



CEC
2027

**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
CONVENTION
MARCH 10-13**

Justification Toolkit

www.cecconvention.org

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

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At CEC 2027, the focus will be on educators with a common goal: high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education 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 2027

Use this Justification Toolkit to help make your case for support of travel, funding, and time off to attend CEC 2027 in Columbus.

Attending the CEC 2027 Convention & Expo will allow you to:

- Stay informed about the latest trends, hot topics, current research, and emerging practices in special education.
- Engage with and learn from leading special education experts and peers to enhance your practice.
- Connect with educators from diverse settings around the world to gain valuable insights and effective strategies for your classroom.

Design your own experience and earn up to 23 Continuing Education hours 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	Historical Perspectives
Assessment	International Programs/Services	Public Policy & Advocacy
Career Development/Transition	Maltreatment	Early 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 2027 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 Greater Columbus Convention Center will host all convention events, including sessions, meetings, and the exhibit hall.

What's included?

	In-Person PLUS	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 & Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, March 11
- A ticket for the CEC Celebration on Friday, March 12 (included in the PLUS package)

Virtual Convention Registration

The virtual component of the 2027 CEC Convention & Expo will include more than 20 instructional hours of live and on-demand sessions. Get the best deal on our virtual convention by selecting the PLUS Package at registration.

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 7, 2027, accessible through July 7, 2027.
- Live sessions may include a welcome session, 1-hour hot topic sessions, and town halls on April 7, 2027.

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

Hotel Information

CEC has negotiated great hotel rates in Columbus. [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.

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

About Columbus

Take in all that Columbus has to offer! Explore the beauty of the [Columbus Museum of Art](#), say “Willkommen” in the [German Village](#), take a stroll through the [Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#), or grab a bite at the [Budd Dairy Food Hall](#).



Calculate your cost to attend

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

Expense	Considerations	Cost
Convention Registration	• Are you a CEC member? • What registration option works for you? • Do you want to add any of the following? ◦ An in-person Convention Workshop ◦ A ticket to the Awards Luncheon or the CEC Celebration? ◦ Virtual Convention (included in the PLUS package)?	\$
Travel	• How are you traveling to the convention: car, plane, train? • Consider your ground transportation while in Columbus. All the official CEC block hotels are within walking distance of the Convention Center.	\$
Lodging	• Book your hotel in the official CEC room block to get the best rates in the city.	\$
Food	• How many meals will you need? • Do you have a food per diem?	\$

Writing a Justification Letter

We're here to help you get support from your principal or administrator to attend CEC 2027 in Columbus. 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 2027 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. Early Bird savings are in effect through October 23, 2026.
- **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 hours 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 apply.

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