

Social and Emotional Learning, Positive Climate, and Mental Health Supports

Special
Education
Legislative
Summit **2018**



Alexandria, VA | July 8-11, 2018



Council for
Exceptional
Children



CASE
Council for
Autism Support
Education

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RECOMMENDATION 1:

CEC Urges Congress to:

- ❖ Increase the federal investment for ESSA Title II, Part A Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading to ensure teachers and providers are prepared to implement evidence-based practices to address social and emotional learning strategies and response to challenging behaviors.



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Possible Topics of Discussion:

- ❖ Research regarding SEL
- ❖ Examples of success regarding PBIS, Responsive Classroom, Developmental Design, DDDM, Universal Screening, or other experiences
- ❖ A student story of success resulting from programming
- ❖ A story of improved practice of educators that made a difference



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RECOMMENDATIONS 2:

CEC Urges Congress to:

❖ Support legislative policies that require a focus on the positive and productive culture and climate in public schools and early childhood programs, and which include strategies to address bullying, harassment, disproportionate disciplinary practices, and opportunity gaps for those living in poverty and who are children and youth of color.



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Possible Topics of Discussion:

- ❖ The value of investing in education
- ❖ ESSA and IDEA focus on specific groups of students impacted by opportunity gaps
- ❖ Funding support for SEL
- ❖ Valuing teachers through investing in their development
- ❖ Valuing leaders through investing in their training
- ❖ The importance of family/school connections



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RECOMMENDATION 3:

CEC Urges Congress to:

❖ Provide \$1.6 billion to fund ESSA Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants to support schools and early childhood programs in ensuring safe and respectful learning environments for all children and youth.



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Possible Topics of Discussion:

- ❖ The relationship between social emotional wellness and achievement
- ❖ Inclusion
- ❖ The value of Prekindergarten
- ❖ Investing in research based programs at the federal level



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RECOMMENDATION 4:

CEC Urges Congress to:

- ❖ Support legislative policies that remedy the national lack of access to mental health services, through both private health insurance and Medicaid as well as school and program-based supports available to children and families experiencing trauma, toxic stress, environmental, and mental health challenges.



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Possible Topics of Discussion:

- ❖ The role of treatment of students and their families to support improved access to education
- ❖ Reduced wait times for access to treatment
- ❖ Integrated approaches to treatment between mental health providers and school personnel
- ❖ Investing in school based personnel to provide mental health support
- ❖ Trauma informed schools



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

CEC Urges Congress to:

- ❖ Support legislative policies that require an interdisciplinary approach reinforcing a partnership among education, early learning, juvenile justice, mental health, and the community to ensure social and emotional well-being across communities and beyond the walls of schools and early childhood programs.



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Possible Topics of Discussion:

- ❖ Examples of successful partnerships in your state that could be used to support this recommendation at a federal level
- ❖ The success of comprehensive teaming approaches
- ❖ Coordination of effort versus duplication of effort
- ❖ Schools can not do it alone

