How I Encourage Independence in the Classroom

As a special educator, your main goal is to prepare your students for a life of success and independence. Today on the blog, special education teacher Kelsey shares three ways she encourages student independence in her classroom.
CEC Leaders in the News

In the School Superintendents Association's (AASA) January 2020 issue of *School Administrator*, Kevin Rubenstein – veteran special educator and Policy & Legislative Chair for the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) – discusses the use of teletherapy in special education.

Read the article!

Our members also made their voices heard in an article on SpecialEdConnection.com®, in which CASE’s current and incoming presidents Phyllis Wolfram and Erin Maguire, Kevin Rubenstein, and other leaders shared their special education predictions for 2020.

Access the PDF!

Social Shout-out of the Week: GA CEC’s Co-Teachers of the Year Talk Successful Co-Teaching

As students with exceptionalities are increasingly included in general education classes and typical school activities, effective co-teaching is critical in ensuring the success of every individual in the classroom.

In this video, the 2019 Georgia CEC Co-Teachers of the Year share their co-teaching strategies, discuss how they make co-teaching successful, and talk about the importance of co-planning and collaboration.
Watch the video!

Policy Highlights

House to Vote on New Rule on Borrower Defense

On Thursday, the House is expected to vote on a measure to rescind U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ Borrower Defense rule on student loan forgiveness. Read more.

Webinar on Seclusion and Restraint Offered by U.S. Department of Education

Last week, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) posted an informative webinar, Students with Disabilities and the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in K-12 Public Schools. Read more.

Upcoming Events

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

1st Annual Florida CEC Legislative Summit
Tallahassee, FL | January 26-28

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

Clean. Fresh. Modern:
Empower™
Empower is PRC’s new interface for Accent® devices that’s easy to use. The streamlined navigation makes it easy to start communicating – fast. Visit booth #206 at CEC 2020 to learn more.

Why the Feds Still Fall Short on Special Education Funding: Calls to fully fund the nation’s main special education law resound on the campaign trail, but a number of complex factors make that an elusive goal.

Black and Hispanic Students Are Succeeding in Hard Courses. So What’s Keeping Many of Them Out?: Schools serving a predominantly minority population have fewer seats in advanced classes, and black and Hispanic students face barriers within schools when it comes to enrolling in harder courses, says a new Education Trust report.

Feds Incentivize Disability Hiring: A federal office dedicated to promoting community living is putting up big money to help businesses find and implement innovative ways to increase employment for people with disabilities.

RAND Corp project to survey districts, charter groups: The RAND Corporation is launching a new set of surveys that will collect feedback from districts and charter management organizations on issues such as procurement, professional development, and services for students with disabilities.

California governor proposes nearly $1 billion to tackle teacher preparation, shortages, special education: Anticipating nearly $4 billion more in
revenue for K-12 schools and community colleges in the next state budget, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed to continue massive investments for teacher recruitment and training and for transforming special education.

**Ban Student Seclusion in Schools, Lawmakers Tell Betsy DeVos:** After an investigation found Illinois schools put children in "isolated timeout" for illegal reasons, a group of the state's federal lawmakers have asked U.S. Secretary of Education to ban seclusion in schools nationwide.

**No more ‘secret handshake’: Universal screening qualifies 600 more Memphis students for gifted education. More to come.** A Tennessee school district has nearly doubled the number of students in its gifted-education programs after adopting a universal screening approach.

**Among Black and White Young Adults, High School Completions Are on Par, Study Finds:** The high-school completion rate among black and white young adults has narrowed – 94.8% for white students and 93.8% for black students, according to a report from the National Center for Education Statistics.