This week, we share new principles for SLD eligibility, what some of our units and division have been up to, and an important update on FY 2020 spending.

Our Jointly Released Principles for SLD Eligibility

Earlier this year, CEC – along with our Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD) and Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) divisions – worked with our partners to release a set of eight principles to guide the evaluation process for students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD).

Now, we are excited to share three MORE comprehensive resources that highlight policy and practice considerations to support the implementation of those joint principles and encourage districts to move toward high-quality identification and evaluation processes.

*Principles for SLD Eligibility: Practice & Policy Considerations for States and School Districts* can help states and districts improve the process for evaluating students with SLD for special education, and includes:

- A Comprehensive Evaluation for a Child Suspected to Have SLD
- Selective Use of Data on Cognitive Assessments Within an Evaluation
- Effective Use of Instructional Response Data in an Evaluation

No matter how your state or district identifies SLD or determines eligibility for special education, it is critical to continue examining their practices and policies and make necessary improvements to better serve our students.

Read the new resources!

Social Shout-Out of the Week: Illinois CEC and Advocacy Prime

Whether it’s at the national, state, provincial, or division level, CEC offers so many
opportunities for professional growth that, sometimes, finding ways to promote them all amongst our members is the most important place to begin.

To help promote their programs and services, Illinois CEC partnered with Advocacy Prime, which shares stories and resources for advocates, community members, and people with disabilities and their families through regular podcasts.

The host of Advocacy Prime recently joined Illinois CEC at its 2019 annual conference, where he did live interviews known as “CEC shorts.” The live video podcasts feature CEC members, professors, trainers, and even Illinois Rep. Terra Costa Howard, and will continue on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

Check it out!

Head's Up: CEC's Division for Physical, Health and Multiple Disabilities Has a New Name!

As we head towards the new year, now is the perfect time for innovation. And in the spirit of change, CEC’s Division for Physical, Health and Multiple Disabilities officially has a new name – Complex and Chronic Conditions: The Division for Physical, Health and Multiple Disabilities (CCC).

CCC is one of our 18 special interest divisions and advocates for quality education for individuals with physical disabilities, multiple disabilities, and special health care needs served in schools, hospitals, or home settings.

CCC will be updating its website and other materials over the coming months, so please be patient as we make these changes!
Policy Highlights

Congress Positioned to Finalize FY 2020 Spending Before December 20 Deadline, IDEA to Get a Boost

Nearly three months after the start of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, Congress and the White House have reached an agreement on spending bills and begun to move forward with approving the measures. Thanks to the hard work of the field, all of the programs that CEC advocates on behalf of saw an increase. Read more.

Secretary DeVos Pushes Voucher Agenda, Spars with House Democrats

Last week was a busy one for U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos as she continued to promote school choice and testified before the House Education and Labor Committee on federal student loans. Read more.

Become a leader in special education and advance your passion for providing quality environments for individuals with disabilities.

The Ph.D. in Special Education at Duquesne University is an 80 credit program that allows students to begin upon completion of their undergraduate degree. This program gives candidates the tools to maximize the potential for achieving meaningful quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Students accepted to this program...
receive a 25% tuition scholarship. This program can be completed at the full or part-time course load.

**Upcoming Events**

**SuperConference 39**  
Lafayette, LA | January 12-13

**DADD 21st International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Disabilities**  
Sarasota, FL | January 22-24

**CEC 2020 Convention & Expo**  
Portland, OR | February 5-7

**News**

**Congress set to approve spending bill, includes $1.3B increase in ed funding:**  
The U.S. House approved a federal spending package on Tuesday that would boost funding for the U.S. Department of Education to $72.8 billion in discretionary aid, a $1.3 billion increase that would include hundreds of millions of dollars more for big-ticket programs for public schools such as Title I and special education grants.

**Special Education: Definition, Statistics, and Trends:** This issue from Education Week examines questions such as what special education is, what is known about the student special education population and the teachers who educate them, and the percentage of students with disabilities who are educated in regular classrooms.

**NCTQ analysis finds room for improvement in out-of-state teacher transfer protocols:** A recent report from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) finds 35 states don’t request proof
of prior teaching success during the out-of-state teacher certification process and seven states don’t require criminal background checks on teachers transferring in from another state.

**How Teachers Talk About Educational Disparities (Data):** In a national survey, the Education Week Research Center dug into how teachers use language to make sense of disparities in student outcomes by race and income level.

**Exclusive: Data Show Girls in NYC Schools Receive Special Ed Services at Disproportionately Lower Rates Than Boys. How Race and Gender Drive Inequities:** Little is known about girls — especially girls of color — who are learning with disabilities in the nation’s largest school district, according to the annual report the city’s Department of Education released in November.

**In Math, Teachers' Unconscious Biases May Be More Subtle Than You Think:** Although teachers may rate students' math performance equally, racial and gender stereotypes still may affect their interpretations of math ability, according to a study in Educational Researcher.

**These court cases could shift the K-12 landscape in 2020:** From a dispute over Houston ISD’s takeover to allowing transgender students to access bathrooms of their choice, these cases stand to significantly impact public education.

**New Numbers Show More Colleges Using High School Grades, Not Just Standardized Tests, to Determine If Students Require Remedial Coursework:** According to a survey from the Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness, there is a
national shift away from relying solely on standardized tests when it comes to determining whether students are ready for college-level math courses.

**How Much Should Teachers Talk in the Classroom? Much Less, Some Say:** Are teachers consciously monitoring how much they talk vs. how much their students do? Research and front-line teacher experience suggest they should be.