



For immediate release
Contact: Annie Baldauf, 703-264-9435, annieb@cec.sped.org

CEC President Mikki Garcia on President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

Arlington, Va., May. 24, 17, – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is fully committed to its mission of advancing the success of children and youth with exceptionalities. President Trump's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget would have a disastrous effect on special and gifted education and early intervention programs. The proposed budget includes deep cuts to U.S. Department of Education funding, level funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), slashing of Medicaid funding, and the complete elimination of funding for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program. Without a healthy investment in these programs, our nation's children and youth with exceptionalities will no longer have the same opportunities to be successful at home, in school, within their communities, and throughout life.

CEC opposes the proposed funding of a private school voucher program. As delineated in CEC's [Position on School Vouchers](#), voucher programs are counter to the best interests of children and youth with disabilities, their families, the public school system, local communities, and taxpayers. These programs contradict and undermine the central purposes of IDEA and other civil rights laws designed to protect children and youth with disabilities. Many students with disabilities often cannot find private schools to accept them or which are committed to providing them with a free appropriate public education.

With this proposed budget, President Trump has ignored the fact that states, school districts, and early intervention programs across the country are already under significant financial strain. Education is the great equalizer in our nation and it must be appropriately supported and funded.

As the largest international association of special educators, CEC will continue to advocate for federal education investments that maximizes, rather than limits or eliminates, opportunities for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org.

