This week, we talk supporting students during coronavirus, the new issue of TEACHING Exceptional Children, and opportunities from the field.

### A Message on COVID-19

**Supporting Students with Exceptionalities During Coronavirus**

We know that schools and teachers are facing hard decisions right now in addressing COVID-19. As you start preparing for changes in instruction and asking your local and state officials on how best to proceed, we wanted to share the latest resources, guidance, and information.

### Take Action

**Action Alert: Oppose Cuts to Gifted Education**

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program (Javits) is the only source of federal funding specifically tailored to support gifted education. However, the Administration’s proposed budget would eliminate it altogether. The House deadline may have passed, but we still have time to reach the Senate! Send a letter through our Legislative Action Center by **Tues., March 17**!

**DeVos Testifies Before Senate Appropriators**

Last week, Senate Appropriators conducted the first hearing regarding the proposed education budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 by inviting Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to testify.

### 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:

- Web-based math intervention for middle school
- Accessing minutes during coronavirus

Journal Articles of the Week

NEW! March/April Issue of TEACHING Exceptional Children

The brand new issue of our research-to-practice journal, *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, is hot off the press and the perfect source for your next great idea. Check out the full issue and stay tuned as we highlight a different article each week!

Moving Beyond Fidelity: Assessing Implementation of a Comprehensive Treatment Program for Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder

This article in *Exceptional Children* describes and demonstrates a thorough process for assessing implementation and receipt of a comprehensive treatment program for students with autism spectrum disorders in high schools.

Get Involved

Be a Student Leader!

Are you looking for an exceptional opportunity to represent CEC’s student membership? As one of two Student Representatives to the Representative Assembly, you could help shape the future of special education and CEC, your professional home. If you’re ready to take on a student leadership role in CEC, learn more and apply before Mon., April 13, 3pm ET!
From the Field

FREE Webinar on Evidence-Based Practices
Join CEC’s Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD) and Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD) on **Mon., March 16, 4pm ET** for “Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education,” a free webinar presented by Dr. Bryan Cook, professor of special education at the University of Virginia.

Power to the Profession: A Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession
Early childhood educators face a wide range of challenges, including under-investment, under-valuing, and under-compensation. That's why earlier this week, CEC's Division for Early Childhood (DEC) stood alongside 14 other national organizations to secure the workforce the supports they need.

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

**New Jersey CEC Spring 2020 Annual Conference (CANCELED)**
Mahwah, NJ | March 16

**3rd Annual South Dakota CEC Summer Institute**
Sioux Falls, SD | June 2-3
Private School Choice Programs Fall Short on Transparency, Accountability: Education Week finds that few of the nearly 30 states with programs that pay tuition at private schools or tax-credits to incentivize businesses and individuals to do so require private schools to follow standard policies used to ensure transparency and accountability in the nation’s public schools.

Closed schools could get OK to not give state tests amid coronavirus, ed department says: The U.S. Department of Education is considering waiving state assessment requirements as the coronavirus outbreak upends traditional school schedules in some areas. The department also signaled potential flexibility on other rules related to attendance and the testing schedule.

Coronavirus may stress colleges' finances, rating agency predicts: Extended shutdowns and uncertainty about the respiratory disease COVID-19 could have longer-term implications for institutions, according to Fitch Ratings.

MOOC providers offer some free course access amid coronavirus outbreak: New initiatives from edX and Coursera are opening up more of their platforms' courses as colleges take instruction online.

Per-Pupil Expenditure Data Will Shine Light On Nation’s Schools: An ESSA provision that has prompted states to report per-pupil expenditure at the school level will allow for more in-depth analysis of spending patterns and has the potential to produce better student outcomes.
Coronavirus is poised to inflame inequality in schools: The decision to close schools and transition to online learning amid the coronavirus outbreak is raising the issue of inequality in schools. Some schools and educators, for example, lack experience, training and infrastructure to deliver online lessons, and some organizations are stepping up to help shore up those efforts, including the Global Online Academy, which is offering free resources.

States Scouring Landscape for New Pots of K-12 Revenue: Lawmakers in a number of states, including Hawaii, Maryland and Virginia, are considering ways to expand their tax base to significantly overhaul education and shore up funds for teachers' pensions and more.


School meal assistance proposals in House coronavirus response act: The legislation would create a nationwide waiver authority to allow food distribution in any number of settings and ensure families don't lose access to basic essentials, among other things.
Unsubscribe from Special Education Today