



WELCOME TO OUR

TN-CEC Newsletter

President's Message

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I hope this message finds you well as we begin another year of learning, collaboration, and advocacy. I am excited about the opportunities TN CEC and CEC Headquarters have planned to support you as members. While special education continues to face significant challenges, I remain hopeful because of the strength, passion, and dedication of our CEC community. Together, our collective advocacy and commitment to students can help overcome barriers and create meaningful change.

Our recent events, including the Special Education Summit and Leadership Institutes, showcased the incredible work and advocacy happening across Tennessee and nationally. I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our educators, families, service providers, higher education partners, and stakeholders. Looking ahead, we have exciting virtual programs, professional learning opportunities, and collaborative initiatives designed to support your work. Many opportunities are available at no cost through your CEC membership and are designed to provide resources, connection, and support throughout the year. Thank you for your continued commitment to TN CEC and the students we serve. I encourage you to stay engaged, stay connected, and take a moment to catch up on all that is happening within our CEC community.

***Together, we advocate. Together, we lead.
Together, we make a difference.***

Allison Oliver, PhD
TN-CEC President

BACK TO SCHOOL
ISSUE

AUGUST 2026

Inside this issue:

President's Message

TN-CEC On The
Move

Advocacy In Focus

K-12 Classroom
Connections

Postsecondary
Perspectives

Upcoming Events

Board Member
Spotlight

Reminders

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[Learn More About TN-CEC](#)



TN-CEC On the Move★

Last month, TN CEC leaders represented our state unit at two impactful CEC events—the Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) in Washington, D.C. and the CEC Leadership Institute in Alexandria, Virginia. Board members Missy Drinnon and Dr. Jennifer Cook, along with Past TN-CEC President Kim Moffett and Past TN-CEC CAN Coordinator Luann Davis, joined advocates from across the nation to engage with legislators on critical issues impacting special education, educators, and the students we serve.

Additionally, Missy Drinnon, Dr. Jennifer Cook, and current TN CEC President Dr. Allison Oliver participated in the Leadership Institute, strengthening their leadership skills, building connections with CEC leaders nationwide, and gaining valuable insights to continue advancing the mission and work of TN CEC. Through advocacy, collaboration, and continued professional learning, TN CEC leaders remain committed to ensuring the voices of educators, students, and families are represented at every level.

Advocacy in Focus★

Advocacy is at the heart of who we are as special educators. It extends beyond the classroom through the actions we take to support students with exceptionalities, empower families, and promote meaningful change within our schools, communities, and beyond. As CEC members, our voices matter. Staying informed and engaged allows us to advocate for policies, practices, and resources that strengthen special education and improve outcomes for the individuals we serve.

Explore CEC's Policy and Advocacy resources to stay updated on current issues, legislative priorities, and opportunities to make your voice heard.

[CEC Policy & Advocacy Resources](#)

Together, we advocate. Together, we create change.

K–12 Classroom Connections ★



CEC Exceptional Teacher Resource Repository

Access a collection of curated tools, resources, and professional learning materials designed to support special educators in their daily practice. Explore evidence-based resources to strengthen instruction, collaboration, and student outcomes.

Explore the [CEC Exceptional Teacher Resource Repository](#).



Starting Strong: Building Positive Behavioral Supports from Day One

Begin the school year with proactive strategies that support positive classroom environments. This PBIS resource provides practical tips for establishing routines, building relationships, and creating classrooms where all students can succeed.

Watch: [How to Get Started with PBIS in the Classroom](#)



IEP Ready: Turning Plans Into Practice

Start the school year strong with practical strategies to support organization, communication, and student success. This Reading Rockets resource provides helpful reminders for special educators as they prepare for new students, IEPs, assessments, and classroom routines

Explore: [Back-to-School Tips for Special Education Teachers](#)



Postsecondary Perspectives ★

CEC's [Teacher Candidate Support](#) program provides students in their final year of special education preparation programs with a full year of access to CEC membership benefits, resources, and professional learning opportunities. This opportunity helps future educators build connections, stay informed on current issues in the field, and begin their professional journey as advocates for students with exceptionalities.

[Learn more about CEC Teacher Candidate Support!](#)



Upcoming Events



Virtual Watch Party and Q & A

TN CEC is excited to offer virtual professional development opportunities designed to support your growth without interrupting your workday. Stay tuned for dates and times coming in early September for our upcoming Virtual Watch Parties and Q&A sessions featuring timely topics, practical resources, and opportunities to connect with fellow educators.

Policy Update

Quick Takes Coming Your Way

Stay connected with TN CEC Advocacy Quick Takes—brief updates on key issues, policy changes, and resources impacting special education. Keep informed. Stay engaged. Make your voice heard.

Board Member Spotlight



Dr. Lindsey Krech Member At Large

TN CEC welcomes Dr. Lindsay Krech as our new Member at Large! With over a decade of experience advancing inclusive postsecondary education through her work with Next Steps at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Krech brings expertise in workforce pathways, collaboration, and creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are excited to have her leadership, passion, and commitment to inclusion as part of our TN CEC team!

Reminders

- **Stay Connected:** Keep up with TN CEC communications, events, and resources throughout the year. Your engagement helps strengthen our community. Follow us on Facebook!
- **Advocate with Heart:** Show up for your students, advocate with purpose, and remember to care for yourself along the way. The work you do matters.

REMEMBER!