

Benefits of Joining CEF:

- CEF – the nation’s largest education coalition – brings together more than 110 organizations and institutions representing the education continuum
- CEF advocates to protect and increase federal investments in education, regularly lobbying on Capitol Hill
- CEF provides members with up-to-date intelligence on Congressional and Administration education funding action
- CEF holds weekly briefings featuring key Congressional and Administration staffers
- CEF posts on social media as @edfunding

Information Resources

CEF produces multiple members-only e-mail updates and alerts each week on budget and appropriations issues and information on the range of education policy. Alerts contain analyses and updates on Administration and Congressional actions, suggested advocacy actions, message statements, funding charts, meeting notices, and education job postings. CEF also keeps members current on Administration actions and legislative issues that affect them.

Expert Staff & Credibility

CEF membership is like having your own funding experts on staff. Our skilled staff focuses on budget and appropriations issues for education. This gives our members access to timely, accurate information and effective strategies with a low investment of their own staff time. The media, the Administration, Members of Congress, and staff look to CEF as the experts on educational funding issues. They regard CEF as the prime source of the education community’s positions on appropriations and budget issues.

Coalition Advocacy

Membership with CEF offers organizations and institutions the opportunity to be active in developing and implementing strategies on education budget and appropriations issues. During weekly meetings – always on a virtual platform and regularly also offering in-person attendance – CEF members share information and coordinate advocacy. CEF reaches out to the public, through a [“Don’t Flunk the Future”](#) campaign in fall 2024, paid [“Don’t Leave Students Out in the Cold”](#) ads on virtual platforms in spring 2024, and an ongoing [#HearOurEdStories social campaign](#). CEF advocates directly with Congress, arranging group visits to Members of Congress, and holding briefings for Hill staff and CEF members on Zoom and in-person. CEF also reaches out to the press, serving as the only united voice for the education community relating to federal education funding.

CEF members can choose to participate through our Advocacy and Hill Teams, Research Committee, Social Media Committee, Gala planning, and Membership Enhancement and Outreach Committees.

Access to Key Congressional & Administration Staff

Our weekly Friday meetings provide CEF members the chance to hear from key staff from Congress, the Administration, and others involved in education funding and policy. Speakers provide CEF members with off-the-record news and insights into the latest federal actions on education budget, appropriations, and policy issues.

Publications

In addition to CEF’s [website](#) and [social media accounts](#), CEF produces several valuable publications, including our annual [Education Budget Book](#) and the CEF Membership Directory.

- **CEF's Education Budget Book:**

This annual report includes a summary and analysis of the President's education budget, charts, and articles about federal education programs written by experts among our members. It includes a real-life example of how each program has worked in a particular place, some video testimonials, details of program goals, supported activities, and funding history, as well as the projected impact of the President's budget request. This report is one of the most popular and useful education publications in Washington and is eagerly anticipated by those inside and outside the beltway.

- **CEF Membership Directory:**

This guide is a comprehensive listing of all the education institutions, agencies, associations, and other organizations that comprise CEF's membership. Officers, executive directors, and CEF government relations contacts are listed with their email, phone number, and mailing addresses. The directory includes a brief description of all member organizations.

Networking and Professional Development

CEF is the only coalition whose membership includes organizations and institutions that represent the entire education continuum from the public and private sectors:

- early childhood education
- elementary and secondary education
- special education
- career, technical, and adult education
- higher education
- workforce development
- libraries, museums,
- other out-of-school-time programs, and
- educational research.

CEF members have regular access to their peers from across the education community, opportunities to advocate alongside and learn from their colleagues,

participate in committee work, contribute to publications and events, and take on a leadership role through the committees or the Board of Directors.

Special Events

CEF holds the national education community's largest gathering at its annual [Awards Gala](#) and [Legislative Conference](#). During the Gala, CEF [recognizes](#) outstanding advocates for education investment.

In addition to weekly meetings when Congress is in session, CEF members have access to special events each year – all without charge. In recent years we have held the following events:

- briefings on the President's budget featuring education practitioners from the continuum;
- receptions for Members of Congress, and education staff from Congress and the Administration;
- briefings on timely topics that in 2025 included the Administration's interagency agreements to manage education programs in other agencies, the many ways education funding has been cut this year, the cost of underfunding education, and damage from delaying education funding. Other past topics include shortages in the educator workforce, internet connectivity issues in education, STEM education, the impact of COVID-19 on education jobs and state budget, mental health needs and resources, advocacy techniques, tax reform implications for education, equity in education.
- a Budget/Appropriations 101 Workshop explaining the intricacies of the federal budget and appropriations processes;

For more information, contact:

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CEF is a non-partisan, nonprofit 501(C)4 organization.