

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

CEC MOTION FORM: PART I

A. **Purpose of Motion:** To establish an affiliate membership category.

B. **MOTION (to include any relevant deliverable[s] and timeline):**

Move, to revise the Articles of Incorporation, as follows, to allow of an affiliate membership category.

ARTICLE IV

Membership in the Corporation

The corporation shall be a corporation without stockholders, but it shall have members. The classes of members, their qualifications, and their rights to vote shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 1. Membership. Membership in The Council shall consist of individuals who are interested in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities and whose dues are paid, including:

Professional members: Persons actively employed in the field of education/special education (teachers, administrators, paraeducators, higher education researchers, support professionals, etc.) or whose profession relates to serving those who work in special education or children with exceptionalities (Department of Education staff, consultants, disability nonprofit employees, etc.).

Affiliate Members: To qualify for this membership category, a person cannot be actively employed in the field of education/special education or a field where the focus of work is directly tied to education or special education.

The eligibility requirements and benefits may be changed by the Board of Directors.

Further move, to revise the Bylaws as follows:

ARTICLE III

Membership in the Organization

Section 1. Membership. Membership in The Council shall consist of individuals who are interested in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities and whose dues are paid. The eligibility requirements and benefits may be changed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Unified Membership. All members of CEC state and provincial units, as well as members of CEC divisions, are required to hold concurrent membership in The Council.

Section 3. Rights. Except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or in the Bylaws, professional membership in The Council shall include the right to vote; to hold office within The Council, as well as at the local, state, provincial or division level; to petition; to serve on appointive bodies; and to benefit from such other privileges as may be authorized. Affiliate membership shall not include the right to vote or petition, but it includes the right to serve as public members or thought leaders at the local, state, provincial, division or international level for such committees or appointive bodies which have those positions and those bodies allow for affiliate membership, and to benefit from such other privileges as may be authorized.

Further move, that following the 60-day comment period required by the Bylaws, the board will review any input and make a final determination whether to proceed with adding the new membership category. If approved, staff will be authorized to determine pricing and benefits.

C. Motion Originator: Chad Rummel, Executive Director

D. Rationale (Statement explaining the need for the motion. Indicate any issue[s] of concern. Include reference to related policies where appropriate.):

CEC operates as a professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. However, there may be a market for others (e.g., parents) who do not fall into the current membership categories that may find value in the offerings provided by CEC, its units and divisions. Any additional memberships could help bolster the financial viability of units and divisions, as well as assist in engaging the public in CEC legislative and advocacy efforts.

One of the requirements of units and divisions is to “maintain a unified membership.” In other words, all of a unit’s/division’s members must concurrently be members of The Council for Exceptional Children. Therefore, other “individuals interested in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities” are precluded from being members of a division. In divisions whose work closely ties with early childhood, supporting families of children, toddlers, and youth is key to the work, and allowing an affiliate membership would strongly strengthen their work.

E. Policy and Financial Implications: Policy – none; **Financial** – potential increase in membership dues and increased division memberships.

F. Strategic Plan (Statement indicating how the action proposed in this motion relates to the CEC strategic plan. Include the specific strategic plan goal that is applicable).

CEC will have the capacity and capabilities to lead the field of special education in advocacy, standards, and professional learning and practice.

G. Content management/dissemination strategies, as applicable.

Notification of the 60-day comment period will be included in Special Education Today and on the CEC website.

H. Document Changes:

- CEC Bylaws
- CEC Operational Policies
- CEC Professional Policies
- CEC Strategic Plan
- No change needed at this time

I. Submitted To:

- President
- Executive Director

By: Chad Rummel, Executive Director

Date: _____