



For immediate release
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CEC President Mikki Garcia on the Confirmation of Betsy DeVos

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2017—The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is fully committed to our mission as a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children and youth with exceptionalities. In the context of that mission, CEC seeks to meet with Secretary DeVos to ensure her understanding of the tenets of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the critical role that special educators and early interventionists play in supporting children and youth with disabilities and their families. CEC members' voices were loud and clear during the confirmation process and as such they expect the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education to uphold and enforce IDEA, not divert the use of public IDEA dollars to support private schools, and to guarantee the civil rights of all children and youth with disabilities and their families. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on over 6.7 million children and youth with disabilities. CEC will hold the U.S. Department of Education accountable to ensure that all children and youth are guaranteed a free appropriate public education.

Mikki Garcia, Ed.D.
CEC President

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