



For immediate release
Contact: Annie Baldauf, 703-264-9435, annieb@cec.sped.org

President's FY 2019 Budget Proposal Undermines Public Education

President Trump's annual budget proposal, released on Feb. 12, 2018, slashes funding for PK–12 education. The fiscal year (FY) 2019 proposal mirrors the president's FY 2018 budget with even greater cuts. The budget proposal provides \$63.2 billion in discretionary funding for education, a \$3.6 billion or 5.4 percent decrease below the comparable FY 2017 level.

The proposal eliminates funding for teacher professional development and after school programs. In addition, 39 discretionary programs are eliminated, streamlined, or reduced—including the elimination of the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Student's Education Program. Javits is the only federal investment to support the vulnerable minority and low-income gifted students who are not served or under-served. "The Council for Exceptional Children's the Association for the Gifted (TAG), for 60 years, has focused on the provision of equitable programs and services for twice exceptional and gifted children and youth from underrepresented groups. The Javits funding provides the only federal support to conduct this critical work; it must be saved," stated Tracy L. Cross, President of TAG.

While CEC supports the maintenance of the approximately \$13 billion in the proposed budget committed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the law has been underfunded since 1975. The underfunding of IDEA jeopardizes the provision of a free appropriate public education and early intervention for the nation's children and youth with disabilities.

Once again, the president's proposed budget is promoting failed voucher and for-profit strategies that do not include children and youth with disabilities and use of public dollars to support private education. In its [Position on School Vouchers](#), CEC opposes private school vouchers as being contrary to the best interest of children and youth and their families, the public school system, local communities, and taxpayers. Vouchers both contradict and undermine the central purposes of civil rights laws designed to protect children and youth with disabilities.

CEC turns to Congress to reject the president's budget proposal and correct the unfortunate course of action. This nation can and must do better.

###

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children and youth with exceptionalities that accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development. Learn more about CEC at www.cec.sped.org.