

CollabNews

Volume 10, Number 9

October 2007

Welcome to the October issue of *CollabNews*!

CollabNews is a monthly electronic newsletter for members and associates of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, a network of special and general education leaders from the nation's urban school districts.

FEATURES THIS MONTH:

- **Member Update:** Welcome New Member Districts,
- **Events:** National Dropout Prevention Center Web Seminar, Inclusive Schools Week
- **Resources:** New Publication from NASDSE, NCLB Reauthorization and Medicaid
- **Website of the Month:** Collaborative Online Web Forum
- **Collaborative Help Desk**

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHERS

1. MEMBER UPDATE

Welcome New Member Districts

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest members, Arkadelphia Public School District and Fort Worth Independent School District.

Arkadelphia Public School District is located in Arkadelphia, AS, and has a total enrollment of over 2,000 students. Our Member contact is Peggy Woodall, Director of Special Education. Please visit www.apsd.k12.ar.us for more information.

Corpus Christi Independent School District is located in Corpus Christi, TX, and has a total enrollment of over 30,000 students. Our member contact is Katherine Conoly, Executive Director for Instructional Support. Please visit www.corpuschristiisd.org for more information.

Fort Worth Independent School District is located in Fort Worth, TX, and has a total enrollment of over 50,000 students. Our member contact is Cynthia Neverdousky, Director of Special Education. Please visit www.fortworthisd.org for more information.

Complete contact information for all member districts is available on the Collaborative Web site: <http://www.urbancollaborative.org> (log into the members only section to access this online database).

2. EVENTS

Web Seminar: *Engaging Students with School: The Essential Dimension of Dropout Prevention Programs*

Tuesday, December 11, 2007. 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. EST

The National Center for Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities has announced its Web Seminar Event on *Engaging Students with School: The Essential Dimension of Dropout Prevention Programs*. Sandra L. Christenson, Ph.D. of the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities will be presenting. This seminar will focus on universal and individualized interventions for students with and without disabilities. Viewing engagement as comprised of four subtypes, Dr. Christenson will explain the ideal heuristic to achieve an assessment-to-intervention link, as well as data-based interventions that maximize the goodness of the person-environment fit. Additionally, Dr. Christenson will discuss effective interventions for students at risk of educational failure with a focus on more than attendance and academic skills, but also on indicators of students' commitment to learning, perceptions of academic and social competence, and the sense of belonging by educators and parents. This web seminar is designed for representatives of state education agencies, school based leadership teams, classroom and special education teachers, central office and building level leadership, parent leaders, and policymakers.

Free to the first 100 participants to register. Please limit registration to one per organization/school district. To register please visit: <http://ndpc-sd.org>.

Inclusive Schools Week

7th Annual Inclusive Schools Week to focus on inclusive schooling around the globe

The 7th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be held December 3-7, 2007, to highlight the accomplishments of families, schools, and communities that have dedicated time, labor, and resources to promoting inclusive education for all of the world's children. This year's theme, "Lessons from the World: Including All Children," provides an opportunity to focus on both international accomplishments and ongoing challenges associated with changing global attitudes, practices, and policies toward better educational outcomes for students around the globe. Participants will read stories, learn facts, discover resources, and make connections with families and professionals around the world who are on a similar journey toward building more inclusive schools and communities for all children and youth. Please help us support the week by ordering materials to highlight your involvement in this year's event. Check out our new "Awareness Bracelets" available at:

www.inclusiveschools.org/ordering. Keep checking back to the website for more ideas and information about this year's Inclusive Schools Week. www.inclusiveschools.org.

3. RESOURCES

Response to Intervention: Policy Considerations and Implementation

As interest in Response to Intervention (RtI) continues to grow, researchers and practitioners have asked for research that validates this approach to teaching all students. Now, for the first time, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) has gathered in one book an annotated bibliography of research about RtI. This book serves as a compliment to NASDSE's earlier book on RtI, *Response to Intervention: Policy Considerations and Implementation*. It also has information about progress monitoring practices, the application of RtI to academics within a three-tier continuum, and

the application of RtI in social-emotional-behavioral areas within a three-tier continuum. Print copies of this 224-page book are available for \$20 plus shipping, and are available for purchase at www.nasdse.org/index.cfm. The publication is also available for download at www.nasdse.org/documents/RtI_Bibliography.pdf.

NCLB Reauthorization and Medicaid: What Special Educators Need to Know

At the Fall 2007 Collaborative meeting in Atlanta, there was a Saturday morning session devoted to the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. Joel Packer from the National Education association made an informative presentation. He was to be joined by Deborah Ziegler from the Council for Exceptional Children but due to a flight cancellation Deborah was unable to join us. She has provided a copy of her presentation, which includes an update on Medicaid as well as NCLB. It can be found in the Member Exchange area of the Collaborative's website www.urbancollaborative.org. To view the presentation please log in and click on the Member Exchange button on the left side of the page.

4. WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Member Exchange Forum is Live!

The Collaborative is pleased to announce a significant enhancement to the Member Exchange section of the Collaborative's Web site. The Member Exchange includes access to a forum where members are able to exchange ideas, request information, and share materials. The forum is used by Collaborative Staff to share information gathered when responding to member's inquiries. The forum also provides a way to continue dialogue on topics and issues from Collaborative meetings. Please log into the Collaborative's Web site at www.urbancollaborative.org to view this new addition. If you do not remember your login information please contact Kyla Graves at kgraves@edc.org or 617-618-2447.

5. COLLABORATIVE HELP DESK

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FYI: *CollabNews* is not a listserv or discussion list. Members cannot send mail to this list. If you have questions or concerns about *CollabNews*, or would like to contact staff members, please send all correspondence to: collaborative@edc.org.
