As educators transition to providing special education online, engaging young children and their families is especially important. In partnership with our Division for Early Childhood (DEC), we'll be bringing you webinars and Quick Takes to help you move your early childhood special education interventions online. Watch the first webinar now and stay tuned for more!

We are constantly adding to our Resources for Teaching Remotely webpage, so make sure you bookmark it and check back for updates! From resource links to free CEC webinars for teachers AND administrators, we've got you covered with the latest resources and information.

Difficult times remind us to be grateful. And during National Volunteer Week, CEC President Dr. Jennifer Lesh shares why we’re so incredibly grateful for volunteer leaders like you!

As Congress is expected to fast-track an interim COVID-19 bill to provide additional support to small businesses and hospitals this week, education stakeholders continue to vocalize the need for
additional direct support for education funding. Find out what you can do to make sure our community’s needs are met and our stories are heard.

**White House Unveils 3-Phase Plan for Easing Social Distancing, Schools Appear in Phase 2**

Last week, President Trump released a broad, three-phase plan to restore public access to goods and services that have been restricted because of COVID-19. However, the plan fails to acknowledge that many students and school personnel fall into the category of “vulnerable populations.”

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**Fresh Off the Forum**

**Conversations from the CECommunity**

The CECommunity All-Member Forum is an exclusive 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:

- Special education distance learning
- Retention due to school closures

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**Transition Talk**

**Save on Our Online Transition Curriculum**

We know you’re working harder than ever to give your middle, high school, and post-secondary students the support they need. CEC’s Life Centered Education (LCE) is a fully online, secure transition curriculum and portal that tracks and reports on progress and outcomes and is specifically designed to help meet IEP goals. Check out the short demo video to see the ins and outs of LCE’s features, then subscribe by **April 30** and get a **15%** discount!

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**Journal Articles of the Week**

**Practical Components for Getting the Most from a Token Economy**

A token economy is a reinforcement system in which a student earns tokens following the demonstration of a desirable behavior. Although simple to understand, the procedural design can be challenging. This article in *TEACHING Exceptional Children* takes a practical look at the
Implementing Comprehensive Literacy Instruction for Students With Severe Disabilities in General Education Classrooms

This study in *Exceptional Children* investigates the efficacy of an early literacy intervention when it was implemented by special educators in general education classrooms with students in the class participating in the lessons.

CEC Reads

**Special IEPs Issue of TEACHING Exceptional Children**

During the first week of May, we’ll be dropping the new issue of our research-to-practice journal, *TEACHING Exceptional Children*. The best part? This special installment will be focused entirely on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)!

**Co-Teach! with Dr. Marilyn Friend**

Do you, too, have a co-teaching crush on Dr. Marilyn Friend? Then check out her new book, available on the CECatalog! This teacher-friendly publication, complete with discussion questions and extensive resources, is full of solutions, FAQs, and practical information, no matter where you fall on the co-teaching spectrum.

Get Involved

**Thank You, CEC Volunteers!**

In honor of National Volunteer Week, take a moment to watch this video from CEC President-Elect Dennis Cavitt, Ed.D., LSSP, as he thanks CEC volunteers.
Share Your Voice
Make a difference in the future of CEC and the field by representing your CEC state/provincial unit or division. From now through May 18, 3pm ET, applications are being accepted for two positions on CEC’s Representative Assembly (RA) Committee for two-year terms (7/1/20 – 6/30/22). Applicants must be a current or former RA Representative and have attended at least one RA meeting. Learn more and apply today!

Board Application Deadline Extended
Good news! Recognizing that the current crisis has created additional personal and professional responsibilities for many, the Board of Directors application deadline has been extended to June 1, 3pm ET. Learn more about CEC’s Board of Directors, read the application requirements, and explore our work.

Whitepaper: Selecting the Best SEB Assessments
Understanding social-emotional behavior (SEB) is critical to supporting academic success. SEB assessment provides insight. Read the whitepaper.

Upcoming Events
Division for Early Childhood Annual Conference
Minneapolis, MN | October 20-23

2020 Annual Ontario CEC Special Education Conference
Toronto, ON | November 27-28

Teachers of Special-Needs Students Struggle With Feelings of Helplessness:
This piece from the New York Times features CEC Board Member Danielle Kovach and Executive Director Chad Rummel.

Betsy DeVos Releases Billions More in Coronavirus Education Aid: U.S.
Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has officially announced that $13.5 billion in
emergency coronavirus funding for K-12 schools is now available.

**Ed Dept releases 2nd round of coronavirus aid for colleges, clarifies who qualifies:** Only students eligible for federal aid can receive grants. And higher ed groups say getting the first round of funding has been cumbersome.

**Coronavirus Fallout Threatens States' Prekindergarten Progress, Report Warns:** States have made progress in expanding access to high-quality pre-K, but budget cuts due to the pandemic could reverse that, the National Institute for Early Education Research warns.

**NAEP: 8th-graders' scores drop in US history, geography:** U.S. history and geography scores among eighth-grade students have declined since 2014 while civics scores remained steady, according to results released Thursday by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card.

**Why Some States Keep Schools Closed, Even as Businesses Move to Reopen:** Governors in some states are taking steps toward reopening their economies, but schools remain closed. The reasoning, officials say, is that school is compulsory, and many leaders nationwide have indicated the schools will not return to "normal" until at least the fall.

**Education Department Announces $3 Billion in Emergency Education Funds for Governors:** Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced it is streamlining the application process and reducing red tape for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act.
U.S. Appeals Court Recognizes a Federal Right of Access to Literacy: In a groundbreaking decision, a federal appeals court on Thursday recognized a fundamental federal right to a basic minimum education and access to literacy.

Lawmakers seek $2 billion E-Rate boost for distance learning: Legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress would provide $2 billion of additional funding for the federal E-rate program, which would help to support students' technology needs amid the transition to remote learning.

Coronavirus opens doors to rethinking education: Some education leaders and experts are calling for the school calendar to be revisited in response to prolonged school closures stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

Students on remote learning: More creativity, interaction needed: Organizations are gathering students’ feedback on their e-learning experiences during the pandemic, the tools used, and what could be improved, according to survey results from Phi Delta Kappa International.

Battered By Coronavirus Closures, Some School Districts Are Starting to Furlough Staff: Hourly workers make up more than a quarter of districts' budgets and some superintendents are deciding they can no longer afford to pay them to not work.

More College Students May Need Remedial Help This Fall. Can They Get It Online?: Amid the coronavirus pandemic, students who are facing challenges associated with juggling jobs and online study may need remedial classes this fall.