

**CEC 2025**



**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
CONVENTION & EXPO**

**BALTIMORE**

**MARCH 12-15, 2025**

**Justification Toolkit**

[www.cecconvention.org](http://www.cecconvention.org)

“  
**Honestly one of  
 the most  
 impactful  
 gatherings of  
 special  
 education  
 teachers in the  
 nation.**  
 ”

At CEC 2025, the focus will be on educators with a common goal: High-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities. Whatever your role—special or general education teacher, district administrator, principal, educator, or paraprofessional—you can drive educator and student success by attending CEC 2025.

Use this Justification Toolkit to help make your case for support of travel, funding, and time off to attend CEC 2025 in Baltimore.

**Attending the CEC 2025 Convention & Expo will allow you to:**

- Keep your fingers on the pulse of trends, hot topics, current research, and emerging practices in special education.
- Engage with and learn from leading special education experts and peers to help make your practice better.
- Connect with educators practicing in different settings around the world to get great ideas and effective strategies for your classroom.

**Design your own experience and earn up to 23 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by choosing from over 300 sessions covering:**

Accountability Systems (IDEA/ESSA) for Children and Youth with Disabilities	Early Childhood and Early Intervention	Personnel Preparation
Administration/Supervision	Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	Physical/Health/Multiple Disabilities
Arts in Special Education	Gifted and Talented	Pioneers/Historical Perspectives
Assessment	International Programs/Services	Public Policy
Career Development/Transition	Maltreatment	Starting the Teaching Career
Collaboration and Inclusive Practices	Measuring Special Education Teacher Effectiveness	STEM
Communicative Disabilities and Deafness	Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)	Technology in Special Education and Early Intervention
Cultural and/or Linguistic Diversity	Parent/Family/School Partnerships	Visual Impairments and Deafblindness

**Explore the latest and greatest**

The Expo Hall is home to not only hundreds of exhibitors but the Technology Playground as well. The Technology Playground is an immersive, hands-on experience in the Expo Hall where you can interact with vendors, educators, and students who will share current assistive and instructional technology that can support your students. From using apps and other products for lesson planning to virtual reality for teacher training and technology for math and reading, you can learn from people using real tools for teaching.

## Registration Options

CEC 2025 offers a variety of registration options to fit anyone's budget. We want you to have access to the best professional development event of the year in whatever way works for you.

Our PLUS Package includes registration to the in-person convention, a ticket to Friday night's CEC Celebration, and access to the virtual convention in April! The Baltimore Convention Center will host all convention events, including sessions, meetings, and the exhibit hall.

### What's included?

Visit <https://ceconvention.org/registration> for more information on registration options.

		In-Person	Virtual Registration Only
In-Person Convention Sessions	✓	✓	
In-Person Expo Hall	✓	✓	
In-Person CEC Celebration	✓	✓	
On-Demand Virtual Sessions	✓		✓

### Add-Ons

You can customize your CEC experience even more by adding on any (or all!) of the following. Additional rates apply for these items.

- One (or two, or three) of our optional Pre & Post- [Convention Workshops](#)
- A ticket to the [Awards of Excellence Luncheon](#) on Thursday, March 13
- A ticket for the [CEC Celebration](#) on Friday, March 14 (included in the PLUS package)
- Access to Virtual Convention Workshops (available for PLUS Package registrants)

### Virtual Convention Registration

The virtual component of the 2025 CEC Convention & Expo will include more than 20 instructional hours of live and on-demand sessions. If you couldn't be in two places at once in Baltimore, you'll have the chance to see some of the sessions you missed and more!

Here's what you get:

- Access to more than 20 hours of curated on-demand content from the "best of the best" in-person convention sessions and sessions selected only for virtual convention beginning on April 9, 2025, accessible through July 9, 2025.
- Live sessions to potentially include a welcome session, 1-hour hot topic sessions, and townhalls on April 9, 2025

Get the best deal on our virtual convention by selecting the PLUS Package at registration. Can't make it to Baltimore? You can register for just the virtual convention!

We're working on virtual convention content. Check <https://ceconvention.org/> this fall for more information.

“ I made connections with educators that I would have never been able to had it not been for the convention. ”

## Hotel Information

CEC has negotiated great hotel rates in Baltimore. [Housing is open](#), so book your room today! All the official CEC block hotels are within walking distance of the Convention Center.

Looking for further savings? Check out [room share](#) possibilities with fellow attendees.

## About Baltimore

Take in all that Baltimore has to offer! Waddle like a penguin over to the [National Aquarium](#), run past home plate to [Camden Yards](#), hop the tracks over to the [B&O Railroad Museum](#), and so much more!

## Calculate your cost to attend

Use the table below to estimate your investment for attending the convention.



Expense	Considerations	Cost
Convention Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are you a CEC member?</li><li>• What registration option works for you?</li><li>• Do you want to add any of the following?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ An in-person Convention Workshop</li><li>◦ A ticket to the Awards Luncheon or the CEC Celebration?</li><li>◦ The Virtual Convention (included in the PLUS package)?</li><li>◦ A Virtual Convention Workshop?</li></ul></li></ul>	\$
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are you traveling to the convention: car, plane, train?</li><li>• Consider your ground transportation while in Baltimore. All the official <a href="#">CEC block hotels</a> are within walking distance of the Convention Center,</li></ul>	\$
Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book your hotel in the official <a href="#">CEC room block</a> to get the best rates in the city.</li></ul>	\$
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many meals will you need?</li><li>• Do you have a food per diem?</li></ul>	\$

## Writing a Justification Letter

We're here to help you get support from your principal or administrator to attend CEC 2025 in Baltimore. You can customize this "justification letter" to make the case for your attendance.

Here are some things to remember to support your request:

- Emphasize impact. Attending CEC 2025 will benefit you as an educator, the students you serve, your colleagues, and ultimately your school. Talk about the new ideas and strategies you will discover that are based on solid research and academia.
- Highlight the savings. Your school or district can save money while investing in professional development for individual teachers or entire teams. Best Rate savings are in effect through October 27, 2024.
- Stress the connection. Make sure you explain how your attendance will help you meet the knowledge requirements of your school or state. You can earn up to 23 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) over four days.
- You can direct your own learning and design the program that meets your specific needs—and those of your school.
- Highlight the opportunity to learn firsthand by engaging directly with experts leading the Pre & Post- [Convention Workshops](#). These experiences are a great way to enhance your professional development at the convention—please note that additional fees are required.

[Download a sample Justification Letter](#) you can personalize and use.