



Council for
Exceptional
Children

FLORIDA

Florida Special Education
Advocacy Legislative
Summit
Florida CEC SEALS



SEALS

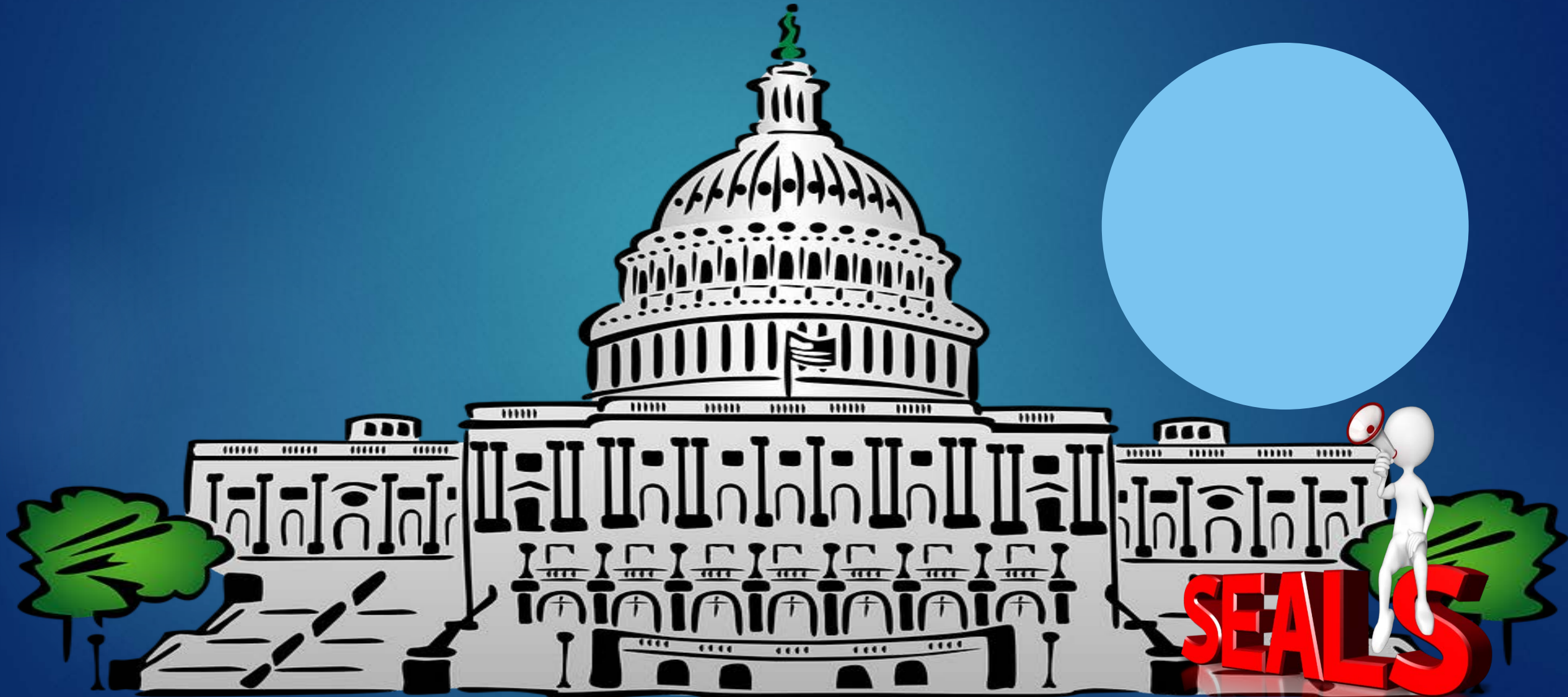


Agenda: Florida CEC SEALS Day 1

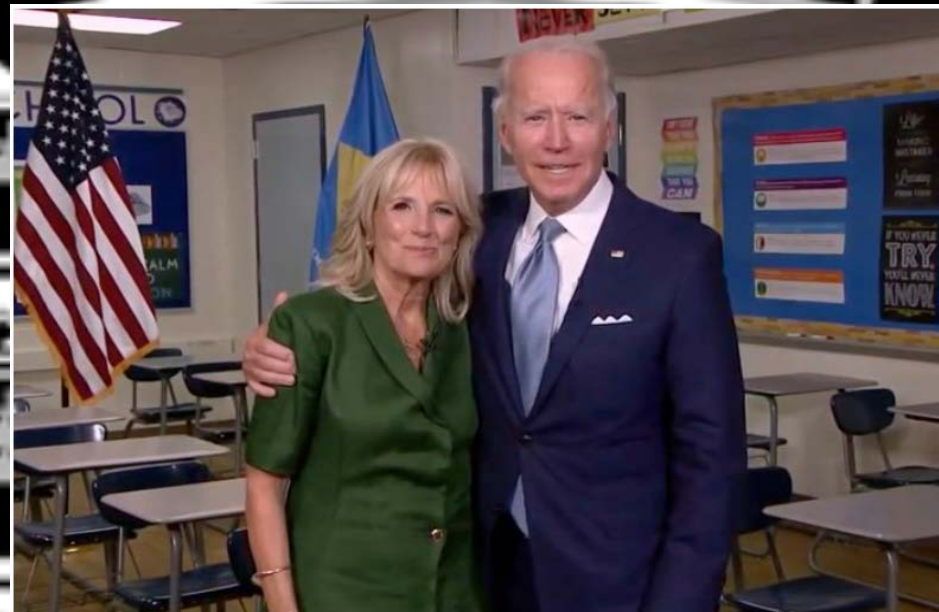
- ▶ Welcome and Introductions
 - ▶ Karen Ramlackhan, PhD., Florida CEC President
- ▶ Overview of the Florida Legislative Process
 - ▶ Bob Cerra, Advocacy Specialist
- ▶ C.A.S.E. Updates (Council of Administrators for Special Education)
 - ▶ Lynne Mowatt, CASE Legislative Chair
- ▶ Washington Legislative Update
 - ▶ Angela Weary-Crooks & Taryn Wade, Florida CEC Advocacy



Washington Updates



Fellow Educators



Biden's Choice for Education Secretary Miguel Cardona



CEC's Policy Agenda 2021

- ▶ Protecting and supporting the IDEA
- ▶ Protecting and expanding policies outside the IDEA that support students with exceptionalities
- ▶ Strengthening the professions that provide the specialized interventions, education, and services to infants, toddlers, children and youth with exceptionalities
- ▶ Advocating for ample funding of IDEA
- ▶ Advocating for policies that promote safe, inclusive, and supportive schools

Up Next-Day 2 of the FCEC SEALS

Issue Brief

Restraint/Seclusion

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting

History and Information on Related Bills
Florida Statute 1003.272 addresses widespread concern about the use of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities in public schools. The law went into effect on July 1, 2010. The law establishes standards and procedures regarding the use, monitoring, documentation, and reporting of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities. The law establishes three important rights:

- notification and copies of incident reports
- prohibition against mechanical restraint that restricts a student's breathing
- prohibition against manual or physical restraint that restricts a student's breathing

On July 1, 2011, the law was revised to improve monitoring, documentation and reporting. The law also now requires districts to develop a plan for the prevention and reduction of restraint and seclusion. (Florida, n.d.) (Sunshine, n.d.)

What's happening with current bills?
H.R.2639 - Reading All Students Safe Act was introduced in November 2020. The Reading All Students Safe Act would make it illegal for any school receiving federal taxpayer money to seclude children and would ban dangerous restraint practices that restrict children's breathing, such as prone or upright physical restraining children, except where necessary to protect students and staff. The bill would better equip school personnel with the training they need to address and de-escalate behavior with evidence-based proactive strategies, require states to monitor the law's implementation, and increase transparency and oversight to prevent future abuse of students. (Congress.gov, n.d.)

Issue Brief

Corporal Punishment

End Corporal Punishment in Florida Schools

History and Related Bills
18 districts — almost a third of Florida's 67 school districts — reported incidents of corporal punishment in 2017-18, based on the most recent statewide data. The state defines the practice as "the moderate use of physical force or physical contact by a teacher or principal to maintain discipline or to enforce school rules." (Florida, n.d.) (Impact, n.d.)

Why support an end to corporal punishment?
Corporal Punishment for students with disabilities can create lasting injuries and barriers to education. It also aggravates medical conditions for students with disabilities. Sometimes students are punished for manifestations of their disabilities. (Education, n.d.)

Corporal Punishment can inflict long-lasting physical and mental harm. Studies have shown that the use of punishment can lead to high risk for anxiety, drug and substance abuse, stress, and other mental health concerns. (Education, n.d.)

Corporal punishment has been banned in 12 military training and animals are protected from sort of punishment. Let's protect our students. (Impact, n.d.)

Definitions
Corporal punishment is defined as a "physical punishment" and a "punishment that involves spanking" with either a hand or paddle, or a student across the hand with a ruler or other wire scheme instances, including the use of a log, and Taser have also been reported. (Florida, n.d.)

Issue Brief

Equity in Inclusion

Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Related History to this Topic

- Board of Ed. of Hendrick Hudson Central School Dist. v. Rowley 458 U.S. 176 (1982)
 - First decision in a special education case by the U.S. Supreme Court
 - Defined free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment
- IDEA Sec. 300.114 defines LRE requirements

Why Support this Topic?

- In the development of an IEP, decisions must be made regarding where a child spends their school day and how the services are provided
- In Florida, schools have been challenged to improve LRE placement practices
- The Best Practices in Inclusive Education (BPIE) is an internal assessment required every 3 years in Florida per Section 1003.57(1)(f), F.S.²

What can you do to advance equity in inclusion?

- Inquire to how your school measures up when it comes to students in the least restrictive environment
- Work together with your district to ensure that students who are receiving services and supports in the LRE
- Share student success stories with educational stakeholders in your district

Definitions

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** placement in which an individual can be taught and make progress general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible. The IEP must consider the continuum of alternative placements and ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are met
- Inclusion:** Section 1003.57(1)(a)2, Florida Statutes (F.S.) formally defines inclusion: "the practice of educating students together (i.e., the students with disabilities) and students without disabilities) and students with disabilities are able to access the general curriculum"

Sources:

- Florida Department of Education Technical Assistance Paper: Least Restrictive Environment
- Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) FloridaInclusionNetwork.com
- Photo Credit: Ontario World Herald

Issue Brief

Diversity in the Workforce

Addressing Teacher Shortages and Improving Diversity

Why Support Topic?

- State level
 - 2019-2020 critical teacher shortages reported in Florida
 - This included special education teachers¹
- Federal level
 - 18% of special education teachers and 10% of special education professors are people of color
 - More than half of students with disabilities are from minority backgrounds²
- Some programs, such as a school district in GA recruit residents to build a workforce that reflects the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the student population?

Related bills to this topic:

Strength in Diversity Act of 2020

- H.R.2639 & S.1418: This bill directs the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to specified educational agencies (e.g., local educational agencies) to develop or implement plans to improve diversity and reduce or eliminate racial or socioeconomic isolation in publicly funded early childhood education programs, public elementary schools, or public secondary schools.
 - Passed in the House 9/15/2020
 - Read in the Senate and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 9/16/2020

Definitions

- Critical Shortage Area:** Certification areas where substantial proportions of teachers who are not certified in the appropriate field are being hired to teach such courses, where significant vacancies exist, and where postsecondary institutions do not produce enough graduates to meet the needs of Florida's K-12 student population. Section 1012.07, F.S., requires the State Board of Education to annually identify critical teacher shortages³

Notes:

- Council for Exceptional Children Issue Brief: 2020 Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Providers
- U.S. Census Bureau, "Diversity in the Workforce: The Challenges of Diversity in the Workforce"
- Florida DDEI Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas

Questions

