



February 17, 2017

Dear Colleague,

These are challenging times for special educators across Illinois. We're involved in important conversations surrounding school funding and the meaning of a free appropriate public education. In times like these, we need to come together and speak as one voice. We are excited to announce a recommitment to the vision of a unified voice for special education in Illinois. The leadership of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) and the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, with strong guidance from our national organizations the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), are working together to ensure that students with special education needs and the educators who serve them are fully considered in every conversation at the state and national level.

There is plenty of room in this conversation for all of us and we know that there will likely be healthy debates around certain issues. We also know that we are stronger when we work together and provide a unified voice in Springfield, Ill. and Washington, D.C.

What does this mean for you as a member?

It means that when we issue a call for action, it will come to you from *official* sources:

- [IAASE](#): Communications will always come on an official email template and be signed by leadership.
- [Illinois CEC](#): Communications will always be signed by leadership.
- [CEC](#): Communications will come on an official email template and via the [Policy Insider](#).

You can expect the leaders of your organization to collaborate with each other on your behalf to make sure that the needs of special education students and the educators who serve them are addressed in every conversation. Our goal is to communicate consistently and work with regulators and legislators to craft effective public policy.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for the important work you do every day to support children with exceptionalities and their families!

Sincerely,

Lea Anne Frost
IAASE President

Mikki Garcia
CEC President

Bethanie Whittaker
Illinois CEC President