (HLPs) in special education with their staff.

Don’t forget to tap into this downloadable resource that provides leaders – including mentors and coaches – with handouts, videos, activities, slides, and other practical tools for engaging their colleagues in discovering how HLPs can enhance student learning.

Download the free guide!

Policy Highlights

U.S. Commission of Civil Rights Briefing on Discipline Policies for Students of Color with Disabilities

Data collected by the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights for its "Beyond Suspensions: Examining School Discipline Policies and Connections to the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Students of Color with Disabilities" report showed that students of color and
EdArXiv Platform Makes Research More Accessible

The Center for Open Science recently launched EdArXiv, a community-developed, free, open-source, non-profit preprint service for education. Read more.

Upcoming Events

DEC 35th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families
Dallas, TX | October 1-4, 2019

West Virginia CEC Annual Conference
Daniels, WV | October 3-4, 2019

2019 NC CEC/DADD Fall Mini-Conference
Wake Forest, NC | October 5, 2019

NC CASE 2019 Conference
Wrightsville Beach, NC | October 6-9, 2019

An analysis of achievement gaps in every school in America shows that poverty is the biggest hurdle: A Stanford study finds that racial segregation matters because black and Hispanic students are concentrated in high-poverty schools.

CDC Records Spike in Kids With Developmental Disabilities: The number of American children with developmental
disabilities' "increased significantly" in recent years, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**States Gird for ESSA’s District-Spending Reviews:** A new mandate under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires a top-to-bottom look at how such districts deploy their money, staff, and the time used to support improvement.

**Autism Act Clears Senate:** The U.S. Senate unanimously approved the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support, or Autism CARES, Act, on Thursday - a bill that includes more than $1.8 billion for federal efforts to address the needs of people with autism.

**New Data Tool Rates 'Educational Opportunity' Offered in Nation’s Schools, Districts:** A new, interactive data tool created by Stanford University’s Educational Opportunity Project features data on schools and school districts nationwide, allowing comparisons of learning rates, average test scores, and trends in test scores.

**Why colleges are struggling to graduate more teachers:** As public K-12 schools address a dearth of instructors, higher ed is looking to expand the pipeline - but uptake among students has been limited so far.

**Focus on Social Play Can Be A Boon to Kindergarteners, Teachers:** Classes that focus on social play and hands-on learning can help kindergarteners learn more and become better students later on, according to a study published in PLOS ONE.

**Study: When Kids Show Signs of Autism, Pediatricians Often Fall Short:**
According to findings published this month in the journal Pediatrics, in cases where children were flagged by the screening test, just 31 percent of providers made a referral to an autism specialist.

*Ed Dept plans to ax some teacher workforce, preschool questions from Civil Rights Data Collection:* Though department officials propose districts collect more information on sexual violence and bullying related to religion, experts question how it will be collected.