



3100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 600 | Arlington, VA 22201-5332

(P) + 1.703.620.3660 | (Toll Free) 888.232.7733 | (F) 703.264.9494

[exceptionalchildren.org](http://exceptionalchildren.org)

April 15, 2021

President Joseph Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), a professional association of 22,000 educators dedicated to advancing the success of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, thank you for prioritizing special education and broader educational equity as focal points in the Administration's topline request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 discretionary funding.

CEC has been a longstanding, leading voice in support of full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Fully funding IDEA would ensure that infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities are provided access to educators trained to provide specially designed instruction, intervention, support, curricula, devices, and related services that allow them to meet the highest possible outcomes. Fully funding IDEA also ensures access to and support for learning and a quality of life that respects dignity, culture, language, and background.

CEC is pleased to see the top-line budget proposal for FY 2022 puts IDEA on the first step of a 10-year glide path to full funding. If brought to fruition, this unprecedented and historic proposal would be transformational for children and youth with disabilities and the personnel that educate and support them. CEC is also appreciative of the topline budget's focus on special education early interventions for infants and toddlers through Part C of IDEA, a pivotal proposal to advance educational equity through Title I, and an increased focus on student mental health, including a historic investment in mental health professionals in schools.

As you finalize the full proposal for FY 2022, CEC is hopeful that it will also include historic investments in IDEA preschool grants (Part B Section 619), IDEA grants for personnel preparation (Part D), special education research, and the Javits Gifted and Talented grant program, all of which directly impact students with exceptionalities.

CEC sincerely appreciates the thoughtful development of a topline proposal for FY 2022 that makes a meaningful and targeted investment in education. We look forward to working together in support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cavitt", with a small star or asterisk at the end.

Dennis Cavitt, Ed.D.  
President  
Council for Exceptional Children