

Fall 2022 Newsletter



KENTUCKY

President's Message

My fellow CEC members,

Welcome! It's an amazing year to support students with disabilities in Kentucky, and we are so thankful that you are part of the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children! In the past year, special education teachers around the state provided amazing Specially Designed Instruction to support students with disabilities.

Our goal at the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children is to provide support for special education teachers and administrators as well as advocacy around the state to increase quality instruction for students with disabilities from preschool through transition to adult life. The Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children's volunteer board of directors has been working to plan our Fall 2022 Exceptional Children's Conference in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning, the Kentucky Autism Training Center, the CEC Division of Emotional and Behavioral Health, and many other state groups who support students with disabilities. We hope you can join us in Louisville, KY on Nov. 20-22! : <https://exceptionalchildren.org/get-involved/join-now>



Join us on Social Media!

We'd love to chat and tweet with you on social media - you can find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We share favorite resources, trainings, and conference information on our social media accounts and would love to hear from you - please check us out and like, share, and retweet any news that catches your eye!



2022 Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference Updates

The 2022 Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference is just around the corner. We are so excited to come together at the Galt House to celebrate our profession, network with one another, grow together, and celebrate all of our wonderful students.

Registration is Open!

We are excited to announce the 2022 Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference registration is OPEN!!!

We invite you to attend the Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference, where a diverse group of educators will gather for one purpose—to improve their practice to help every student.

The Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference is unique. It brings educators from every school setting across Kentucky, to one place for two and a half days of intense learning and professional growth. It also helps you fuel your passion and make meaningful connections while learning best practices from your colleagues. We guarantee that you will leave the conference ready to make a difference upon your return home.

Visit the [KYCEC Conference website](#) today to explore sessions and workshops and discover registration options. We have most of our speakers lined up and will finalize the schedule in a few weeks. We can't wait to see you in Louisville!

New Teacher Academy

Calling all new and emergency-certified teachers! We are offering a **6-hour New Teacher Academy** at the Conference on **Sunday, November 20th!** Topics will include how to:

- ✓ Strengthen IEP Development, focusing specifically on robust Present Levels and Measurable Annual Goals
- ✓ Align evidence-based instruction (SDI & SAS) to the Present Levels of the IEP
- ✓ Implement effective classroom management and evidence-based behavior strategies to support student learning
- ✓ Apply a trauma-informed lens to IEP development and implementation and to classroom management and behavior strategies



Participants will also receive tools to take back to their classrooms to support student engagement and positive behaviors!

Spots are limited! To register, you must register first for the Conference and then add this session to your Schedule. For more information, visit [our website](#) or email Cindy Green at cynthia.green@warren.kyschools.us.

KYCEC Fall 2022 Newsletter

Yes I Can! Award Winners

KYCEC IS EXCITED TO PRESENT THE 2022 YES I CAN! AWARD WINNERS. NOMINATIONS WERE TAKEN ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH AND THESE WONDERFUL STUDENTS WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES. THE FIVE WINNERS HAVE ALSO BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL YES I CAN! AWARD IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CATEGORIES.



JORDON HULETT: SELF-ADVOCACY

Jordon Hulett of Lexington is a 9th grade student at Jessie Clark Middle School. Jordon works very hard to access his educational environment and works towards independence. This year Jordon set a goal for himself to increase his participation in his physical education class. Since setting this personal goal and through his self-monitoring, Jordon has increased his participation significantly. In other academic areas, Jordon advocates for himself through the independent use of assistive technology devices to access the curriculum. KYCEC is proud of Jordon's determination and the work he does to advocate for himself to access the educational environment.



LEX MARCUM: TECHNOLOGY

Lex Marcum of Albany is an 11th grade student at Clinton County High School. Upon entering high school, Lex enrolled in two business classes at the vocational school. Lex was encouraged to join the Future Business Leaders of America and compete in competitions at the regional level. In preparation for the competition Lex independently studied cybersecurity. Recently in the regional competition, Lex placed 3rd in the written exam for cybersecurity and qualified for the state tournament. Lex's involvement in FBLA has increased not only his knowledge in the area of technology but has increased his social interactions. KYCEC is proud of Lex's hard work in the area of technology and his accomplishments in the Future Business Leaders of America.



LORIELYS BERRIOS-CASTILLO: ACADEMICS

LorieLys Berrios-Castillo of Radcliff is a 9th grade student at North Hardin High School. LorieLys moved to Kentucky from Puerto Rico in 2017 only knowing Spanish. Through NTI, LorieLys made her education top priority and worked hard to better herself and increase her content knowledge, and understanding of the English language. According to district-wide assessments, LorieLys more than quadrupled the average growth of same-age peers. LorieLys requested to participate in extra school services and worked long hours on her school work. In a class essay, LorieLys wrote, "When something is difficult I try my best. I learned I always want to do better than the goals my teachers set for me. I'm going to prove to myself I will succeed". KYCEC is proud of LorieLys' drive to achieve and overcome in all she does.



MAYLEE JUDD: SCHOOL + COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Maylee Judd of Greensburg is a 9th grade student at Green County High School. Maylee is a student gifted in the areas of math and ELA. After going through the process of being fitted for hearing aids, Maylee counseled her teacher through the experience as she was also going through the process. As a middle school student, Maylee was determined to ensure Green County Schools was an inclusive environment by starting an ASL club in her school. Growing to over 30 members, the club thrives as a way to increase communication. On a trip to the state capitol, Maylee requested to meet Virginia Moore, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Governor Beshears' ASL interpreter. Maylee was able to meet her because of her self-advocacy. KYCEC is proud of Maylee and her work to create an inclusive environment and educate her peers.



BOBBY KIDD: ARTS

Bobby Kidd of Horse Cave is a 6th grade student at North Jackson Elementary. Bobby is an incredibly imaginative and creative student who uses art to communicate his knowledge and with his peers. Bobby is twice exceptional, being gifted in the area of performing arts ability. Bobby uses a variety of media to create his pieces. In a touching piece, Bobby created an oxygen mask to make his friend who receives breathing treatments feel more comfortable. Bobby expresses his knowledge of classroom content through art, creating books and drawings to display his understanding. KYCEC is proud of Bobby's masterpieces and his way to use art to communicate with peers and teachers.

Advocacy Updates

[Special Education Legislative Summit 2022](#)

The Special Education Legislative Summit is a joint activity organized by the Council for Exceptional Children and the Council of Administrators of Special Education. Your Kentucky team was thrilled to be back on Capitol Hill this summer! Typically held in Washington, D.C. during July, the Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) is an opportunity for educators from across the country to advocate for change with Members of Congress. This year, your small but mighty team of eight representatives from Kentucky participated in in-depth training about [three primary issues](#) and received legislative updates on key issues impacting the field of special education. The main initiatives of focus were: [appropriations](#), [mental health](#), and [educator shortages](#). We met with Senator McConnell's staff, as well as each of our U. S. Representatives to not only share the needs across the Commonwealth, but also to relay our appreciation for their ongoing support. Team Kentucky, which included our Special Education Teacher of the Year, proudly represented KYCEC members and Kentucky educators.

You TOO Can be an Advocate!

Do you want to advocate for students with exceptional needs, but are unsure where to begin? CEC has made it easy for you! First, sign up to receive the Policy Insider newsletter [here](#)! A great beginning is Advocacy 101 found [here](#)! Then, bookmark and visit CEC's [Legislative Action Center](#). Read about priority issues in special education. Within each issue, you'll be prompted to enter your zip code . Letters have been generated on your behalf and will be sent to your Representative with a few clicks of your mouse. In just a few short minutes, you will be a champion for your profession and your students!



Membership Updates

Currently, Kentucky has 424 members statewide. We are looking forward to seeing our members at the [Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference](#) in November - As always, we will offer a discount code for joining or renewing your CEC membership at the conference!! AND fabulous prize drawings for those who join or renew!!! Bring your colleagues and let's work together to increase membership and include our colleagues in the wonderful professional development and networking opportunities provided by CEC.



KYCEC Board Members share a few of our favorite things...

Ramona Karsner, Member at Large/Mini Grants Chair, from Danville, KY

I am the Director of Special Education for the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative. One of my favorite things has been a book study we have completed at CKEC around Anne Benninghof's book, *Specially Designed Instruction: Increasing Success for Students with Disabilities*. This book has sparked my passion for ensuring that students with disabilities receive individualized instruction based on their needs. It has transformed our work in our cooperative and we have begun to focus on this through our SDI Academy. You can find the book and more information about Anne [here](#).



Miranda Reed, Vice President, from Eddyville, KY

I serve as the Director of Special Education for Lyon County Schools and as an adjunct professor for Murray State University in the education department. One of my favorite parts of being a DoSE is the opportunity to build relationships with students, staff, families, and the local community. Building a team of teachers that thrive and enjoy their work, brings me great joy. I also love collaborating and networking with other educators across the country to increase capacity and grow in my profession. I am a firm believer in lifelong learning. Recently, my school district's leadership team completed a book study on the *Power of Positive Leadership* written by Jon Gordon. You can find this book on Amazon using [this link](#). My family is my world. We love to travel and be outside. Hiking and exploring new places is one of my most fun adventures.

KYCEC Divisions updates

KY Teacher Education Division Updates

Are you interested in a leadership position with KY-TED? We are seeking motivated and experienced individuals from the KY-TED membership for upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors. Nominees must be (a) members at the time of nomination and throughout their time in office, (b) willing to participate for their entire term office, and (c) attend (5-6) online board meetings per year. These board positions begin on January 1, 2022. Nominations are requested for the following positions below. If you have any questions please reach out to jeremy.whitney@louisville.edu

Kentucky Teacher Education Journal

The current issue of KTEJ can be accessed here <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/ktej/>. The articles in this issue provide helpful insight through practitioner-focused pieces that can be used immediately in college classrooms and P-12 schools.

KTEJ is also accepting proposals for any and all submission types until October 1, 2022. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Jamie Mahoney at jmahoney3@murraystate.edu; Editor-in-Chief.

KY Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD)

KYCCBD celebrated school SUPERHEROES from across the state at the 2022 Behavior Institute!



KYCCBD is currently seeking nominations for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. Current KYCCBD members are eligible to nominate and vote in the 2022 election for the KYCCBD Executive Board. Please contact Lori Dehart at lori.dehart@kedc.org for more information.

KYCCBD welcomes new members. To learn more, send us an email and let us know how you'd like to get involved! kyccbdmembership@gmail.com

KY Student CEC Division Updates

If you see us at the state conference please say hello! We are always looking for ways to learn and improve from those around us!



SCEC officers for the 2021-2022 year are:

Sydney Bensing- President - Western Kentucky University (Pictured top left)

A Tip From the Field: From my amazing mentor teachers, I have learned the importance of always having a backup plan for when students finish early, an assignment doesn't go as planned or an assembly gets in the way. Good teachers have plans in place for those "just in case moments."



Kiley Richardson - Vice President - Morehead State University (Pictured top right)

Alexandra Waterman - Secretary - Western Kentucky University (Pictured bottom left)

A Tip from the Field: In the field I learned that the problem behavior students are the students that I will have the closest relationship with. Even if the students do not have problem behaviors though, it is crucially important to develop a relationship with each and every student.

Brenna Hayes - Membership- Murray State University (Pictured bottom right)



CEC Mission

Cultivating, supporting, and empowering education professionals who work with individuals with disabilities by:

- Advocating for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities, and/or gifts and talents
- Advancing professional practice and scholarly research
- Promoting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility
- Building networks, partnerships, and communities