Greetings CAN Coordinators!

CEC is gearing up for the Annual Convention & Expo taking place in Philadelphia, PA from April 9-12. This month we have dedicated this edition of the CAN DO to the Convention and CEC's Policy and Advocacy sessions and activities. Be sure to attend as many sessions as you can, especially the CEC CAN Coordinators Meeting!

Check out CEC's Legislative Action Center in CEC Central and get involved!

Come by CEC's Legislative Action Center in CEC Central and help us inform members about how they can get involved in CEC's advocacy efforts. We will be sending out a Doodle to all CAN Coordinators where you can sign up for a shift helping out at the LAC booth. We ask that everyone sign up for at least an hour shift, but feel free to sign up for more if you’d like!

Preconvention Workshop 15: What Every Educator Needs to Know About the Coming Changes to Special Education Policy  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, with Deborah Ziegler, Associate Executive Director, Council for Exceptional Children and Kim Hymes, Senior Director, Council for Exceptional Children

In this wide-ranging presentation, CEC's Policy and Advocacy headquarters team will analyze education policies currently under discussion in Washington, D.C., review the recent changes to education policy supported by the Administration and Congress and examine its impact on children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.

Topics will include the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind - with a special focus on its most controversial provisions - like teacher evaluation systems, turnaround models, restraint and seclusion, assessment and accountability, and charter schools.
Additionally, the team will review ongoing implementation of the ESEA waivers, and legislative updates on the Workforce Investment Act, Education Sciences Reform Act, the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, IDEA Full Funding Act, early childhood initiatives, and relevant administrative guidance published by the U.S. Department of Education. The team will also review the status of the federal education budget and how it affects state and local programs. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences based on new and pending federal policies.


OSERS Acting Assistant Secretary Michael Yudin will discuss access to college and career ready standards and assessments, secondary transition and disproportionality.

**OESE/OSEP Collaboration: IDEA and Title I Collaboration at the Federal Level: What It Means for You!** Thursday, April 10, 2014, 1:30-2:30 PM, with Monique Chism, Director, Office of Student Achievement and School Accountability, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education; and Ruth Ryder, Deputy Director, Office of Special Education Programs, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

There are many programs at the U.S. Department of Education that support states, school districts and schools in improving results for struggling learners. Historically these programs have not been well-coordinated. Over the last year there have been unprecedented efforts to collaborate across programs such as Title I, IDEA, School Improvement Grants and programs for English Language Learners. This session will describe those efforts, the impact on State Educational Agencies and potential impact on districts and schools. As part of the session, presenters will also solicit your thoughts regarding challenges and barriers to better coordination of federally-funded programs.

**CAN Meeting** Thursday, April 10, 2014, 5:15-6:15 PM, with Deborah Ziegler, Kim Hymes, and Rose Haller-Kaplan, Council for Exceptional Children Policy Staff

This one-hour CAN meeting is an informal gathering of the CAN Coordinators to give everyone the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other, receive a brief policy update, and hear about the CAN Meeting in June from CEC Policy Staff.

**What's Happening in Washington?**
Friday, April 12, 2014, 8:00-11:30 AM, with Deborah Ziegler, Associate Executive Director, Council for Exceptional Children; Kim Hymes, Senior Director, Council for Exceptional Children; Melody Musgrove, Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education; Tracy Gray, Managing Director, Powerupwhatworks.org; American Institutes for Research; and Mary Brownell Director of the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR Center) University of Florida

8am-9am: Session I - Improving Results for Children with Disabilities: Where We Were, Where We Are, Where We're Going
OSEP Director, Melody Musgrove will discuss the history of OSEP's major reform initiative, Results Driven Accountability, and how it promotes improved educational outcomes for students with disabilities in the Department's environment of shared accountability for all students.

9:00-9:15am: BREAK

9:15-10:15am: Session II - From the U.S. Capitol to Main Street: Education Reforms
This session will feature insight, tools and resources from recognized experts on the impact key education reform policies are having on children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who work on their behalf, such as the adoption and implementation of college and career ready standards; the new PARCC and SMARTER Balanced assessments; and teacher evaluation systems.

10:15-10:30am: BREAK

10:30-11:30: Session III - Education Reforms & their Impact on Special/Gifted Education, an Analysis by CEC's Policy Team
Recent education policy developments coming from Washington, D.C. have resulted in major changes for states, schools, and the education of students with exceptionalities across the country. Presenters will discuss CEC's perspective on key education policy issues pursued by the Obama Administration and Members of Congress that are impacting special/gifted education, such as: funding concerns, waivers to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), measuring and evaluating teacher and school effectiveness; creating the next generation of assessments; implementing common core standards; early learning initiatives; preparations for the reauthorization of the
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and what impending changes will mean for the future of special education.

Overview of the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER)  
Friday, April 11, 2014, 2:45-3:45 PM, with Joan McLaughlin, Commissioner, NCSER, IES, U.S. Department of Education

In this session, Joan McLaughlin, Commissioner, National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER), Institute of Education Science (IES), U.S. Department of Education, will provide an overview of NCSER's mission, goals, and funding patterns. She will review the Center's accomplishments and provide thoughts on future directions for research. NCSER sponsors researches that focuses on the needs of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, or who are at risk for developing disabilities as well as their teachers and parents. NCSER is one of four Centers within IES, the primary research arm of the Department of Education.

Rewriting the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: CEC's Town Hall Discussion  
Saturday, April 12, 2014, 10:30-11:30 AM with Deborah Ziegler, Associate Executive Director, Council for Exceptional Children and Kim Hymes, Senior Director, Council for Exceptional Children

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of IDEA! Join in a lively discussion about what is working well for children and your programs and what implementation challenges you face. Participation in this session will provide CEC's policy team with needed input as they craft Congressional recommendations for the upcoming reauthorization of IDEA. This Town Hall will address all parts of IDEA and we look forward to your input.

If you won't be with us at Convention, check out the Public Policy Convention page on the official CEC website that will be updated regularly leading up to convention with resources and other important information.

We hope to see you in Washington, D.C. at the CEC Headquarters for our June CAN Meeting - June 7-10 2013, registration information available soon! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me at 703-264-9498 or rosehk@cec.sped.org.