



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEC Calls for a Greater Investment in Core Programs in FY13 Budget: Special and Gifted Education

The following is a statement from Deborah A. Ziegler, Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy Services, the Council for Exceptional Children, regarding President Obama's FY 2013 Budget

President Obama's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget contains sizeable increases in public education funding, and the Council for Exceptional Children appreciates his commitment to making a high-quality education accessible to all of America's children.

CEC was pleased to see an increase of \$20 million in funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Infants and Toddlers Program, especially since Part C programs have been struggling over the years with many states having to increase fees for service to parents or change eligibility criteria. This is a wise investment in early intervention and will support the long-term stability of this important program.

In addition, CEC applauds the president for reaffirming his support for basic school infrastructure with \$35 billion in modernization investments and \$30 billion to keep teacher jobs. These investments will keep teachers – including special educators – in the classroom where they belong and provide a teaching and learning environment worthy of America's students. CEC calls on members of Congress to act immediately on these important priorities.

CEC is disappointed, however, that special education takes a back seat again this year in the president's agenda with level funding for other IDEA programs, including Part B, Section 619, and Part D.

And, while the budget proposal strongly stresses the importance of research and development and proposes an overall increase for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), special education research funding continues to be level-funded and overlooked. This money supports the development of evidence-based practices which are so essential to student success. How can we ask every teacher in this nation to use evidence-based practice in their classrooms without funding the creation of that evidence base? Unfortunately, this budget proposal fails to support special educators and the students they teach.

CEC is also concerned that the administration does not even mention the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, thereby ignoring the only federal program serving our nation's 3 million gifted and talented students. Our nation cannot afford for gifted education to

be disregarded, and CEC hopes that this does not result in the complete withdrawal of the federal government's investment in gifted education.

Unfortunately, this year again, we see an emphasis on creation of new programs at the expense of funding our important existing programs.

This makes our members' work and advocacy even more important, and CEC's 33,000 members stand ready to work with the administration and Congress to develop policies that support positive educational outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents.

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The Council for Exceptional Children is an international community of professionals who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC's mission is to improve, through excellence and advocacy, the education and quality of life for children and youth with exceptionalities and to enhance engagement of their families.

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