



For Immediate Release
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CEC Joins White House Dialogue on Education of Students with Disabilities

Topics included student performance, teacher preparation, research, and early intervention

ARLINGTON, Va., Feb. 22, 2012 — A group of Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) members met today at the White House with leaders from the White House Domestic Policy Council and the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) to discuss President Obama's State of the Union Address and his Fiscal Year 2013 budget initiatives as they relate to children and youth with disabilities and their families.

“CEC is delighted to have been asked to share our expertise and to learn more about the President’s initiatives,” said CEC Executive Director Bruce A. Ramirez. “We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the White House and the U.S. Department of Education.”

Among the topics discussed were:

- How to fairly and accurately incorporate student performance measures into teacher evaluations.
- Funding for research, teacher preparation, preschool programs, and early intervention.
- How to better train future general educators and special educators to address the needs of students with disabilities.

CEC’s special educators met with Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy Kareem Dale, Assistant Secretary for OSERS Alexa Posny, and Director of the Office of Special Education Melody Musgrove, to discuss a series of ideas around special education and early intervention.

CEC members were able to listen in on the conversation via conference call and some were able to submit questions about issues facing the field of special education and early intervention during a question-and-answer session with the White House and U.S. Department of Education leaders.

For more information about CEC, visit www.cec.sped.org.

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CEC is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC’s mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

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