**Position:** CAN Coordinator

**Length of Term:** X years

**Estimated Time Commitment:** 1-2 hours per month

**Summary** Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Coordinators are CEC members selected by their respective units or divisions. CAN Coordinators must be committed to advancing CEC’s policies through effective grassroots advocacy.

**Responsibilities**

As a leading advocate for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, CAN Coordinators play an integral role in advancing federal policy. CAN Coordinators support CEC policy initiatives by building a strong grassroots network capable of effectively communicating policy priorities.

CAN Coordinator responsibilities include:

* Development of an effective network of advocates at the state and local level
* Regular communication with the network to keep members informed about policy and advocacy, including circulation of CEC’s weekly policy newsletter Policy Insider
* Activation of the network for CEC calls to action via our online letter-writing campaign tool, the [Legislative Action Center](https://exceptionalchildren.org/takeaction)
* Attendance and participation in CEC policy and advocacy webinars and events
* Attendance at CAN trainings offered virtually and at the annual convention, if in attendance
* Active participation in the CEC CAN Community

An effective CAN network is pivotal to making progress on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, and in state government by elevating the voices of the special education profession to connect lawmakers with local experts.

**Qualifications**

* Be a current member of the Council for Exceptional Children
* Knowledge of or the strong desire to learn about policy and advocacy
* A commitment to the policy priorities of CEC, as articulated through CEC’s [position statements](https://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy/position-statements)
* A willingness to devote the necessary time to carry out all responsibilities related to this position

**Advocacy in Washington, DC**

* CEC encourages CAN Coordinators to attend/lead state teams at the Special Education Legislative Summit, an annual advocacy event for special educators which includes a two-day training, culminating with meetings with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.