

## NC CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

Lynn R. Zubov, Ph.D.  
NC CEC CAN Coordinator

### CEC Endorses Bill to Address COVID-Related Learning Loss

While COVID has had a significant impact on our country's health and economy, I fear the damage done to our youth's education will have a much longer effect.

Last Friday, Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced the Learning Opportunity and Achievement Act, a bill aimed at improving distance and blended learning and addressing learning loss in K-12 schools brought on by the pandemic.

This legislation promotes professional development for educators, provides support for tutoring services, and addresses research and best practices to improve equity in education for students who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The bill also requires the U.S. Department of Education to conduct research on how to address instructional loss brought on by COVID-19. This legislation has garnered support from a variety of stakeholders, including CEC.



Read more about the bill [here](#).

### NC CEC 2020 Executive Board

**President**

Dr. Natasha Veale, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.sped@gmail.com

**Past President**

Dr. Amanda Bock, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.past.pres@gmail.com

**President Elect &  
Conference Chair**

Dr. Brad Mills  
nconference@gmail.com

**Conference Co-Chair**

Dr. Mabel Rivera, Ph.D.  
ncceconferenceco-chair@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Xaviera Johnson, MA, MAT, MSA  
nc.cec.vice.president@gmail.com

**Treasurer(s)**

Kelly Alves, EdD  
nccctreasurer@gmail.com

**CAN Coordinator**

Dr. Lynn Zubov, WSSU  
nc.cec.CAN@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Dr. Glenda McKeithan, KU  
nc.cec.secretary@gmail.com

**Membership Co-Chairs**

Dr. Emily Summey,  
Dr. Alicia Brophy-Dick, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.membership@gmail.com

**Member At Large**

Diann Gunderson, EWA  
cec.gunderson@gmail.com

**Student Coordinator**

Dr. Gretchen  
Robinson, UNCP  
nc.cec.student.coordinator@gmail.com

**Student President**

VACANT  
nc.cec.student@gmail.com



**NORTH  
CAROLINA**

## AIR Publishes Brief Discussing Survey Results on COVID-19 and Students With Disabilities

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) recently published a brief outlining survey results regarding the effect of COVID-19 on the administration of services to students with disabilities.

AIR used results from the “National Survey of Public Education’s Response to COVID-19” to illustrate how districts perceived the ease of providing resources and services to students with disabilities in compliance with federal law during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results are based off of responses from 744 of the 753 par-

ticipating school districts and are separated by high vs. low-poverty areas and rural vs. urban locations.

The brief shows that 73% of districts reported significant difficulties in administering instructional accommodations and several districts designed new and unique mechanisms through which instruction was administered.

Read the brief [here](#)

CEC Policy Brief

*“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”*

*Nelson Mandela*

Don't miss

NC CEC 34th Annual Conference

Feb 25 –27, 2021

Virtual

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Marilyn Friend



## Back to School During COVID-19

*Tips & Strategies for the Special Education Classroom*

### 1. Be flexible.

This year we are in uncharted waters. Our plans may not play out how we anticipate. What worked in the past may not work now. The best thing we can do this year is be willing to change, be willing to think outside the box, and not get stuck with one idea or strategy that may not be a good fit for our situation.

### 2. Don't compare this year to previous years.

This year will be different in so many ways. It's easy to compare to previous years and feel unsuccessful or like you aren't doing enough. The pandemic and the school schedule is not in your control. This year can't be compared to past years. Your goal should be progress not perfection.

### 3. Differentiate.

Special education teachers are experts at differentiating - so this may be second nature. Establish what works for each student and his or her family. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Be open to new ideas and things that you have never tried before.

### 4. Utilize preference assessments for everyone.

Check in regularly with parents and your staff. Ask them what is working and what isn't working. Make changes accordingly. As much as possible, set up your schedule, activities, and systems based on what can work best for those on your team.

### 5. Make data based decision making part of your process.

Utilize simple data to make decisions about your classroom or distance learning setup. Track things such as how often kids check in online, which clean up system is the fastest, or which mask is the most preferred. Data doesn't have to be complicated so don't let this overwhelm you. In a time where there seems to be no right decision, data will help you feel confident in your choices.

## The 2020 Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS)

Typically, each July, CEC along with CASE, sponsor, the Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) in Washington, D.C.. SELS is an opportunity for educators, other professionals, and parents from across the country to make a difference by advocating for change with Members of Congress. However, due to COVID-19, this year's SELS event was held virtual and over the time span of two weeks from July 13-24, 2020.

Holding the event virtually allowed many more individuals to attend. This year, there were over 50 NC CEC members that attended SLES. As a team, North Carolina visited ten congressional offices including both Senators offices and 8 out of the 13 Representatives.

Our points of advocacy included education appropriations and the request for Congress to fully fund IDEA, keeping public funds in public schools, mental health, and shortages of professionals in the field special education, and the impact of COVID. Click [here](#) for more information about the summit along with the [Issues Briefs](#). Interested in participating in 2021? Visit <https://cec.sped.org/Policy-and-Advocacy> or email Lynn Zubov @ [Lzubov@triad.rr.com](mailto:Lzubov@triad.rr.com) or Julie Bost @ [jibost@uncg.edu](mailto:jibost@uncg.edu).

The NC team visited the offices of Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis along with Representatives Butterfield, Price, Walker, Rouzer, Rusthoven, McCabe, Christie, & Davis .

Some the NC Team are pictured here:

Top row, left to right: Hollie Mason, Julie Bost, Lynn Zubov

Bottom Row: Nancy Mamlin, Diane Coffey & Dale Baker



### Legislative Summit

## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Plan on joining us for the  
**2021 Special Education  
Legislative Summit**

**When:** July 2021

**Where:** TBD

This is not your typical “sit and get” event. At the summit you will be briefed on the latest proposals under consideration by the Administration and Congress. We'll guide you to make appointments with your Senators and Representatives, arm you with information that will resonate in Congress, and prepare you to tell your stories in a way that will have a lasting impact.





