



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Education Task Force Report – 2009

Task Force Co-Chairs: Laura Kaloi, Katy Beh Neas, Paul Marchand

Education reform is one of President Obama's top three priorities. As such, the Education Task Force has led or participated in the following activities:

1. Key Meetings (as requested and ongoing):
 - a. Obama Education Transition Team
 - b. U.S. Department of Education:
 - i. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
 - ii. ESEA Reauthorization
 - c. Senate and House staff
 - i. ARRA
 - ii. Restraint and Seclusion
 - iii. Appropriations
2. Submitted Comments to:
 - a. ARRA Maintenance of Effort guidance requirements-to ensure States and districts were held to current IDEA law regarding use of federal IDEA funds.
 - b. Race to the Top Innovation Funds-to ensure students with disabilities are appropriately considered in funded programs and activities.
 - c. National Assessment Governing Board-on how to more fully include students with disabilities in the National Assessment of Educational Achievement (NAEP) bi-annual reading, math and writing tests.
 - d. Race to the Top Assessment Program-to ensure policies and funding fully support including students with disabilities in all assessment decisions and incorporate the principles of universal design for learning, research-based accommodations and more.
3. Participated in Hill [and grassroots] efforts to support:
 - a. Ensuring ARRA included Part B Section 619 and Part C funds
 - b. Funding for programs authorized in the Higher Education Opportunity Act
 - c. Introduction of Restraint and Seclusion bill
 - d. Improving access to physical fitness opportunities for students with disabilities
 - e. Understanding how disproportionate identification of minorities into special education affects student outcomes under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
4. Supported joint initiatives with several CCD task forces to improve:

- a. Education and transition opportunities for adolescents and young adults with disabilities
- b. Access to Medicaid and other federally funded programs

In 2010, the Education Task Force expects to address the following:

- 1. Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to ensure students with disabilities are fully included in the reauthorized law.
- 2. Use of ARRA IDEA funds.
- 3. Discussions and activities approved under the Race to the Top initiative.
- 4. Other as requested by the White House, U.S. Department of Education, Congress