

#SELS2024 Toolkit

From July 29 to August 1, dozens of special educators are gathering in D.C. for the 2024 Special Education Legislative Summit sponsored by CASE and CEC. As we come together to tell Congress to prioritize IDEA, federal investments in special education programs, building positive climates for learning, and educator shortages, it's important to amplify our message! Below, please find tweets and social media posts you can use to help make our voices heard.

Hashtags: #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation

Graphics: [Download graphics to share on social media here](#). Want to customize your own social media graphics? Check out these templates: [Canva Instagram Template](#), [Canva Facebook/LinkedIn/Twitter Template](#)

Key Messages

- **Advocacy:** Advocate for full funding of IDEA to ensure the best outcomes for children with disabilities.
- **Impact:** Highlight the importance of well-funded special education programs and the positive impact on students' lives.
- **Awareness:** Increase awareness about the need for mental health services in schools, the impact of the teacher shortage, and the importance of funding.
- **Engagement:** Encourage educators, parents, and supporters to engage with the legislative process.

Suggested Social Media Posts

General

- I am attending the Special Education Legislative Summit to advocate for stronger federal investments in special education programs, better access to behavioral and mental health resources, and more solutions to the critical shortage of special educators across the country. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- Children and youth with exceptionalities deserve access to high-quality education, early intervention, and appropriate support. I'm excited to participate in #SELS2024 and tell Congressional Representatives why I'm #4SpecialEducation!

Issue-Specific

Special Educator Shortages

- The nation continues to face a critical shortage of special educators. Now more than ever, a comprehensive workforce pipeline must be developed to attract diverse personnel into all areas of special education. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- Over 50% of school districts report difficulties in hiring qualified special educators. This shortage impacts the ability to provide individualized support to students with disabilities. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- The shortage of special educators is a growing concern, with thousands of positions unfilled across the country. Ensuring adequate staffing is essential for providing quality education to students with disabilities. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- The shortage of special educators is a pressing issue, with thousands of unfilled positions across the nation. This shortage hinders the ability to provide quality education and support to students with disabilities. It is imperative to invest in special education funding and resources to address this gap. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- With many schools struggling to hire qualified special educators, the need for increased investment in special education is evident. Ensuring adequate staffing is essential for providing individualized support to students with disabilities and improving their educational outcomes. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation

Mental Health

- Mental health matters! With over 58% of schools reporting an increase in students seeking mental health services, it's crucial to have dedicated school mental health professionals. Let's work together for better support systems. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- With 58% of schools reporting an increase in students seeking mental health services, the need for dedicated school mental health professionals is evident. Addressing this need is critical for supporting the mental well-being of our students. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- The shortage of school mental health professionals is alarming. With only 1 school psychologist for every 1,211 students, far exceeding the recommended ratio of 1:500, there is a significant impact on providing timely mental health support to students. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- Over 60% of school districts report having insufficient mental health professionals, highlighting a critical gap in support for student mental health needs. Addressing this issue is crucial for fostering a healthy and supportive learning environment. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation

Education Funding

- Did you know that fully funding IDEA could support 400,000 additional special educators? Let's make this a reality! Advocate for increased funding and support our children's future. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- The funding gap for IDEA is \$23.63 billion for FY2024. This shortfall means that students are not having their needs met, and educators are stretched to the limit, straining our entire education system. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- Over 7 million children with disabilities are supported by IDEA. Ensuring full funding for IDEA is crucial to provide these children with the best possible education. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
- The funding gap for IDEA in FY2024 stands at \$23.63 billion. This shortfall affects the quality of education for millions of children with disabilities. It's crucial to advocate for full funding to bridge this gap. #SELS2024 #4SpecialEducation
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