



## For Immediate Release

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### CEC Sets Its Public Policy Agenda for the 111th U.S. Congress

**ARLINGTON, VA, NOVEMBER 18, 2008** – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has unveiled its 2009–2011 policy agenda, outlining the major legislation its Policy and Advocacy Services Unit will work on to further the education of children with disabilities and gifts and talents. CEC represents 40,000 professionals who work on behalf of children with exceptionalities and is a national leader in special and gifted education policy.

“CEC stands ready to collaborate with the new Administration and Congress on pressing policy issues that impact every child in our nation, such as early childhood education, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,” stated CEC President Susan A. Fowler.

CEC’s advocacy priorities emerge from the belief that every child deserves access to a challenging, motivating, and rigorous education. A high-quality education requires superior leadership, full financial support, effective instruction, skilled staff, appropriate programs, suitable facilities, and family and community support and involvement.

CEC’s public policy agenda for the 111th United States Congress is as follows:

**High Priority:** Identified by CEC members as needing immediate federal legislation or regulatory attention.

#### Policy Objectives

*Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):* Advocate for CEC’s recommendations during the reauthorization of *ESEA* and emphasize key policies including:

- Full funding.
- Assessment systems that measure the achievement of all students.
- Accountability systems that reward quality school performance and seek to improve poor school performance.
- Measuring student progress using multiple indicators such as progress monitoring and growth models.
- Response to intervention.
- Systems that are coordinated and balanced between *ESEA* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.

- Increased funding for and expansion of the *Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act*.

*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*: Advocate for the reauthorization, regulatory provisions, and full implementation of *IDEA 2004* and emphasize key policies including:

- Full funding.
- Outstanding early childhood regulations and initiatives.
- Access to the general education curriculum.
- Assessment.
- Preparing, recruiting, and retaining a well-prepared, diverse special education workforce.
- Disproportionate representation.
- Quality conditions for teaching and learning.
- Paperwork reduction.
- Identification and eligibility.
- Discipline procedures.
- Transition initiatives.
- Monitoring and enforcement.
- Family involvement.

*Gifted Education*: Identify new legislative opportunities to address the educational needs of students with gifts and talents and increase the federal role to support states in building the capacity to identify and serve these students. CEC will advocate for such provisions in relevant legislation and policies, including in *ESEA*, *IDEA*, appropriations legislation, and other pertinent legislation.

*Medicaid*: Advocate for policies that provide a long-term solution to maintaining medical services provided to children with disabilities by school districts and early intervention programs through Medicaid. Provisions CEC will focus on include targeted case management, administrative and transportation claiming, and the rehabilitation option.

**Priority**: Identified by CEC members as needing increasing federal legislation or regulatory attention and will be acted on in concert with the legislative calendar.

### **Policy Objectives**

- *Research in Special Education*: Advocate for increased funding for research in special education and develop recommendations for the reauthorization of the Education Science Reform Act.
- *Higher Education Opportunity Act*: Participate in rulemaking process of the implementation of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

**Monitor**: Identified by CEC members as relevant but will be acted on only when specific opportunities arise or conditions change members' needs and priorities.

## Policy Objectives

- *Workforce Investment Act:* Monitor and advocate for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.
- *Perkins Career and Technical Education Act:* Monitor and advocate for the reauthorization of the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.
- *Other Legislation/Policy Opportunities:* Advocate for CEC's recommendations for other relevant legislation/policies as introduced.

CEC is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

[CEC's Official Public Policy Agenda for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress](#)

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