

CEC Denounces the Use of Federal Funds to Purchase Guns to Arm Teachers

Arlington, Va. August 24, 2018—The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is outraged that Betsy DeVos, U.S. Secretary of Education, is considering issuing guidance that would allow school districts to purchase guns with federal grant funds, specifically Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants of Every Student Succeeds Act. CEC supports the use of Title IV, Part A grant funds to support safe and positive school climates and environments, including funding mental health services and violence prevention programs, NOT for purchasing guns to arm teachers.

CEC [strongly opposes arming teachers and other school personnel in schools](#) and using federal funds to purchase firearms. Arming teachers has no empirical support and is an ill-conceived and counterproductive idea that has potential for making schools less safe.

This nation must come together to enact comprehensive policies and practices that support school and community safety and protection and commonsense gun violence prevention measures. CEC supports an approach to school and community safety that addresses both prevention and response; is rooted in research and evidence; addresses mental health services for children and youth and confronts the stigma of mental health challenges; and ensures an adequate number of personnel who are trained to address the complex needs of children and youth with mental health challenges.

Learn more about CEC's [policy on safe and positive school climates and environments](#).

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The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children and youth with exceptionalities that accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development. Learn more about CEC at www.cec.sped.org.