



**December 2010**

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**Reminder: CEC has Moved!**

**As of December 13, 2010, CEC is at a new location:**

2900 Crystal Drive  
Suite 1000  
Arlington, VA 22202-3557

1.866.509.0218 (toll free in U.S.)  
+1.703.620.3660  
1.866.915.5000 (TTY toll free in U.S.)

**Call for FY2012 Federal Outlook Stories!**

Each year, CEC publishes the *Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children*, which provides a comprehensive overview of federally funded programs—IDEA and the Javits program—that impact children and youth with exceptionalities. This book includes stories about children and youth across the United States who have benefitted from these programs.

How have children and youth in your state benefitted from IDEA or Javits? Do you – or others in your unit -- have a Success Story to share? Tell us!

Please put this information out to your unit! Having a story from your home state is a great advocacy tool to display when meeting with your Congressional delegation!

The deadline is **December 30, 2010**. If you would like to submit a story but need more time, contact Carrie Winslow at [carriew@cec.sped.org](mailto:carriew@cec.sped.org)

[Click here to download the submission form](#)

[service@cec.sped.org](mailto:service@cec.sped.org) \*Please note that staff phone numbers have not changed. Come visit – we hope to see you soon!

## **CEC Recommendations for ESEA Reauthorization: Alignment with IDEA**

View the [video](#) from CEC's hill briefing in June 2010 during the CAN Meeting discussing how special and general education can better collaborate to align IDEA and ESEA. This video would be good to share with your networks to use for training, or feature it at your CEC Conference.

## **The Legislative Process: Where Does Advocacy Fit in?**

As we prepare for the incoming 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Policy and Advocacy Team wants to give you the tools you need to get involved and effectively advocate on behalf of children with exceptionalities. Over the next few months CEC will be using the *CAN Do! Newsletter* to supply you with resources, talking points, and guidelines about efficient and effective advocacy.

Here are three key actions you can take to get involved:

### **Raise Your Voice: Policy Agenda for 112<sup>th</sup> Congress**

As CEC prepares for a new Congress to take over in January, we would like your input on what the most important issues facing special and gifted education are to you. CEC will use the results of [this survey](#) to help form a strategic legislative action plan for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. CEC is counting on our CAN coordinators to help establish our agenda, and advocate alongside us as we work together to improve the lives of all children and youth with exceptionalities. Be an advocate!

The deadline for this survey is **January 7, 2011**

1. **Get to know your Senators and Representatives!** January 2011 will bring [106 Freshman Members](#) to Congress; in fact nearly every state has a new member of Congress. Next month will be a great time to introduce yourself and CEC to new members of Congress and reach out to incumbents. To learn more about your Congressional delegation, including contact information, visit [CEC's Legislative Action Center](#).

2. **Familiarize yourself with the legislative process**, and where and when grassroots advocacy fits in. Because the bulk of CEC's advocacy efforts take place at the Federal level, I've provided you with [this guide](#) to the Federal legislative process. As you'll see, there are many points at which advocates can and should be involved; whether it is supporting a new bill by calling your Senators and Representatives, or advocating to save funding for special and gifted education programs that have touched and changed lives. CEC will keep you apprised of these opportunities, but we encourage you to keep your finger on the pulse of special and gifted education issues nationally and in your state and let us know if you hear of opportunities as well.
  
3. Want to get a step ahead? Keep gathering information about the issues that are important to the field. CEC's website can be a great resource to you. For example, check out [CEC's Issue Briefs](#).

## **Happy Holidays from CEC!**

CEC would like to take the time to thank each of you for all that you do. We could not meet the goals of CEC's Public Policy Agenda without the efforts of all of CEC's CAN Coordinators, and we thank you for your work this year on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities. We wish you the best this holiday season. Together, we can make a difference!

Questions? Please contact Carrie Winslow: [carriew@cec.sped.org](mailto:carriew@cec.sped.org) or 703.264.9498