



Council for
Exceptional
Children

The voice and vision of special education

Teaching and Learning Conditions

Evidence-Based Practices

International Engagement

Community and Membership

Public Policy Advocacy

Organizational Effectiveness



CEC — Strategic Vision for the Future

CEC is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy. The vision of CEC is to be a diverse, vibrant professional community working together and with others to ensure that individuals with exceptionalities are valued and included in all aspects of life. Furthermore, CEC seeks to become a trusted voice in shaping education policy and practice and to be globally renowned for its expertise and leadership.

To move the Council toward this vision, the Board of Directors, in collaboration with staff and guidance from the Representative Assembly, developed the 2009–2011 Strategic Plan, which builds upon the successes of the previous plan. The new plan features six goals—teaching and learning conditions, evidence-based practices, international engagement, community and membership, public policy and advocacy, and organizational effectiveness—to improve the education of children and youth with exceptionalities, encourage the involvement of their families, support informed professional standards and practice, and strengthen our professional community.

CEC Board of Directors

Teaching and Learning Conditions

Goal 1:

To improve the conditions of teaching and learning and support the highest quality of services for individuals with exceptionalities.

Issue:

Improved teaching and learning conditions are required to prepare, recruit, and retain quality professionals in special education and early intervention so that every child and youth with exceptionalities receives quality services and supports from caring and competent professional educators. These improvements must begin with high-quality teacher and administrator preparation programs and continue through career-long professional development and advocacy, with focus given to validated special education practice, professional learning communities, collaboration, diversity and disproportionality, and administrative support.

Objectives:

- Develop professional development opportunities and resources regarding collaboration.
- Work with experts across the field of education to develop quality standards.
- Increase the diversity and cultural competence of the profession.





Evidence-Based Practices

Goal 2:

To foster and effectively communicate the use of evidence-based practices in general and special education and early intervention.

Issue:

There is a growing interest in evidence-based practices that address the needs of individuals with exceptionalities. There is currently confusion regarding exactly what evidence-based practices are, how they can be evaluated, and how they can be identified and utilized with these individuals. Further, we need to examine carefully the context of the evidence base by addressing questions like “Evidence base for which students? And under what circumstances?” to ensure that the needs of diverse students have been addressed.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement a valid, reliable system for evaluating the evidence bases.
- Disseminate information on the evidence bases of practice and inform the research agenda.
- Provide guidance on using the evidence bases, incorporating wisdom and values of families and professionals.



International Engagement

Goal 3:

To foster mutual understanding and reciprocal partnerships internationally, supporting professionals in improving the lives of individuals with exceptionalities.

Issue:

Educational systems throughout the world are working to address needs of individuals with exceptionalities. CEC can provide avenues to foster mutual understanding and reciprocal partnerships to gain a broader understanding and respect of the world's cultures, educational values and practices, and research.

Objectives:

- Develop reciprocal structures to increase presence and influence in supporting professionals.
- Foster mutual understanding and respect for values and educational traditions and practices across diverse cultures.

Community and Membership

Goal 4:

To promote growth and diversity in membership by building a more engaged community to enhance professional practice, learning, leadership, and collaboration.

Issue:

Associations continue to experience increased competition for traditional core services while experiencing societal and demographic trends that impact membership affiliation and retention. Sustaining success in such a dynamic environment entails having a reputation for value, an enjoyable culture based on trust and communication, and a nimble infrastructure for quickly seizing opportunities to create value.

Objectives:

- Improve recruitment and retention, including diverse members, by increasing the value of programs, products and services.
- Strengthen the value of programs and services offered by state and provincial units and divisions.
- Increase leadership development opportunities and the active involvement of members.





Public Policy Advocacy

Goal 5:

To advance governmental policies impacting the teaching and learning of individuals with exceptionalities and the practice of professionals who work on their behalf.

Issue:

Vigorous sustained advocacy is required to ensure that programs are funded in accordance with authorization levels and that affirmative actions are taken to meaningfully address shortages of high-quality professionals within special education and early intervention. New accountability standards are impacting the delivery of educational services and objectives for individuals with exceptionalities.

Objectives:

- Support grassroots advocacy to influence state/provincial and national policies.
- Achieve the objectives outlined in biannual public policy agenda (U.S.).

Organizational Effectiveness

Goal 6:

To continuously improve organizational performance and fiduciary effectiveness to provide value to members and customers.

Issue:

Productive and efficient operations and management and careful financial stewardship are essential to continuous enhanced performance and the Council's ability to deliver cost-effective, value-added programs and services. Successful organizations are committed to mission, customer service, analysis and feedback, dialogue and engagement, ongoing evaluation and organizational adaptability.

Objectives:

- Sustain annual income and net assets growth.
- Increase use of cost-effective technology to customize and improve services.



Council For Exceptional Children

Core Values

CEC values:

- The dignity and worth of all individuals.
- Social justice, inclusiveness, and diversity.
- Professional excellence, integrity, and accountability.
- Rich and meaningful participation in society for all individuals with exceptionalities.
- Effective individualized education for all individuals with exceptionalities.
- The importance of families in the lives and education of all individuals with exceptionalities.
- Collaboration and community building to improve outcomes.

Mission

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

Vision

CEC is a diverse, vibrant professional community working together and with others to ensure that individuals with exceptionalities are valued and included in all aspects of life. CEC is a trusted voice in shaping education policy and practice and is globally renowned for its expertise and leadership. CEC is one of the world's premiere education organizations.

Ratified January 2008, CEC Board of Directors.





1110 North Glebe Road
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201-5704
USA

www.cec.sped.org