

## Share YOUR Story!

Every year, CEC publishes the *Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children*, providing an overview of federally-funded programs – IDEA and Javits grants – that impact the lives of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. The *Outlook* is distributed to members of Congress, federal agencies, and other leaders in the education community with the hope that a better understanding of such programs will lead to increased federal funding for special/gifted education programs.

**Make your voice heard.** Throughout the *Outlook* are personal stories and photos of children and youth participating in special education, early intervention, and gifted education programs across the country. These success stories help put a human touch on the graphs and charts that typically illustrate the need for increased funding for programs such as IDEA and the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act.

Success stories may be submitted by anyone in contact with a student with disabilities and/or gifts and talents (**with parent's permission**) – including, teachers, related service providers, school administrators, and parents.

**Submit your success story and become a part of this year's *Outlook*!**

### Success Story Guidelines:

- Who: Student's full name, age, city and state in which they live, and their school/district.
- What: Show the benefits students have received from special education/early intervention services. Stories may also include your thoughts on the importance of maintaining these programs, the need for additional funding, and the impact of budget cuts. Success stories should be approximately 250 words in length.
- Where:
  - Please submit success stories via email to:
    - Carrie Winslow at: [carriew@cec.sped.org](mailto:carriew@cec.sped.org).
  - You may also mail these items. Please address the items to:
    - Carrie Winslow, Council for Exceptional Children, 2900 Crystal Drive, Ste 1000 Arlington, VA 22202.
  - **Please remember to include an action photo of the child engaged in learning and photo release form when submitting stories.**
- When: Stories are due January 21, 2011

## Story Components for CEC's Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children

1. Please provide the child's name, city/state, school and school district or early intervention program. Also include his/her age, and the nature of the child's disability.

*Example:* Bobby Smith is in seventh grade at George Washington Middle School (GWMS) in Virginia. He has significant learning disabilities, dyslexia, ADHD, and expressive language delays.

2. Provide a brief history of the child's education, including the age which he/she was referred to special education or early intervention (4 sentences)

*Example:* Bobby was referred in kindergarten for speech and language services due to an expressive language impairment and phonological disorder. Academic support from an intervention specialist began in first grade; and at his parents' request, those services have always been delivered in the general education setting.

3. Describe the current strengths and needs of the child, and specifically what services he/she receives under IDEA (special education/early intervention). Examples may include special education, early intervention, assistive technology, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, etc. (4-6 Sentences)

*Example:* Bobby is developing independence due to his emerging competence with assistive technology. Bobby's current needs include his word retrieval skills and comprehension. He is currently reading on a second grade reading level. He is working to be an independent user of reading/writing/learning software, word prediction software, and a talking word processor. Bobby receives special education for language arts and reading delivered in a seventh grade classroom by a co-teaching team including both general and special educators. He also receives language therapy delivered by an internal speech and language pathologist.

4. Briefly list the outcomes the child has achieved because of IDEA, and how they have helped the child become developmentally, academically and socially successful, both at school and in the community. The focus needs to be on developmental and educational outcomes.

*Example:* Because of IDEA, Bobby receives the necessary services that contribute to his success both academically and socially. He is confident because of his full participation in the general education setting with supports from his intervention specialist and speech and language pathologist. Bobby's teachers say he is one of the most internally motivated students they know, who is consistently on the all A honor roll. They state his participation in extra-curricular activities contributes to his exceptional background knowledge.

5. Describe the importance of receiving increased federal funding for programs that serve the child.

*Example:* IDEA funding provides for Bobby's special education comprehensive services. State and local funds make up for the shortfall of federal funds. A few years ago, federal grants were written to purchase the software he uses. Those federal funds are no longer available. Bobby exemplifies the positive impact of IDEA in the lives of children with exceptional learning needs. Fully funding IDEA will result in better outcomes for all children, including Bobby.

6. Provide the name of the person submitting the story and their relation to the child.

*Example:* Jane Smith, Special Education Teacher –or– Jane Smith, Mother.



## CEC Photo Release

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For valuable consideration of \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby give  
(name of child photographed)

**The Council for Exceptional Children** the absolute and irrevocable right and permission, with respect to the photographs that have been taken of my child, or in which my child may be included with others:

- (a) To copyright the same in **The Council for Exceptional Children** or any other name that **The Council** may choose; and
- (b) To use, publish and re-publish the same in whole or in part, separately or in conjunction with other photographs, for the sole purpose of producing *Fiscal Year 2012 Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children*.

I hereby release and discharge **The Council for Exceptional Children** from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the photographs, including any and all claims for libel.

This authorization and release shall ensure to the benefit of the legal representatives, licensees and assigns of **The Council for Exceptional Children**, as well as the person(s) for whom he/she took the photographs.

Please sign below. \*please send photos no smaller than 3x5\*

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**Child Appearing in Photograph (adult signature required)**

I represent that I am the (Father, Mother, Guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_, the above named child. I hereby consent to the foregoing on his/her behalf.

I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents thereof.

Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All photos and release forms should be sent to CEC, Attn: Carrie Winslow, 2900 Crystal Drive, Ste 1000  
Arlington, VA 22202