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## CEC Commends Congress on the Passage of Every Student Succeeds Act

Arlington, Va., Dec. 9, 2015 – The following is a statement from Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) President James P. Heiden.

“CEC commends the U.S. Congress for passing a bipartisan, bicameral bill to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*, known as the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA/S.1177).

CEC is pleased that many of the provisions included in ESSA for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents support equity, access and excellence. CEC is especially pleased that the *Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act*, supporting high-ability learners and learning, is included in the final bill.

CEC supports provisions that include children and youth with disabilities in the accountability and assessment systems, the disaggregation of student assessment data by subgroup, access to challenging academic content standards and the general education curriculum. There are compromises in the bill but, overall, the passage of S.1177 offers a stronger path forward for students with exceptionalities than the outdated *No Child Left Behind Act*.

CEC recognizes the leadership of Representatives John Kline (R-Minn.) and Robert Scott (D-Va.) and Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) for championing this legislation on behalf of the nation’s children and youth.”

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For more information on the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, visit CEC’s policy blog, [\*The Policy Insider\*](#).

*The Council for Exceptional Children* is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, standards and professional development. Learn more at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).

