



For immediate release
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Revolutionize Instruction for Students with Disabilities

Arlington, Virginia, June 23, 2017 – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Center for Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) announce the creation and release of a set of high-leverage practices (HLPs) for special educators and teacher candidates. HLPs are educational practices that all special educators must master before they begin teaching. The selected practices—in the areas of collaboration, assessment, social/emotional/behavioral, and instruction—are used frequently in classrooms and have been shown to improve student outcomes. "This is really going to reform how teacher candidates are prepared," says CEC President Mikki Garcia.

Teacher preparation programs recently have struggled to keep up with increased demands for instructional content, an evolving understanding of the complexity of why learners struggle, and new research surrounding evidence-based practices. CEEDAR Director Mary Brownell explains that, in light of these changes, teacher preparation programs needed guidance regarding which practices are most effective. "Programs have only so much time to educate new teachers," she says. "As a profession, we needed to establish a baseline for what every teacher must know and be able to do."

There is general agreement in the field of special education that teacher preparation should focus more explicitly on instructional practice, Brownell says. "Colleges and state departments of education know they need to reform how they prepare and license teachers. We need to be sure we have capable teachers in every classroom who have had consistent and adequate training and practice." She also noted the relevance of the HLPs for general education teachers as well as special educators. "We hope the HLPs can help to reform practice in general education in ways that will better prepare general education teachers for their work in inclusive classrooms or as co-teachers."

The HLP writing team that identified and distilled the list of practices included special education practitioners, scholars, preparation faculty, and advocates who were appointed for their knowledge and expertise around both the reform of teacher preparation and the evidence base behind the practices in question. "These are the best thinkers in our membership," says Garcia.

CEC and CEEDAR plan to disseminate the HLPs widely, sharing them with CEC members, institutes of higher education, state departments of education, certification and licensure bodies, state governors, members of Congress, and associations and organizations.

The CEC publication "High-Leverage Practices in Special Education" was released in April 2017 and is available for sale through the CEC [Catalog](#). Continue to follow updates and developments on highleveragepractices.org.

Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org.

