

We are not backing down...

Dear CEC Members:

At the beginning of 2017, I wrote to you about CEC's shared concerns as we were introduced to a new U.S. Congress and Administration. Almost six months later, where are we? The die is cast as to what the Administration is seeking through its FY 2018 budget. Although special education is mostly level-funded—still not enough by any standard—other critical programs that undergird the support for *all* children are facing cuts, such as the complete elimination of funding for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program.


U.S. Congress. The U.S. Capitol will be our battleground in the fight to ensure that EVERY child receives a free appropriate public education (FAPE) regardless of race, religion, geography, or socio-economic status. This week, at our [2017 Special Education Legislative Summit](#), CEC will be storming Capitol Hill to do what we do best: educate! We must let the members of Congress know what works in special education and early intervention and how our federal government must play a leadership role in improving public education.

U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court has addressed two major cases this term concerning FAPE: [Fry vs. Napoleon Community Schools](#) and [Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District](#). CEC has hosted two *members-only* webinars on Endrew F., a landmark case. Please take a moment to watch the latest webinar and share it with your colleagues. [Click here](#) to access the webinars, and keep an eye out for the September/October edition of *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, which will include an in-depth article on this important case.

Teacher Preparation. Meanwhile, CEC and its members continue to work toward better preparing teachers to deliver services to children. On June 27, CEC and the CEEDAR Center hosted a media event to share information and resources about the high-leverage practices initiative (see www.highleveragepractices.org), which could revolutionize the way we prepare special educators.

I once again would like you to reflect on CEC's core values. We are an organization of vision, integrity, and inclusiveness. As we share in this [video](#), our organization has been and continues to be committed to diversity, caring, and the respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals. This is the time for us to come together as a profession to defend the rights of children and youth with exceptionalities. This is the time for us to stand together and speak with one voice.

Sincerely,



Mikki Garcia, Ed.D.



Mikki Garcia
CEC President