



Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions of the [CEC Board of Directors](#). Following are key actions taken at its November and December 2025 meetings.

Governance

Approved revisions to CEC's Bylaws to create a Nominations Subcommittee of the Board of Directors to develop a slate of applications for the Board of Directors for the membership to vote on. The Nominations Subcommittee will be chaired by the Immediate Past President and be made up of four additional members appointed by the president (one from each elected class). The President and Executive Director will serve as ex-officio to the committee.

NOTE: Per CEC's Bylaws, members must have at least 30 days to comment on any proposed changes. An announcement about the comment period was included in *Special Education TODAY* on December 8, 2025, and the *Membership Minute* newsletter on January 8, 2025.

The Co-Chair of the [Student and Early Career Committee](#) in the early career position will be included as a non-voting guest at the 2026 Board of Directors meetings. National data show that nonprofit boards are aging, with few members under 35, even as the workforce grows younger and Millennials become its largest segment. Bringing younger voices—like those from early career professionals—adds digital fluency, fresh perspectives, stronger community connections, and broader networks. Research also shows that boards with wider age diversity make better, more adaptive decisions. Inviting the Early Career Co-Chair as a non-voting guest helps ensure CEC benefits from these insights and stays aligned with the evolving workforce it serves.

Committee Recharters Approved: [Finance and Audit Standing Committee](#) and [Development Committee](#) (formerly the Fundraising & Development Committee).

Megan Purcell, Ph.D., appointed as chair of the [Profession Standards and Practice Committee](#) for a three-year term (January 1, 2026-December 31, 2028).

Sabra Lynch, Ph.D., and Acer Pitas-Pilo, M.A., appointed as co-chairs of the [Convention Program Advisory Committee](#) for the [2027 and 2028 conventions](#).

Approved a plan for the Legacy Proclamation and Necrology Committee (LPNC) to establish terms and a "succession model" for committee co-chairs. The LPNC is a committee of the [Division of Leaders and Legacy](#) and oversees the [Legacy Proclamation](#) nomination process on behalf of the CEC Board of Directors.

Approved the 2026 Program Plan and Budget as recommended by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee.

Components (Units & Divisions)

Approved an [Interdivisional Grant](#) for the “Collaborative Division Regional Strand Conference” proposal to pilot a rotating, 2-day regional conference in Fall 2026. Each participating division will lead a content strand to showcase specialized expertise and offer targeted professional development aligned with their mission. The goals of the project are to:

- Foster collaboration across divisions by co-designing a shared professional learning event.
- Generate shared revenue among divisions through profit-sharing from event proceeds.
- Create a scalable model for future inter-divisional regional events.
- Produce reusable planning tools, marketing strategies, and content frameworks that if successful can be adapted for future use with other divisions.

Professional Standards

Revisions to the Initial Common Specialty Items to align with the 2020 Standards approved.

Changed from using “Specialty Sets” to using “Competencies” to outline the essential knowledge and skills and, also now, abilities that beginning special education professionals must possess to be ready to begin their practice in specific areas.

New Transition Competencies, which will provide special educators with information on the knowledge, skills, and abilities to support individualized post-secondary goals, were approved:

- Application of knowledge and skills in collaboration, planning, instruction, and data use
- Actions to carry out supports (e.g., *plan, collaborate, implement, align, collect*)
- Integration of culturally responsive, evidence-informed, and data-driven practices.
- Reinforcement of a systems-level understanding, showing how educators work with families, agencies, and community partners.

NOTE: Updated information for these three items will be available [here](#).

Awards and Recognitions

Approved Harry Dahl as a recipient (posthumous) of a [Legacy Proclamation](#), which honors an outstanding CEC member who has led and contributed to CEC’s various units, divisions, and national governing bodies and has significantly influenced the field throughout a lifelong career.

NOTE: The Legacy Proclamation will be available [here](#) following presentation at the [CEC 2026 Convention & Expo](#).

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