



convention & expo

ALL EDUCATORS. EVERY CHILD. NO LIMITS.

council for exceptional children

baltimore, maryland • mar. 3-6

JUSTIFICATION TOOL KIT

**WHY
ATTEND**



**DESIGN
YOUR
EXPERIENCE**



COST



**JUSTIFICATION
LETTER**



REGISTER



HOTEL



WHY ATTEND



"If you are a professional in the field of special education, the CEC Convention is a must-attend event. You will not find another conference with the variety of hot topics in the field of special education with such high-quality presenters anywhere. The excitement of so many professionals in one setting is contagious and the networking opportunities with like-minded professionals is invaluable in my work. I always leave the CEC Convention energized, rejuvenated, and armed with a full toolbox that cannot be replicated anywhere."

At CEC 2021, the focus will be on special educators with a single goal: making a difference for children with exceptionalities. Whatever your role—general or special education teacher, district administrator, principal, teacher educator, teacher in training, or paraprofessional—you can drive educator and student success by attending CEC 2021.

Attending the CEC 2021 Convention & Expo will allow you to:

- ▶ Keep your fingers on the pulse of trends, hot topics, and emerging practices in special education.
- ▶ Gain insights from leading special education experts to help make your practice better.
- ▶ Get great ideas to use in your classroom as you connect with educators practicing in different settings from around the world.
- ▶ Choose from over 350 sessions across all topics of education related concerns.
- ▶ Earn up to 23 professional development hours by attending sessions Wednesday – Saturday. If you only have a day to attend, you can earn up to 6 hours.
- ▶ Enhance your convention experience by visiting the Expo and the Technology Playground. You will experience new technology offered by vendors and can see it in action in the technology playground.
- ▶ And, so much more!

DESIGN YOUR EXPERIENCE



Design your own experience by checking out sessions in these topic areas at [CECONVENTION.ORG](https://ceconvention.org). Session information will be updated in August. Be sure to check back frequently.

- ▶ Accountability Systems (IDEA/ESSA) for Children and Youth with Disabilities
- ▶ Administration/Supervision (including recruitment and retention of special education and early childhood professionals)
- ▶ Arts in Special Education
- ▶ Assessment (including assessments for accountability (IDEA/ESSA), diagnosis, eligibility, and program planning)
- ▶ Autism Spectrum Disorder/Intellectual Disability
- ▶ Career Development/Transition
- ▶ Collaboration and Inclusive Practices (including models for co-teaching and other methods for providing access to the general education curriculum and classroom)
- ▶ Communicative Disabilities and Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- ▶ Cultural and/or Linguistic Diversity (including culture, language, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, families and/or educators with disabilities)
- ▶ Early Childhood and Early Intervention
- ▶ Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- ▶ Gifted and Talented
- ▶ International Programs/Services
- ▶ Learning Disabilities (including instructional strategies for students “at risk” or with learning disabilities.)
- ▶ Maltreatment
- ▶ Measuring Special Education Teacher Effectiveness (including High-Leverage Practices)
- ▶ Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- ▶ Parent/Family/School Partnerships
- ▶ Personnel Preparation (including High-Leverage Practices)
- ▶ Complex and Chronic Conditions: Physical/Health/Multiple Disabilities
- ▶ Pioneers/Historical Perspectives
- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Starting the Teaching Career
- ▶ STEM (instructional strategies for learning in science, math, and technical subjects)
- ▶ Technology in Special Education and Early Intervention (including Adaptive and Assistive Technology)
- ▶ Visual Impairments and Deafblindness

COST



Calculate your cost to attend

Use the table below to estimate your investment for attending the convention.

EXPENSE	CONSIDERATIONS	COST
Convention Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you a CEC member?• What registration option works for you?• Do you want to add a full- or half-day workshop?	\$
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How are you traveling to the convention: car, plane, train?• Estimate using a travel service.• Consider your ground transportation while in Baltimore. (Most hotels are within walking distance of the Baltimore Convention Center.)	\$
Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEC has negotiated travel discounts and secured reduced-rate hotel rooms to make your stay affordable.	\$
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many meals will you need?• Do you have a food per diem?	\$
TOTAL		\$

JUSTIFICATION LETTER



We're here to help you get support from your principal or administrator to attend CEC 2021 in Baltimore. You can customize the following draft "justification letter" to make the case for your attendance.

Please visit the **CEC 2021 Convention & Expo** [website](#) for more information.

- ▶ **Emphasize impact.** Attending CEC2021 will benefit you as an educator, the students you serve, your colleagues, and ultimately your school. Talk about the new ideas and strategies you will discover that are based on solid research and academia.
- ▶ **Highlight the savings.** Your school or district can save money while investing in professional development for individual teachers or entire teams. **BEST RATE** savings are in effect through **July 31, 2020**. There are more savings for volunteers.
- ▶ **Stress the connection.** Make sure you explain that your attendance will help you meet knowledge requirements of your school or state. You can **earn up to 23 PDHs** over four days (three days with possible six hours + one day with five hours).
- ▶ You can direct your own learning and design the program that meets your specific needs—and enrich your colleagues' knowledge as well.
- ▶ Highlight the opportunity to learn firsthand from experts delivering the [Optional Workshops](#) presentation/materials. They are a great way to enhance your professional development at the convention—**please note that additional fees are required**. See the following page for a sample Justification Letter you can personalize and use.

JUSTIFICATION LETTER EXAMPLE



Make it personal!

Dear _____,

At the Council for Exception Children Special Education Convention & Expo (CEC2021), educators at all levels will be brought together to enhance their professional skills, knowledge, and careers. I would like to attend this event happening March 3-6, 2021, in Baltimore, to learn best practices and skills to provide a high-quality education for each one of my students.

By attending CEC 2021, I will gain valuable knowledge that I will be able to implement as soon as I get back to my classroom. I'll also be able to select sessions that best inform and support my work while making connections with and learning from the experiences of other educators throughout the convention.

CEC 2021 Convention & Expo provides opportunities for me to:

- ▶ Attend sessions focused on the critical knowledge and skills that I need to help my students succeed inside and outside of the classroom.
- ▶ Connect with other special educators with whom I can exchange ideas, skills, resources, and practices.
- ▶ Earn up to 23 hours of professional development credit.

To meet my professional development goals, I am seeking approval for the registration fees, travel and lodging expenses, and food expenses during the convention. The detailed cost breakdown is listed below.

Convention Registration:

Travel:

Lodging:

Food:

Total estimated convention cost of:

My participation in the convention will complement our school's objective of continual professional development and I plan to return with resources to share what I've learned with our teachers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

REGISTER



CEC 2021 offers multiple registration options to fit anyone's budget. We want you to have access to the best professional development event of the year, in whatever way works for you.

The Early Bird Saves!

Register early for the biggest savings! The Best Rate offer is a great value, especially for CEC members: four days of training as low as \$99 a day! There are other money-saving options including volunteering—you can serve as a volunteer and get an even deeper discount (save up to 40%) on registration. Volunteer signup is currently available to individuals in Maryland as the host state. [On September 1, the signup site will open for everyone who would like to volunteer and save.]

Visit [CEC 2021](#) website for more information on registration options.



HOTEL



CEC has negotiated great rates for CEC 2021 in Baltimore!
Housing will open on or before June 1, 2020.

Here is a sneak peak at some of the hotels.

Hilton Hotel (HQ) <i>connected to the Baltimore Convention Center</i>	\$209
Hyatt Regency	\$165
Holiday Inn Inner Harbor	\$139
Days Inn Inner Harbor	\$139
Sheraton Inner Harbor	\$169
Renaissance	\$191
Marriott Waterfront	\$191