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**CEC 2026 CONVENTION AND EXPO**

**GROUP Presenters Call for Proposals**

**Salt Lake City, UT**

**March 11-14, 2026**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**June 9, 2025 - 5pm ET**

**CEC 2026 Group Presenters Submission Guidelines**

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| **To be considered for the CEC 2026 program, all participants of each submission must consent to and comply with CEC Policies.** |
| * Presentation formats available**:**   + ***Concurrent Session***: This format is available for proposals with content focused on practice-based strategies or research-to-practice. These sessions are 1 hour long and consists of 2 or more presenters. (Research in progress will not be accepted as a concurrent session.)   + ***Research-to-Practice Deep Dive***: A 90-minute interactive learning experience. Half of the session will focus on presentation of research and resulting implementable strategies, and the other half of the session will bring together facilitators and fellow attendees for experiential learning opportunities focused on enacting the research. **Very limited slots**. |
| * The Program Advisory Committee (PAC) may accept your proposal for a different format than the original submission so that the PAC members have the option to incorporate your presentation into the program in a variety of ways.   + Please carefully consider the *content* of your presentation and which presentation formats could work well to deliver the information. |
| * You may submit up to two (2) submissions for the Group Presenters Call and up to two (2) submissions from the Single Presenter Call for a total of four (4) submissions. |
| * You do not have to be a CEC member to submit and present. |
| * You must have 2 presenters (up to six maximum) for a Group submission.   + Special Note: *If two presenters are listed and later one cancel, you are required to replace that presenter with another, or your presentation could be canceled.)* |
| * **All presenters must pay registration to present either in-person or virtual.** |

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| Submit your Group proposal here:<https://councilforexceptionalchildren.submittable.com/submit/47549d6d-30f0-40ca-bb75-6707694c9519/cec-2026-call-for-proposals-group-presenters> |

#### Important Notes:

Please review all the information and instructions regarding proposal submission before completing the online proposal form. It is helpful to develop your proposal description and review it carefully prior to beginning the online form.

In alignment with its core values – especially inclusiveness – the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is committed to embracing the diversity of beliefs and characteristics of our members and field. We strongly encourage presenters to consider the diversity of their presenters when submitting a proposal. CEC views diversity to include race, ethnicity, culture, language, age, (dis)abilities, family status/composition, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious and spiritual values, geographic location, country of origin and professional role. Learn more about [CEC's commitment to diversity](https://exceptionalchildren.org/about-us/our-values).

The accepted proposals will be slotted into a session format by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC), based on the submitter selection(s) or on the content of the presentation and how it might complement, align, or combine with others to create a dynamic education program for 2026 Convention attendees. Please carefully consider the *content* of your presentation and which presentation formats could work well to deliver the information.

Proposals that promote commercially available products, services, or programs will not be accepted. The venue for commercially available products is an Exhibitor Showcase Session. Please visit our [Exhibitors & Sponsors page](https://cecconvention.org/partner) after June 30, 2025, for information on exhibitor showcase sessions.

**Submissions are Welcomed for Group Presenters Proposals**

Use this form to gather all the necessary information for submitting a Group Presenters proposal for consideration for the CEC 2026 Convention and Expo. We recommend collecting the information below before submitting your proposal. You will be able to copy and paste your information into the submission portal. Submissions are open through Monday, June 9 at 5pm ET.

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|  | **Lead presenter’s name (First and Last)\***  *If your proposal is accepted, you will be able to add a short bio and upload a headshot to the program platform before the convention.* |  |
|  | **Lead presenter’s Email\***  **IMPORTANT:** *If you're a CEC member, please use the email you use with your membership.* |  |
|  | **Lead Presenter’s Organization\*** *List the presenter’s organization (i.e., Council for Exceptional Children; Teachers College, Columbia University; etc.)* |  |
|  | **Lead Presenter’s Position/Title\*** *List the presenter’s position/title (i.e., Founder; Associate Professor; Teacher; etc.)* |  |
|  | **Co-presenter #2 Name (First and Last)\***  *If your proposal is accepted, you will be able to add a short bio and upload a headshot to the program platform before the convention.* |  |
|  | **Co-presenter #2 Email\***  ***IMPORTANT:*** *If you're a CEC member, please use the email you use with your membership.* |  |
|  | **Co-presenter #2 Organization\*** *List the presenter’s organization (i.e., Council for Exceptional Children; Teachers College, Columbia University; etc.)* |  |
|  | **Co-presenter #2 Position/Title\*** *List the presenter’s position/ title (i.e., Founder; Associate Professor; Teacher; etc.)* |  |
|  | **You can list up to 4 other presenters on the form*.*** *(If two presenters are listed and later one cancel, you are required to replace that presenter with another, or your presentation could be canceled.)* |  |
|  | Diversity of presenters  *In alignment with its core values – especially inclusiveness – the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is committed to embracing the diversity of beliefs and characteristics of our members and field. We strongly encourage presenters to consider the diversity of their presenters when submitting a proposal.*  *CEC views diversity to include race, ethnicity, culture, language, age, (dis)abilities, family status/composition, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious and spiritual values, geographic location, country of origin and professional role. Learn more about* [*CEC's commitment to diversity*](https://exceptionalchildren.org/about-us/our-values)*.* |  |
|  | Presentation Focus\*  *By selecting a focus type, you affirm that over* ***75% of the content*** *you are presenting will be focused on the selected "category." This selection is essential for determining the appropriate presentation type and ensuring your content reaches its intended audience.* | Select   * Practice (strategies and application for practitioners) * Research-to-Practice (presentation of research and resulting implementable strategies) |
|  | Presentation Format  You can review the different session formats [**here**](https://cecconvention.org/convention/2026/program/session-formats)).  *Two presentation formats are available in this Group Call - presentations focused on practice or research-to-practice. Select the appropriate formats for the content delivery and the learner outcomes of your proposal. You may select both types.* | Y*our proposal may be selected for a different format than the original submission so that the PAC members have the option to incorporate your presentation into the program in a variety of ways.*   * *Concurrent Session*: This format is available for proposals with content focused on **practice-based strategies** or **research-to-practice**. These sessions are 1 hour long. * *Deep Dive Session*: This format is available for proposals with content focused on ***research-to-practice***. These sessions are 90 minutes long. Very limited slots. |
|  | Title of Presentation\* *(limit to 15 words)* |  |
|  | Presentation Abstract\* *(limit to 50 words)*  *This should be a summary of your presentation. This information will be listed in the program and is subject to edits by CEC.*  **SPECIAL NOTE**: Each proposal is reviewed without proposer identification. Your proposal abstract and description should not contain any identifying information. **Proposals containing any identifying information will be removed from consideration.** Do not use abbreviations or acronyms. |  |
|  | Presentation Rationale\* *(limit to 250 words)*  Explain   * Why is this topic important to the field and how does it translate to improved practice and student performance? * What are the ideas and goals of the presentation? * What are the various strategies from your presentation that could be implemented immediately by practitioners in the field? |  |
|  | Participant Outcomes\* *(limit to 200 words)*  Provide 2 to 3 participant outcomes that are appropriate for the intended audience and focus of your proposal. Be as descriptive as possible with learning objectives and/or participant outcomes.  These outcomes should:   * Complete the sentence "After this presentation, participants will be able to: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_. 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_. etc.”.   + Describe the skills, behaviors, and/or strategies participants will be able to demonstrate or implement after the presentation.   Be considerate of medium, time, and number of presenters. |  |
|  | Presentation Outline (limit to 150 words)   * Please include a brief outline of your presentation. |  |
|  | Presentation Category of Evidence of the Effectiveness of the Practice or Content\* (to be presented) (*limit to 250 words*)  **CEC firmly believes in evidence-based practices**  The submission should indicate the category of evidence within which the intervention/practice falls: (1) practitioner evidence; or (2) Research from Quantitative, Qualitative, or Mixed Methods studies; or (3) policy. Please explain how your submission meets the guidelines specified.  **(View Evidence of the Practice or Content** [**here**](https://cecconvention.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/2025%20Evidence%20of%20the%20Effectiveness%20of%20the%20Practice%20or%20Content%20to%20be%20Presented.pdf)**)**  **Please Note**: Proposals that promote commercially available products, services, or programs will not be accepted. The venue for commercially available products is an [Exhibitor Showcase Session](https://cecconvention.org/partner). Please email exhibit@exceptionalchildren.org after June 30, 2025, for information on exhibitor showcase sessions. | Choose one:   * Practitioner Evidence * Research (from quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods) * Policy |
|  | Topic Areas  (Click [**here**](https://exceptionalchildren.org/) for descriptions of topic areas)  *Begin typing the topic area to see a shortened list. Selection of topic areas is extremely important to ensure that your proposal is directed to reviewers qualified to make the most appropriate evaluation of its merits. Submitters may select a* ***maximum of three topic areas*** *that relate to their proposed session (but no more than one is necessary), and the proposal will be reviewed for relevancy and merit by a subject matter expert from each topical category selected in this section. Topic areas will also be considered by the Program Chairs and Program Advisory Committee in developing a balanced convention program.* | Choose **up to three** topics:   * Administration/Supervision (including recruitment and retention of special education and early childhood professionals) * Arts in Special Education * Assessment (including assessments for accountability (IDEA/ESSA), diagnosis, eligibility, and program planning) * Autism Spectrum Disorder/Intellectual Disability * Career Development/Transition * Collaboration and Inclusive Practices (including models for co-teaching and other methods for providing access to the general education curriculum and classroom) * Communicative Disabilities and Deaf/Hard of Hearing * Complex and Chronic Conditions: Physical/Health/Multiple Disabilities * Cultural and/or Linguistic Diversity (including culture, language, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, families and/or educators with disabilities) * Early Childhood and Early Intervention * Emotional and Behavioral Disorders * Gifted and Talented * International Programs/Services * Leaders and Legacy * Learning Disabilities (including instructional strategies for students “at risk” or with learning disabilities.) * Maltreatment * Multi-Tiered System of Support * Parent/Family/School Partnerships * Personnel Preparation (including High-Leverage Practices) * Research * STEM (instructional strategies for learning in science, math, and technical subjects) * Technology in Special Education and Early Intervention (including Adaptive and Assistive Technology) * Visual Impairments and Deafblindness |
|  | Who are the primary target audiences of this presentation? You can select **up to two max.** \* | You may select **up to two** target audiences for this presentation:   * K-12 Educators * Paraeducators * Pre-service or early career educators (in years 0-3 of teaching) * Administrators/Supervisors * Parents/Families * Related Service Providers * Researchers * Teacher Educators/College or University Faculty |
|  | Which grade/age level(s) is the intended audience working with?\*  *If the intended audience is working with two or more grade levels (including as a site or district administrator), please select "multiple levels".* | **Choose one**:   * Multiple grade/age levels * Early intervention (ages 0-3) * Early childhood (ages 3-5) * Elementary school (grades K-5) * Middle school (grades 6-8) * Secondary/high school (grades 9-12) * College/university students in training to become educators |
|  | Presentation familiarity level\*  *Please identify the presentation’s “familiarity level”—that is, how comfortable would your target audience need to be with this topic to gain the most out of your session?* | **Choose one**:   * Introductory – intended for those not familiar or vaguely familiar with the topic * Intermediate – intended for those somewhat familiar with the topic * Advanced – intended for those very familiar with the topic |

You’ll need to create a Submittable account or log in to your existing account to begin the submission process. You can save your submission and return to it later by using the "Save Draft" button at the bottom of the form. You'll need to log in to your Submittable account again to view your saved drafts.

Be sure to hit the "Submit" button before **Monday, June 9 at 5pm ET**!

**Additional Information**

The CEC 2026 Convention and Expo will have two separate events: the in-person/face-to-face convention (March 11-14) and the virtual convention (in April – dates TBD). (*If your proposal is accepted and scored a high rating, we will contact you to consider doing an on-demand presentation for the Virtual Convention.*)

We will be unable to make changes to presentation availability once the decision process begins in late August due to the challenges of scheduling sessions. If an extenuating circumstance requires you to make a change, please alert convention@exceptionalchildren.org to discuss.

Availability to Present

The CEC 2026 Convention and Expo will be in-person/face-to-face from March 11-14, 2026, and virtual (in April - dates TBD). Please indicate your availability to present your session:

* In-Person – I am interested in presenting in-person during the CEC 2026 Convention sometime between March 11-14, 2026.
* Submission Limit Policy
* I understand and agree that I may submit up to two (2) submissions for the Group Presenters Call and up to two (2) submissions for the Single Presenter Call for a total of four (4) submissions.
* Should any submitter be found noncompliant with this policy, all associated submissions could be disqualified.
* Program Content Policies
* I understand and agree that this proposal does not promote commercially available products, services, or programs. The venue for commercially available products is an [Exhibitor Showcase Session](https://cecconvention.org/partner).
* I understand and agree that the professional program content (online, mobile app, or promotional material) may contain my session title and abstract as edited by CEC staff.
* Registration Policies
* I understand and agree that if this proposal is accepted, **all** **presenters** are required to pay their convention registration by **October 15, 2025**.
* Any presenter who fails to register by this date will have their information removed from all convention programming.
* Audiovisual Equipment Policies
* I understand that CEC will provide a projection package (LCD projector and screen) for concurrent and deep dive sessions.
* It is the responsibility of the presenters to bring their laptops or arrange to rent equipment. CEC does not provide computer equipment for any convention presentations. CEC can provide presenters with information regarding AV equipment rental if needed.

Are you prepared to finalize and officially submit your proposal?

Please make sure to take a few minutes to review your proposal prior to completing.

**SUBMIT by June 9, 2025 – 5pm ET**

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