

Policy Issues Congressional Members May Raise During Hill Visits

Special
Education
Legislative
Summit  2019
Arlington, VA | July 7-10, 2019

 Council for
Exceptional
Children

 CASE
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

IDEA REAUTHORIZATION

BACKGROUND

- ❖ IDEA was due to be reauthorized in 2010.
- ❖ Many other bills in line for reauthorization before IDEA.
- ❖ Due to political climate CEC and many other groups are not recommending IDEA Reauthorization.
- ❖ Too much to lose than to gain.
- ❖ CEC IDEA Reauthorization Work Group has developed Principles and Recommendations for when the time is right!
CEC Proactive vs Reactive!

HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ Share IDEA Informational Brief – IDEA Core Purposes remain a priority.



SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND

- ❖ Some "TALK" among Administration and some members of Congress that school safety issues are a result of children and youth with disabilities with mental health issues.
- ❖ Some policymakers are recommending arming teachers with guns in schools to create a safer environment.

HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ Mental health is "NOT ONLY" a disability issue. Potentially includes ALL children and youth.
- ❖ CEC opposes the arming of teachers and other personnel in schools.
- ❖ CEC believes the possession of a firearm in schools should be limited to carefully selected, specially trained school resource officers.



SIGNIFICANT DISPROPORTIONALITY REGULATIONS

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BACKGROUND



FEDERAL REGISTER
The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Federal Rule on Significant Disproportionality

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Education in June 2018 postponed by two years the date for States to comply with the “Equity in IDEA” or “significant disproportionality” regulations, from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020.
- ❖ Also postponed the date for including children ages three through five in the analysis of significant disproportionality from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022.
- ❖ Statutory requirements still exist!
- ❖ COPAA sued the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled the delay of the regulations “illegal.”

HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ CEC opposed the two year postponement of the disproportionality regulations. CEC supports the immediate reinstatement of the regulation and are urging the U.S. Department of Education to provide TA to States.



GAO INACCURACIES IN FEDERAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION DATA

BACKGROUND

- ❖ The Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Congressional watchdog agency, found that data used by the Department of Education in its enforcement of civil rights laws does not accurately or completely reflect all incidents of restraint and seclusion of public schools students including those with disabilities.
- ❖ 70 percent of school districts reported zero incidents of restraint and seclusion during the 2015 – 2016 school year.

HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ CEC agrees with the GAO that “Education should take immediate action to address inaccuracies in federal restraint and seclusion data.”

