Welcome to CollabNews
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Spring Member Meeting Highlights

Site Visits

Members visited San Antonio's amazing schools and Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first theme park designed with access in mind and built for everyone's enjoyment. To learn more about the park, check out their website.

Town Hall

Our Town Hall was powerful! Dr. Antoine Hickman of Broward County Public Schools and Dr. Elizabeth Keenan of Chicago Public Schools shared their experiences with gun violence and their hopes for a better future. The conversation made clear that mental health is not a cause of the violence and pushing back on effective inclusive practices is not the answer. Dr. Keenan spoke about the drop in suspension rates in Chicago and the concerted effort of her district to provide proactive and positive supports to students. Dr. Hickman spoke about dealing with the horrific event in Parkland, Florida, part of Broward County. Hear more from Dr. Hickman at our next member meeting in November!

Sadly, since our meeting there have been 2 more school shootings:
- The Tragic Awareness of a Santa Fe High School Shooting Survivor
- 2 People Injured In Indiana School Shooting

Here is more information on Chicago and Broward County Public Schools:
- In Chicago, Student 'Peace Warriors' Spread Message of Healing and Nonviolence
- Parkland Survivors and Other Youth Activists: 'You’re Going to Listen to Us' on Gun Violence

Continuing the conversation:
- School Shootings This Year: How Many and Where
- School Shootings and Students with ED by Charles Fox and Marilyn Green-Rebnord

Keynote

LeDerick Horne gave an inspiring keynote. He reminded us how important it is to include student voice in our decision making. He also took members on a journey through his poetry during his keynote and throughout the entire meeting which encouraged members to remember to infuse the arts in our work! To keep up with LeDerick, follow him on twitter. @LEDERICK

Concurrent Presentations

Concurrent presentations were amazing! People brought their best work to the meeting. Focus groups were strong! Check out resources from our district presenters on Guidebook.

Autism Friendly Austin

Austin is Autism Friendly! In a City Among First To Go ‘Autism Friendly’, read how the Autism Friendly Austin project has enlisted schools, businesses and residents in working to accommodate people with autism, including the YMCA, museums, and a dentist!
Preschool Punishment Data

Corporal Punishment still exists in 19 states! Read EdWeek’s Corporal Punishment and Preschoolers: What New Federal Data Show to learn more about this practice. This article also explores data showing once again that Black preschoolers are disproportionately suspended.

Least Restrictive Environment and Inclusion Rates

In a soon to be published study discussed in Disability Scoop’s article Inclusion Rates Lagging For Students With Intellectual Disabilities Ohio State University professor Matthew Brock has found that the number of students with intellectual disabilities spending at least 80 percent of their school day in general education classes grew from 1990 to 2010 to a high of 18 percent and in 2014 dropped to 17 percent. How can we support schools to educate more students with intellectual disabilities in the general education setting? How can we start another upward trend?

Washington State to Focus on Increasing Graduation Rates for Students with Disabilities

Read an interview with Glenna Gallo covered by the Seattle Times: Washington state’s new special education chief looks to improve low rates for graduation and attending college. She dives into looking at long term special education goals and creating opportunities four students beyond high school.

Restraint and Seclusion Data

Read Feds Release New Stats On Restraint And Seclusion In Schools from Disability Scoop highlighting the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. These findings show that students with disabilities continue to be disciplined and experience restraint and seclusion at disproportionately higher rates than their peers without disabilities. Search this OCR site for your district's data.

American Sign Language Teaching Standards
According to the National Institutes of Health, 3 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears, making it the most common congenital sensory problem in the country. Read EdWeek’s Standards for Teaching American Sign Language Released to learn more about the updated standards for teaching American Sign Language released by Gallaudet University’s Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center.

Fall Member Meeting 2018 Save the Date

Save the Date for our Fall Member Meeting! Our host is Broward County Public Schools and the meeting will take place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The theme for this meeting is Inclusive Practices: Belonging, Embracing, Sharing, and Celebrating!

We are also excited to announce our keynote speaker Dan Habib, a father of an amazing child with a disability and a documentary film director who has created award winning films on disability-related topics including Who Cares About Kelsey?, Including Samuel, Restraint and Seclusion: Hear Our Stories. Dan is out with a new and powerful film; Intelligent Lives. See a preview here. To learn more about Dan, read below:

- Dan Habib: The label ‘intellectual disability’ still means isolation for too many in America
- Dan Habib Interview with Dr. Cheryl Jorgensen on Inclusive Education

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