

---

## Special and Gifted Education Funding

---

### Background

---

Every year, Congress appropriates funding for every federal program. This includes education programs that impact students with disabilities and/or gifts and talents and the professionals who work on their behalf. In recent years, federal funding for education – particularly special and gifted education – has been largely stagnant, with only a few programs receiving minimal increases.

In February 2009, in response to the fiscal crisis, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*, which doubled funding for most Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs for two years. Although CEC applauded this historic investment, even this significant increase did not result in full funding of IDEA. Additionally, ARRA did not provide any support for several important programs including research in special education, IDEA Support Programs (Part D), or the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act.

Furthermore, in FY 2010 and FY 2011 the Administration recommended, and Congress approved, flat funding for IDEA. Moreover and due to changes in child count numbers IDEA Part B funding fell to 16.5%. In FY 2012, the Administration has again sought no meaningful increase for most IDEA programs, with the exception of Part C. Thus, despite the extreme national fiscal crisis, lower state revenues and the pending funding cliff that states and local districts are facing when the ARRA monies end.

### CEC Recommends Congress Take the Following Actions:

---

#### Fully Fund All IDEA Programs

*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):*

- CEC requests the following amounts for programs authorized under IDEA –grants to states for school aged students (Part B) **\$13,993,372,000**, preschool program (Part B Section 619) **\$774,100,000**, the infants and toddlers with disabilities program (Part C) **\$939,427,000**, and support programs (Part D) **\$918,854,000**. Achieving full funding for all of these programs must be a national priority.

#### Appropriate \$259,164 million in FY 2012 for Special Education and Early Intervention Research

*Education Science Reform Act (ESRA):*

- Research enhances teachers' ability to use strong evidence-based practices in their classrooms. Without good research, the field cannot respond to the growing demands of a global economy. This funding would support research and help us understand how students learn best and what teaching practices most enhance their education and result in meaningful learning.

#### At a Minimum, Restore Funding for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act and Meet the Demands of the Field by Increasing the Appropriation to \$20 Million

*Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act:*

- In FY 2011, Congress and the Administration eliminated all funding for this program. Thus, at a minimum, Congress should restore the funding for this program at its FY2010 level of \$7.5 million but CEC urges Congress to recognize the real needs in the field by increasing the appropriation to \$20 million. As the only federal program dedicated to identifying and serving students with gifts and talents, the Javits Act, supports the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, as well as demonstration grants throughout the nation, which identify and scale up best practices. Additionally, the Act allows for capacity building grants at the state level to support the infrastructure needed to provide gifted education, which have been unavailable due to lack of funding.