

NC CHILDREN'S ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

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CEC Joins National Education, Disability, Mental Health Organizations in Calling for School Safety Framework

CEC joined with numerous national education, disability, and mental health organizations in supporting a framework for improving school safety and increasing access to mental health supports for children and youth.

A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools was created by the American School Counselor Association, National Association of School Psychologists, School Social Work Association of America, National Association of School Resource Officers, National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The *Framework* challenges the notion that reactionary measures alone will keep children safe in schools, and instead embraces a proactive, interdisciplinary approach that centers on six policy recommendations:

- 1 Allow for blended, flexible use of funding streams in education and mental health services;
- 2 Improve staffing ratios to allow for the delivery of a full range of services and effective school-community partnerships;
- 3 Develop evidence-based standards for district-level policies to promote effective school discipline and positive behavior;
- 4 Fund continuous and sustainable crisis and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning and training that uses evidence-based models;
- 5 Provide incentives for intra- and interagency collaboration; and
- 6 Support multitiered systems of support (MTSS).

More than 100 education and children's mental health groups and experts have endorsed the recommendations outlined in the *Framework*, including CEC, the National Education Association, American Association of School Administrators, Mental Health America, and many other organizations.

You can read



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CEC Opposes Funding on Reauthorizing the D.C. School Voucher Program

Just recently CEC, along with 46 members of the National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE), sent a [letter](#) to Congress to oppose the reauthorization on continued funding of the District of Columbia's private school voucher program in the FY2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill. NCPE opposes all private school voucher programs because of their position that public funds should be spent on public schools, not pri-

vate schools. The D.C. program, in particular, has proven ineffective and unaccountable to taxpayers.

Go to CEC's [Legislative Action Center](#) and write your members of Congress to keep public funds in public education.

[Read](#) CEC's Issue Brief on Keep Public Funds in Public Education

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Nelson Mandela

Don't miss

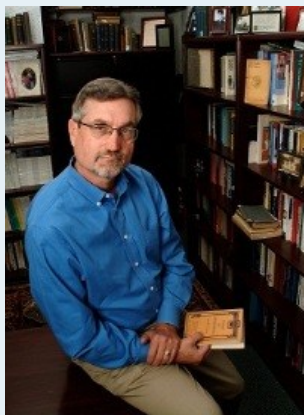
NC CEC 323rd Annual Conference

Feb 26 –28, 2020

Greensboro, NC

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Michael Wehmeyer



Congress Requests Documents from Secretary DeVos on D.C. School Voucher Program

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA), the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) recently sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos requesting documents and information on the federal private school voucher program in the District of Columbia. Authorization for the voucher program expires on September 30, 2019.

Cummings, Scott, and Norton wrote: "The SOAR Act imposes on the Department of Education oversight and reporting requirements for the D.C. voucher program. We are seeking information on the performance of this program and the Department's oversight efforts. In addition, we are seeking to better understand whether students participating in the D.C. voucher program are afforded the same protections as public school students in Washington, D.C., including by federal civil rights laws and safety regulations."

The District of Columbia voucher program is the nation's only federally funded or federally created voucher program. Since 2004, Congress has appropriated more than \$200 million for the program.

Click [here](#) to read the letter.

President's FY 2020 Budget Proposal Dismisses the Needs of Children with Exceptionalities

President Trump's FY 2020 budget proposal undermines once again public education and neglects children and youth with exceptionalities, slashing the U.S. Department of Education's budget by approximately 12.5 percent or \$8.8 billion. The proposed budget eliminates funding for the Javits Act, the only federal investment to support vulnerable minority and low-income gifted students along with 28 other education programs, cutting \$6.7 billion in total. All [IDEA grant programs](#) have been level funded at 2019 levels, jeopardizing the provision of a free appropriate public education and early intervention for the nation's children and youth with disabilities. The budget also cut the National Center for Special Education Research by \$2 million.

In addition, the President's budget proposal recommends an unprecedented investment of \$5 billion per year, for a new federal tax credit for individual or corporate donations to state-authorized scholarship-granting organizations. Funds can be used for private school tuition, afterschool tutoring, extra courses, special education services and therapies and certain public school expenses. CEC [opposes](#) the use of public funds to fund private school programs.

The President's proposed budget also eliminates Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Subsidized Loans, Title II – Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants, Title IV- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Teacher Quality Partnership. The President's proposed budget also eliminated these programs last year, but Congress both Republicans and Democrats chose to maintain them at the 2018 funding level.

It is likely that Congress will restore FY 2020 funding for these programs. The Democratic appropriations leaders in the House have expressed not supporting the deep cuts in the President's budget, and are actively working to raise the sequester-level caps on non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding to allow for increased investment- such as education investments in FY 2020. Go to CEC's Legislative Action Center and urge your members of Congress to:

[Increase FY 2020 Appropriations](#) and
[Keep Pubic Funds in Public Education](#)

[FY 2020 President's Budget – Department of Education Budget Materials](#)

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