CEC 2020: 90 Tips in 120 Minutes

At the annual CEC Convention & Expo, you get a large amount of information in a short amount of time. With more than 700 sessions, there's something for everyone - no matter what you do, where you work, or who your students are.

For example, CEC member and expert Julie Weatherly, Esq., shares 90 tips in 120 minutes at her annual session, covering the wide range of legal issues special educators should be aware of when educating students with disabilities. Check out the full video on Julie's session from CEC TV; then, register for CEC 2020 today!

Watch the video!

Social Shout-Out of the Week: DISES Member Spotlights

Recently, CEC's Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) began posting a series of member spotlights on its website.

DISES focuses on special education programs and services in other countries and promotes knowledge, exchange, collaboration, human rights, and advocacy to those who provide services for individuals with disabilities.

The new member spotlights provide a snapshot into the work DISES members are doing around the world and highlight the wide range of opportunities available for
special education professionals on an international scale.

Read the current member spotlights!

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**Notice of Proposed Amendments to CEC’s Bylaws**

CEC’s **Bylaws** require that members receive a summary of proposed amendments and have a 60-day period to comment.

Those wishing to weigh in can check out the **proposed amendments** on our website and then submit their comments to president@cec.sped.org or to the Council for Exceptional Children, 3100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA, 22201.

The comment period ends **March 2**. All comments will be provided to the Board of Directors.

Check out the proposed bylaw amendments!

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**Policy Highlights**

**Congress Enters Second Week of Recess Ahead of Uncertainty in January**

Lawmakers are entering their second week of a Congressional recess after a legislative push in December that resulted in finalizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 spending and the passage of articles of impeachment in the House of Representatives. [Read more](#).

**Education Week Reflects on the Educator Profession Over the Last Decade**

As the start of a new decade approaches, Education Week has written a retrospective account of the educator profession,
including major policy and practice initiatives impacting education. Read more.

Earn Your EdD Online from Drexel University

Make a difference in the future of education with Drexel University’s online EdD in Educational Leadership and Management. No residency required and nine concentrations available, including Special Education Leadership and Education Policy. Learn more.

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

Chief Justice Warns That 'Civic Education Has Fallen By the Wayside':
U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. focused on civics education in his annual year-end report, saying "we have come to take democracy for granted."

What higher-ed trends will 2020 bring?: Scrutiny of admissions practices, college mergers and closures, and criticism of standardized testing are some of the trends to watch this year. Other issues likely to dominate higher-ed news are
education policies proposed by U.S. presidential candidates and online learning targeting adult students.

**Education Spending: What Democratic Candidates Want vs. Reality, in Charts:** Some of the top Democrats seeking the White House want massive funding increases for Title I and other federal education programs. What would that look like compared to current spending?

**Why more educators are becoming trauma-informed:** School districts throughout the U.S. are starting to adopt trauma-informed approaches to help students struggling with social and emotional issues outside of school. Approaches include counseling for problematic behavior, providing students with breaks and a chance to talk when they're having trouble, and professional development on how teachers can address homelessness.

**Students' Sense of Belonging Varies by Identity, Institution:** A study by Penn State and Wake Forest University researchers found first-generation and minority students tend to express a greater sense of belonging at two-year colleges than at four-year colleges or universities. The researchers said the difference was small but worth paying attention to because students with a higher sense of belonging have greater personal and academic success in college.

**ASD Nest program builds SEL for autistic students, peers:** In New York City, specially trained teachers allow for one-on-one support of students on the spectrum while continuing general curriculum in the classroom.
Report: Shrinking share of adults thinks college is 'important': The decrease was particularly pronounced among young people and conservatives, according to a recent Gallup poll.