

SELS 2026 Social Media Toolkit

From July 19 to 22, hundreds of special educators are gathering in D.C. for the 2026 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 graphics and social media posts you can use to help make our voices heard.

Hashtags: #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation

Graphics: [Download graphics to share on social media here.](#)

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.

SELS Action Alerts

- CEC
 - o Preserve the Department of Education:
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/121668/Respond>
 - o Vouchers:
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/138647/Respond>
 - o Appropriations:
<https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/136239/Respond>
- CASE
 - o <https://www.casecec.org/action-center>

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. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>
- Children and youth with exceptionalities deserve access to high-quality education, early intervention, and appropriate support. I'm excited to participate in #SELS2026 and tell Congressional Representatives why I'm #4SpecialEducation!
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>

Issue-Specific

Preserving the U.S. Department of Education

- Students with disabilities are learners first—not diagnoses. Moving OSERS from the Department of Education to HHS risks shifting special education toward a medical model and undoing decades of progress. Keep special education in education. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/121668/Respond>
- IDEA is an education law—not a health law. Moving OSERS to HHS risks stigmatizing students with disabilities and weakening inclusion efforts built over 50 years. Students belong in schools. Keep OSERS in ED. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/121668/Respond>
- Special education works best when it is integrated with all education programs. Moving OSERS to HHS would separate special education from the broader education system and risk undermining inclusion. Students with disabilities represent 15% of all learners, and they deserve to remain part of a unified K–12 system. IDEA is an education law, and special education belongs in education. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/121668/Respond>

- Moving OSERS to HHS isn't just a bureaucratic change; it's a shift in how we view students with disabilities. We must protect inclusive education and keep special education within the Department of Education. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/121668/Respond>

Vouchers

- Voucher and voucher-type programs redirect public education dollars to private entities. Diverting dollars away from public education has an outsized negative impact on students with disabilities, where IDEA rights do not necessarily convey. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/138647/Respond>
- Did you know that private schools are not required to comply with IDEA? This means that they can deny admission to students because of their disability. Tell Congress that public funds must support ALL children! #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/138647/Respond>
- For children and youth with disabilities, strong public education systems are essential to providing access to a free appropriate public education guaranteed IDEA. Diverting dollars away from public education hurts all students, with an outsized negative impact on students with disabilities. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/138647/Respond>
- Congress must protect public education funding and preserve the rights and protections guaranteed to children with disabilities under IDEA. Urge your representatives to keep public funds in public schools. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/138647/Respond>

Appropriations

- 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. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/136239/Respond>
- Federal funding of IDEA only meets 10% of "full funding". This shortfall means that students are not having their needs met, and educators are stretched to the limit, straining our entire education system. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/136239/Respond>

- 8.1 million students benefit from the individualized special education and specialized instructional support services provided by IDEA. Ensuring full funding for IDEA is crucial to providing these children with the best possible education. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/136239/Respond>
- Projected cuts in the FY2027 budget will eliminate programs that would damage the educator pipeline, deny early intervention services to preschool-aged children, weaken evidence-based policy, and reduce state funding. It's crucial to stand up for our educators and students. #SELS2026 #4SpecialEducation
 - o [Image](#)
 - o Link: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/lac?vvsrc=/Campaigns/136239/Respond>

Want to tag your Congressional Representatives? [Find your representatives and all of their contact information and social media.](#)

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