

TED Advocacy

Useful resources to help support advocacy work



Advocacy Brief #1, Winter 2024

Using TED & CEC Resources

TED members advocate for a policy agenda that is centered on best practices as they relate to the professional development of pre-service and in-service teachers and other educators who work with individuals with exceptionalities. To get the job done, TED engages a number of resources and opportunities for engagement in advocacy work- from learning more to spreading awareness to making the pitch! In this Advocacy Brief, we provide information and tips about what is available and how to use them.

Useful resources provided by TED & CEC

TED: Kaitlyn Brennan, PhD



TED's Policy Advisor, Dr. Kait Brennan, works with the TED Board to advance a policy agenda centered on best practices as they relate to the professional development of pre-service and in-service teachers and other educators who work with individuals with exceptionalities. In this role, she meets with a range of stakeholders which include (but are not limited to) constituents (TED Members), advocacy groups, coalitions, members of Congress and their staff, and Department of Education and White House officials. She also provides a Policy Update session at the annual TED and CEC conferences.

TED: Weekly Washington Updates



To keep members informed, Dr. Kait Brennan delivers weekly updates directly to your inbox! The **Washington Update** is issued every Friday when Congress is in session, summarizing what happened in DC related to education policy and how this could impact your work. Dr. Brennan also provides an "In the States" section, which outlines a state-related issue each week. Check out current and past Washington Updates at the TED website (<https://tedcec.org/blog/category/washington-update>). If you have a story from your state that would like featured, please email Kait at Kbrennan@kbstrategies.org

TED: Virtual Washington Updates



The monthly **Virtual Washington Update** offers a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening in federal education policy and to consider how this impacts your work. Come to engage in dialogue with your colleagues, present ideas, and ask questions! Dr. Brennan takes advantage of the opportunity to hear from members about pressing policy-related challenges. To register in advance, visit the TED website (<https://tedcec.org/policy-and-advocacy-portal>). Have a topic you would like to present information on or panelists you would like to hear from during an update? Email me: kbrennan@kbstrategies.org

CEC: Legislative Action Center



What this resource is: The Legislative Action Center provides an opportunity for everyone to advocate for federal legislative issues that are important to the students and families CEC serves. Use this website to send letters to your senators and representatives! A simple and quick form is provided, and you can choose topics that are most important to you.
How to find this resource: Council For Exceptional Children Website > Policy and Advocacy Tab > Legislative Action Center
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/takeaction>

CEC: Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS)



What this resource is: The Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) is a joint activity organized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). This summit, which takes place in Washington, D.C. each July, provides an opportunity for teachers and other CEC stakeholders to meet with their federal representatives and advocate for the needs of the students and families CEC serves. Use this website to learn more about SELS and register to attend. This site also provides the legislative briefs used at SELS, this is a great resource for anyone engaging in policy work!
How to find this resource: Council For Exceptional Children Website > Policy and Advocacy Tab > Special Education Legislative Summit
<https://specialeducationlegislativesummit.org>

CEC: Policy Agenda & Position Statements



What this resource is: The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. One tenet of this work is political advocacy. The five policy principles that guide this work are shared on this webpage and include details and legislative priorities. Use this site to learn more about the strong foundation for policy work. A complimentary page, the Position Statements, uses research to concisely describe issues that impact CEC stakeholders. A wide range of topics including assessment, vouchers, and teacher evaluation are included. Position statements are approved by the CEC Board of Directors and updated as needed. Council For Exceptional Children Website > Policy and Advocacy Tab > Our Policy Agenda/Position Statements
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy/policy-agenda>
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements>

CEC: Children & Youth Action Network



What is this resource: CEC's Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) is a group of volunteers who focus on policy that impacts exceptional students. Working at both the federal and state levels to enact change in policy, the CAN Coordinators are CEC members dedicated to advancing CEC policies goals through effective grassroots advocacy. Many individual states have CAN coordinators- Visit your state's CEC website to identify who serves in this role.
How to find this resource: Council For Exceptional Children Website > Policy and Advocacy Tab > Children and Youth Action Network
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy/children-and-youth-action-network>

Ready to get involved?

Spread the Word!

Do you use social media? If you do, find and follow the Teacher Education Division of CEC page on Facebook! There are also pages for early-career and mid-career TED members, as well as for many of the SIGs and caucuses. Prefer X? Make sure to follow @TED_CEC for updates, news, and more!

Got 2 minutes? Visit the CEC Legislative Action Center to send a message to your Congress members (<https://exceptionalchildren.org/takeaction>). Numbers matter- the more we advocate, the louder our voice!

Looking for additional opportunities to get involved? Have a story to share about shortages, retention, or workforce conditions? Have a question about policymaking, the budget process, or advocacy? Share it with the Policy Committee!