On the Blog

Policy Committee Launches Into Action (and How You Can, Too!)

What is CEC's new Policy Steering Committee and what does it mean for members like you? We sat down with Committee Chair and CEC Past President Margaret McLaughlin to answer these questions and more.

Take Action

Action Alert: Support Public Education

During Public Schools Week, Secretary DeVos testified before the House about the Administration's proposed budget and the use of public funds for private education. Join us in telling Congress why voucher programs strip students with exceptionalities of the ability to exercise their rights under federal law and access the supports and services they need.

Department of Education Releases Annual IDEA Report to Congress

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Education issued the 41st Annual Report to Congress about the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which featured several key findings.

Fresh Off the Forum
Conversations from the CECommunity

The CECommunity All-Member Forum is an online space for members to ask questions, share resources, and come together to improve their practice. ICYMI, here are some of the posts our community shared this week:

- Supporting secondary students with behavior needs
- Community time within the classroom?

Evidence-Based Freebies

How Administrators Can Support the Development and Implementation of High-Quality IEPs

The IRIS Center added a new module for school administrators on the individualized education program (IEP) process (plus, three new activities to help clarify roles before, during, and after IEP meetings!).

Alliance for Resource Equity

The Education Trust and Education Resource Strategies launched a new partnership to equip leaders, educators, families, and advocates with tools to combat inequities in education.

Journal Articles of the Week

Supporting Children’s Writing in Inclusive Classrooms With Arts-Based Strategies

This article from *TEACHING Exceptional Children* shows how embracing arts-based activities as an avenue for supporting children with disabilities in their writing tethers to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and creates inclusive environments where all students can learn together.

Sustaining and Scaling Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Implementation Drivers, Outcomes, and Considerations

In the latest issue of *Exceptional Children*, researchers look at the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation experience, including the core features of PBIS as a multitudinous...
Transition Talk

**LCE Sample Lesson Plans**

CEC’s Life Centered Education (LCE) transition curriculum and online assessment portal lets students practice important life skills in pressure-free, realistic contexts. This week, we’re sharing some sample lesson plans on competencies such as buying and caring for clothing, developing social awareness, and exhibiting employment skills.

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**DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY**

School of Education

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.

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**Upcoming Events**

**KDEC 2020**

Wichita, KS | February 27-28
SC CEC 2020 Conference  
Myrtle Beach, SC | February 28-29

Michigan CEC 80th Annual Conference  
Grand Rapids, MI | March 4-6

House Democrats spar with DeVos at hearing, say Trump budget would 'privatize education': Democrats on the House Appropriations subcommittee sparred with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Thursday, arguing the Trump administration's latest budget proposal attempts to "privatize education."

Special needs students often pay price in efforts to strengthen school safety: Florida laws intended to flag potential threats early are impacting students with disabilities, as seen in highly publicized incidents of young students institutionalized following "tantrums."

ADHD, Other Developmental Disabilities More Common in Rural Areas: Children in rural areas are more likely to have developmental disabilities and less likely to receive special education or early intervention services than children living in urban areas, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Study: General Education Classrooms Boost Performance Of Students With Disabilities: Students with disabilities perform better on tests when they spend more time in general education classrooms, according to a recent study on student inclusion from Indiana University.
**States to Schools: Teach Reading the Right Way:** Worried that far too many students have weak reading skills, states are passing new laws that require aspiring teachers — and, increasingly, teachers who are already in the classroom — to master reading instruction that’s solidly grounded in research.

**Push for Teacher Pay Maintains a Foothold in States:** More than a dozen governors have proposed raising teacher pay so far this year, an Education Week survey finds, and teacher advocates vow to keep the heat on.

**Report identifies strategies for scaling work-based learning:** A new report aims to narrow the gap between what employers need and the type of skills employees entering the workforce possess, identifying core elements of system changes governors can use to embed work-based learning in K-12.

**Want to Draw More Students to Advanced Courses? Staff Them With Black Teachers:** Teachers of color may draw more diverse students into honors and Advanced Placement courses, according to a recent study.

**What Betsy DeVos' New Title IX Initiative on Sexual Assault Means for Schools:** An initiative from the U.S. Department of Education will conduct national reviews to study how K-12 schools and districts are handling sexual assault cases.

**Why aren’t more school counselors trained in helping students apply to college?:** Student mental health, not college and career planning, is the focus of school counselor education — and that’s hurting low-income students the most.
Education Dept. to Cut Off Federal Funding for Some Rural Schools: More than 800 schools in rural areas have received notice that they will lose federal aid from the Rural and Low-Income School Program because they have not met the reporting requirements of the law. The U.S. Education Department, which discovered the two-decade-old error during a review, has come under fire for the move but is working on a legislative fix that will address the issue and restore funding.