



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Education Taskforce 2014 Annual Report

2014 ACTIVITIES

- Advocated for passage of bills to create safe schools. The Keeping All Students Safe Act, and Prevent Abuse of Teens in Residential Programs Act. Coordinated with APRAIS to conduct joint Hill visits.
- Advocated for ensuring students with disabilities were fully accounted for in ESEA flexibility applications from states.
- Advocated for additional research in key areas impacting educational outcomes for children and youth with disabilities by providing the Institute of Education Sciences, specifically the National Center for Education Research and the National Center for Special Education Research, with CCD's recommendations for future research priorities and initiatives.
- Advocated for transparency and annual assessments to provide families, educators and policymakers with yearly information regarding the performance of students with disabilities, as compared to their non-disabled peers.
- Advocated for increased funding for all services and programs under IDEA.
- Advocated for a balance between monitoring compliance with IDEA requirement and measuring outcomes of students with disabilities by providing the U.S. Department of Education with feedback and recommendations on the Office of Special Education Program's (OSEP) Results Driven Accountability (RDA) initiative and the yearly State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) for the IDEA Part B program.
- By submitting recommendations for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and submitting specific comments to Senator Harkin's draft of the Higher Education Affordability Act (HEAA), we advocated to preserve programs in higher education that promote access and success for students with disabilities and improve preparation programs for personnel who serve students with disabilities.
- Advocated to eliminate unfair discipline practices within schools and reduce the number of school removals by providing students with disabilities appropriate services and actively enforcing IDEA requirements relating to discipline. We also asked for more funding, guidance, and improved research and data collection in this area.
- Advocated for the collection of high-quality data on how students with disabilities are served by charter schools and public access to that data by providing feedback

and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Education on its annual data collection, the Charter School Authorizer Annual Update.

- Hosted Assistant Secretary of Office of Special Education Services, Michael Yudin to update the taskforce and discuss current initiatives at the Department.
- Help numerous meetings with ED officials on various issues as they arose.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- CCD Ed Taskforce will continue to monitor and speak out about federal legislation that impacts individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the taskforce will focus on influencing ESEA and HEA Reauthorization. Preparing for IDEA Reauthorization. Enforcement and implementation of IDEA. Passage of legislation to create safe schools. Education Funding.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2014:

- Katy Neas
- Cindy Smith
- Lindsay Jones