



For immediate release.
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**President's Proposed 2019 Budget Hurts Students and Teachers,
Especially Children with Exceptionalities**

Arlington, Va., May 2, 2018 – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), along with the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), is deeply concerned that the president's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget will be detrimental to children and youth with exceptionalities. CEF is the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, and last week it released its annual analysis of the President's budget and how it affects federal education funding.

CEC urges Congress to support a FY 2019 appropriations bill that invests in special and gifted education and early intervention programs. "I see every day how special education and early childhood education makes a huge difference in the lives of students and families in West Virginia—it's one of the best investments we can make. Federal funds help fill gaps in education funding from the state and localities, and the cuts in the President's budget will make it that much harder to ensure that all children and youth arrive at school ready to learn," said Linda Palenchar, CEC Member and Director of Preschool Programs and Special Education in West Virginia Fayette County School District. Dr. Palenchar made CEC's expectations for federal education funding clear when she represented CEC and its Division on Early Childhood during the CEF Capitol Hill briefing on April 26, 2018.

CEC is requesting increases, not decreases, in funding for vital programs such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Javits Gifted and Talented Act, and National Center for Special Education Research. "We are advocating support for formula-funded education programs which help children and youth with exceptionalities," said Deborah Ziegler, CEC's Director of Public Policy and Advocacy. "These are programs that we as a nation need the most, if we care about the future of our nation's students." Over seven million children and youth benefit from special education and related services and early intervention mandated by IDEA.

Forty-three years ago, when IDEA was originally passed, the Federal government pledged to pay 40 percent of the "excess cost" of educating a student with a disability, unfortunately, in FY 2017, the Federal share was only 16 percent. "Shifting costs to states and local school districts is not the answer to underfunded programs like IDEA, and many other much needed programs for students and the professionals who work on their behalf," said Dr. Ziegler.

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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.