CAN Do Newsletter: Convention
April 2013

For those of you who will be joining us at in San Antonio, TX for CEC’s Annual Convention and Expo this year, this newsletter will be your one stop shop to CEC’s Policy and Advocacy sessions and activities for this year’s Convention.

Children and Youth Action Network and the Legislative Action Center, all day, every day! CEC Central

Come by CEC’s Legislative Action Center in CEC Central help us inform members about how they can get involved in CEC’s advocacy efforts. Learn more about the 113th Congress and its new members and help us share that info with other members of CEC. You can sign up for a shift helping out at the LAC table by emailing sarad@cec.sped.org with times. **We ask that everyone sign up for a half an hour shift**, but feel free to sign up for more if you’d like!

CEC CAN Coordinators Meeting, Thursday, April 4, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, Room 006B in the Convention Center

Join CEC’s Policy team for a delicious salsa bar, a chance to socialize with your fellow CAN Coordinators and an update on policy issues! Get ready to share with us your thoughts about the CAN Network, hear details about the upcoming CAN Meeting in June and get updates on policy issues that will be a part of CEC’s advocacy agenda in the coming months.

What’s Happening in Washington? Friday, April 5, 8:00 -11:30 am, 214 A in the Convention Center

Sequestration, a new Congress, Race to the Top, ESEA Waivers, Vouchers, Charter Schools – what isn’t happening in Washington might be a better question! A new Congress and the second term of the Obama Administration will result in the continuation of dramatic policy developments coming from Washington, D.C. impacting states, schools, and the education of students with exceptionalities across the country. Come by to learn more about key policy issues that will impact special/gifted education, and get a policy primer for your advocacy work as a CAN Coordinator.

The Policy behind the Research: CEC’s Recommendations for the Reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act, Saturday, April 6, 10:30 – 11:30 am, 214 A in the Convention Center

In 2013, CEC approved its recommendations to Congress for the reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act – legislation which guides the federal education research agenda. Come hear directly from leaders in special education research about improvements that can be made to strengthen
special education research policy. Learn more about education research, CEC’s recommendations and the impact this will have on the field and how you can use these recommendations in your advocacy as a CAN Coordinator.

**CEC’s Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation**, Saturday, April 6, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, 214 A in the Convention Center

Come by our Special Education Teacher Evaluation session and join CEC’s Policy & Advocacy Services Team and experts from the field for a conversation about CEC’s new Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation, and the historical and ongoing policy discussions that lead to its creation. In addition, CEC will also be launching two new one pagers to accompany the Position which further explain the Position and offer examples of how CEC members can use the Position to advocate for strong and meaningful evaluation systems for special education teachers in their schools, districts and states.

If you won’t be with us at Convention, check out the Convention page on the Policy and Advocacy section of the website which will be updated with all of our resources from the 2013 Annual Convention and Expo.

We hope to see you in Washington, D.C. at the CEC Headquarters for our June meeting – June 8-11, 2013! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us at 703-264-9498 or sarad@cec.sped.org.