



CEC Wants to Hear From You About IDEA Reauthorization!

As the nation recently recognized the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), CEC is proud to take this time to reflect on the efforts of children and youth with disabilities, families, educators, and policy makers who were instrumental in the passage of this legislation and who remain committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities attain a lifetime of success.

On November 29, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142), legislation which paved the way for improved outcomes for individuals with disabilities. CEC was proud to lead the advocacy effort—alongside many parents, organizations, and individuals with disabilities—to secure Congressional passage of this landmark legislation, which marked a pivotal shift in how our nation perceived individuals with disabilities.

IDEA includes state formula grant programs, as well as a national program that supports professional development, technical assistance, and parent information and training, as well as dissemination, media, and technology investments. CEC recognizes that Parts A and B of the Act are permanently authorized, while Parts C and D need to be reauthorized.

CEC fully supports IDEA and remains committed to the continuing successful implementation of this essential law.

CEC supports the core purposes of IDEA, as stated in the Act:

- To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;
- To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and parents of such children are protected;

- To assist States, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities;
- To assist States in the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;
- To ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting system improvement activities; coordinated research and personnel preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services; and
- To assess, and ensure the effectiveness of, efforts to educate children with disabilities.

While CEC commends all involved for this dramatic progress, we also recognize the need to build upon our successes and continue to hold high expectations and outcomes for all children and youth with disabilities. CEC looks forward to continued collaboration with its members and policy makers to ensure that all individuals with disabilities have access to an environment that fosters academic, developmental, and social growth, as we move forward to reauthorize IDEA.

CEC has begun a process to develop a set of principles to guide the development of recommendations for the reauthorization of the IDEA. These recommendations will be crafted with input from the membership and will be available early in 2017. The CEC Board of Directors has created an IDEA Work Group to develop the principles and recommendations.

CEC wants to hear from its members, units and divisions about the successes and challenges with IDEA. Please take the opportunity to provide your input by [completing the IDEA Reauthorization survey here](#). Feel free to answer all questions or only a select few.

Please respond by **September 16, 2016**.

Thank you for your participation.