

Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions of the [CEC Board of Directors](#), as well as updates on the work of [CEC's committees](#) from their required reports to the board (not including any actions taken by the board based on a motion from a committee and noted below).

Following is a summary of key outcomes from online votes since the Board's March 2024 meeting the August 3-4, 2024, Board of Directors meeting and committee updates.

Workgroups

Accepted the recommendations of the Engaging Building-Level Administrators Workgroup and authorized the Executive Director and/or designated staff to determine next steps for implementation of approved recommendations.

Recommendations Summary:

1. Develop and provide comprehensive training on a professional framework of competencies related to building-level leadership.
2. Create and disseminate practical tools to support leadership around inclusive practices.
3. Partner with administrator organizations to provide training, networking and mentorship in formats that are conducive to engagement and participation.

Diversity Leadership Academy

Approved additional costs in the 2025 budget to allow for the [Diversity Leadership Academy](#) classes of 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to attend the CEC 2025 Convention while both are still in their first year, as opposed to attending in their second year.

Committees

Committee Recharter Process Revision

Approved revisions to the committee recharter process and timeline and any necessary revision(s) to any related policy(ies).

Specifically, several months prior to each committee's recharter, the board will meet with the chair/co-chairs, staff liaison, and, if possible, incoming chair/co-chairs to discuss the charge and work of the committee, recent successes and challenges, and any recommendations they may have as to any changes to those that should be made, as well as to any designated deliverables, and the size and/or structure of the committee. (e.g., increase/decrease in size, having designated positions within the committee by professional role). This meeting will provide the opportunity to collect information about the committee and its work so that the board can better assess any potential changes to its charge, deliverables, size/composition, or continued operation when the recharter application is submitted. The board will develop and provide recommendations related to the recharter for the committee to consider.

Standing committees (those established by the Bylaws) had to submit a recharter application to the Board of Directors every five years, and advisory committees (those established by the Board of Directors) every three years. Based on the revised schedule approved by the board for the six committees that were supposed to submit their recharter in 2024, which now have due dates ranging from July 2025 to July 2026, all other committee rechartered dates will be revised.

Leadership Development Committee (online vote May 2024)

Appointed the following individuals to serve on the Leadership Development Committee for a three-year term (Sept. 1, 2024 – Aug. 31, 2027), as recommended by the Leadership Development Committee:

Ashaki Budden, M.Ed.	Varying Exceptionalities Teacher, The Conservatory at North Palm Beach School	Lake Worth, FL (moving to NY)
Taylor Gibbons, M.Ed.	Intervention Specialist, North Ridgeville City Schools	Olmsted Falls, OH
Christina "Tina" Wagner, M.Ed.	EDGE (Enhanced Digital and Guided Education) Middle School Program, Case Manager/Special Education Teacher	Keizer, OR
Dake Zhang, Ph.D.	Associate Professor, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ

Finance

Approved a revised Debt Reduction and Reserves Contribution Policy as recommended by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee (FASC).

Revisions to the policy include:

- increasing the net assets criteria from \$100K to \$200K to give more cushion in policy for making contributions to long term investments
- changing the timing for making the contribution to the end of the 2nd quarter from 1st quarter to give time for annual audit to be completed.
- changing approval needed by the board to just the CFO informing the board of the contribution through standard monthly reporting.

Approved a revised Investment Policy, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee.

Revisions to the policy are:

- general changes made to make it more concise and eliminate repetitive language.
- changed to show operating funds now held in checking account and interest-bearing money market account
- updated that the CFO will transfer funds to long term investments in accordance with the "Debt Reduction & Reserves Contribution" policy, and that the CFO may recommend transferring additional funds with approval from the FASC
- listed the ticker symbols of ETFs and percentage of portfolio invested into each per the table at the bottom of the document

Committee Updates

Finance & Audit Standing Committee (Interim)

- Reviewed monthly financial statements.
- Reviewed and discussed CEC's risk and liability and insurance coverage.

- Reviewed and discussed the 2023 Annual Audit, which received an unmodified opinion (top rating), and recommended approval by the Board.
- Reviewed 2024 year-end projections.
- Reviewed revisions to the Debt Reduction and Reserves Contribution and Investment policies, and recommended approval by the Board.

Leadership Development Committee (LDC)/Leadership Development Program Subcommittee (LDPS) (Quarterly)

- Eight completed applications were received to fill two positions on the LDPS. As well, per the subcommittee structure, two members of the 2023-24 cohort of Leadership CEC were appointed as ex officio, non-voting members.
- 22 members completed Phase 1 of the Board of Directors application process. Of those, 16 were advanced to Phase 2. Two of the applicants did not complete the Phase 2 application. 11 applicants advanced to the interview phase. Interviews were conducted July 15-18 & 22-25. Slating for the election will take place on August 9th during the LDC's Annual Retreat.
- 32 nominations were received from 13 units and 8 divisions for the 2024-25 cohort of [Leadership CEC](#), a program to strengthen the pool of individuals to serve as future unit and division leaders. The program launched with a Getting to Know You session in May and an Orientation/Program Overview session in June.
- A subgroup of the LDPS developed a plan for the second "Leadership CEC 2.0," a voluntary second year for inaugural cohort members of Leadership CEC, to delve deeper into specific issues of interest related to their volunteering within their unit/division or CEC. The program will launch in September.

Development and Fundraising Committee (Interim)

Current Giving, Donor Results (as of July 2024)

- Donation total since inception of Giving program: \$231,452 (as compared \$209,795, 2023 Year-End Report)
- Total Donors: 824 (as compared 726 donors, 2023 Year-End Report)
- Total Donations: 1,401 (as compared 1,188 donations, 2023 Year-End Report)
- Learn about CEC's endowments, ways to give, and make a donation [here](#).

Division Relations Committee (Interim)

Report was delayed.

Honors Committee (Interim)

- The required nomination element of "Vita/resume " was changed to "Vita/resume or biographical information" for the Teacher of the Year, Rising Star, and Paraeducator awards. The committee felt it appropriate to leave "Vita/resume" for the Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding CEC Leadership, Research, and Chapter Faculty Advisor awards. The following guidance is included, which mirrors the application for the Board of Directors and CEC committees.
Key elements for a bio include Education, Experience (Job History/Brief Job Descriptions), Skills/ Certifications/Special Training, Community Service/Leadership. Your upload could also include what led you to a career in education, what is your teaching philosophy, etc.
- Adopted a Prohibition on the Use of AI tools in the preparation of nominations or applications for any of our awards and related programs. (Those included here: <https://exceptionalchildren.org/award-programs>)
- Information on all of CEC's Professional Awards can be found [here](#).

Policy Steering Committee (Interim)

- CEC and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) collaboratively developed a joint statement, “Teaching Mathematics to Students with Disabilities.” A request for feedback on how we may work together in the future to support math outcomes for students with disabilities was sent out on September 18, 2024.
- Position statements on the following topics are currently being developed:
 - Special Education and English Learners
 - Caseload vs. Workload
 - Cultural Diversity
 - The new regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- CEC’s position statements can be accessed [here](#).

Professional Standards and Practice Committee (Interim)

- Provided guidance to initial gifted standards workgroup to finalize standards using feedback received from The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
- Provided feedback and support to Advanced Special Educator Standards Workgroup, set to be submitted to CAEP in February 2025.
- Information about CEC’s standards and related activities and resources can be found [here](#).

Publications Committee (Interim)

- The committee met with the two editorial teams, TEACHING Exceptional Children and Exceptional Children, to review their transition progress.
- The committee fine-tuned the rubrics for book proposals and review of prospective books.
- Explore all of CEC’s publications [here](#).

Student and Early Career Committee (Year-End)

- Two nominations for the Graduate Student Award and three nominations for the Undergraduate Student Award were received in December 2023. Katie Espinosa (Undergraduate) and Mia Chudzik (Graduate) received the awards at the 2024 CEC Convention.
- The committee planned a Student and Early Career Mentoring Breakfast for the CEC 2024 Convention. The event was held as two, back-to-back, one-hour sessions occurring over breakfast, with one session being held for preservice educators and the other for early-career educators and was designed to provide preservice and early career conference attendees an opportunity to receive mentorship from established field personnel, as well as engage in small-group networking with their selected mentors and other student/early career attendees. Mentors were recruited CEC’s list of confirmed presenters for the 2024 Convention.
- Learn about Graduate and Pre-Service Student memberships [here](#).

Yes I Can Committee (Interim)

- Twelve 2024 Yes I Can Award recipients, two in each of six categories, were selected by the committee in the fall of 2023. The recipients were presented with their awards during a ceremony at CEC 2024.
- See the list of award recipients [here](#).

Questions? Contact Executive Director [Chad Rummel](#).