



Council for
Exceptional
Children

MICHIGAN

Strengthening the Field of Education to
Impact Success for Individuals with Exceptionalities

A Message About Race and Inequity

Dear Michigan CEC Members,

The Michigan Council for Exceptional Children stands with its members and community against racism, oppression, and the atrocities of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others at the hands of police brutality. We acknowledge that systemic racism is embedded in many of our social institutions, including schools. We stand in solidarity with those opposing police brutality. We voice our collective pain, quest, and demands for social justice and equity across all communities and schools.

Michigan CEC is committed to diversity, care, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals. We further express our commitment to anti-racism and dismantling systems of oppression in schools. And today, we reaffirm our commitment to social justice, inclusion, and equity as we strive to be there for our students, parents, and special education professionals— many of whom are from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. We know how difficult this time is, and we are with you. We know first-hand how such traumatic and horrifying experiences can impact teaching and learning environments. In addition to our personal experiences, we see it through the eyes of our children and youth daily.

Michigan CEC will continue to uphold the values of inclusion and equity, and support all of our members, parents, volunteers, staff, and the students with exceptionalities we serve. This is a charge to ensure that we continue to progress as a special education field. We hear our community and we are with you carrying the torch of anti-racism, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

National CEC will be appointing a workgroup made up of members and outside experts to design and provide professional learning experiences that will impact equitable outcomes and better support children and youth with exceptionalities, as well as special education professionals. Michigan CEC will notify our members as these learning opportunities become available.

We are ALL in this together.

With you,

Andrea Jasper, President
Ben Hicks, Past President
Lydia Moore, President-Elect
Heather Martinez-Varieur, Vice President
Ann Walton, Executive Director
Denise Smith, Executive Associate
The Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Board Members