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**For immediate release**

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### **CEC President Mikki Garcia on President Trump's Budget**

**Arlington, Va., March 17, 2017** – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is fully committed to our mission as a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children and youth with exceptionalities. While CEC supports the continuation of the \$13 billion committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the law has been underfunded since 1975, jeopardizing the provision of a free appropriate public education for the nation's children and youth with disabilities. CEC is disappointed in President Trump's budget, which proposes an overall 13 percent funding cut for education programs thereby, reducing access to quality public schools that provide opportunities for all children. Additionally, CEC opposes the proposed funding of a private school voucher program and the adoption of Title I portability. CEC, in its [Position on School Vouchers](#), opposes school vouchers for children and youth with disabilities as being contrary to the best interest of children and youth and their families, the public school system, local communities, and taxpayers. Vouchers both contradict and undermine the central purposes of civil rights laws designed to protect children and youth with disabilities. At a time when states, school districts, and early intervention programs across the country are under significant financial strain, President Trump's budget neglects an opportunity to answer the calls for greater federal support in key public education programs. CEC and its members look forward to working with Congress to correct this course as the FY 2018 budget process gets underway.

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*Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).*



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