
Press Release

For Immediate Release

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CEC Pleased that IDEA Regulations Are Released, Urges Department of Education to Act on Missing Pieces

CEC's Recommendations on Key Issues Included in Final Regulations

ARLINGTON, VA, AUGUST 7, 2006—The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is pleased that the regulations for the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004* have been released. Their publication at this time will enable schools to implement *IDEA 2004* for the entire 2006-2007 school year. However, CEC continues to urge the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to release the proposed regulations on early intervention for infants and toddlers and the final regulations for the Multi-Year IEP and Paperwork Reduction Pilot Programs.

CEC is also pleased that its recommendations on key issues were heeded. One of those concerns the identification of students with learning disabilities. CEC's recommendation that states continue to be allowed to use the discrepancy model to determine learning disabilities is included in the final regulations. While CEC supports early identification of learning disabilities, the Council encourages the use of various processes for LD identification. In addition, CEC

seeks further clarification about the implementation of the response-to-intervention.

CEC is dismayed to report that the final regulations do not require private school teachers to be highly qualified. CEC believes all teachers should be highly qualified, and we will renew our efforts to ensure all students with disabilities, including those in private schools, receive instruction from teachers who meet highly qualified requirements.

In other areas, CEC will continue its advocacy for increased funding for special education services and for the release of the final regulations on *No Child Left Behind's* 2% flexibility option for alternate assessments for students with disabilities.

Beginning this fall, CEC will conduct *IDEA* workshops around the country, as well as offer Web seminars on specific *IDEA* topics. Regional workshops are scheduled for Washington, D.C.; Boston, Mass., Philadelphia, Pa.; Orlando, Fla.; Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Ill.; Garden Grove, Ca.; Colorado Springs, Co.; and Portland, Or. In addition, CEC's analysis of the *IDEA* regulations will soon be available to members through the CEC Web site, www.cec.sped.org.

CEC is the leading association for special educators. The Council works to improve the educational success of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. Its members represent nearly 6.9 million children with disabilities as well as children with gifts and talents.

To read the IDEA 2004 Regulations, go to

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html> .

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