



## Welcome to the August Issue of CollabNews!

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*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.*

### Member Update



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

#### Call for Presentations - Fall Member Meeting "Identifying & Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners"

We are in the process of soliciting presentations from our member districts for our Fall meeting in Denver. If your school district has a program, service, and/or a combination of initiatives that data indicates is working to support and provide appropriate instruction to ELL students, we look forward to hearing from you! Information regarding Call for Proposals is available by logging into the Collaborative website and clicking on the "Member Meetings" button on the left side of your screen. From there, click on the "Fall 2008 Member Meeting" and information will appear on the new screen under "District Presentations". More information about the meeting is provided below in the Events section.

## Welcome New Member Districts

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest members, Orange County Public Schools, Saugus Public Schools, and Washoe County School District.

[Orange County Public Schools](#) is located in Orlando, FL and has a total enrollment of over 176,000 students. Our Member contact is Anna D.Diaz, Associate Superintendent, ESE and Multilingual Services.

[Saugus Public Schools](#) is located in Saugus, MA and has a total enrollment of over 3,000 students. Our Member contact is Cynthia Joyce, Director of Pupil Personnel.

[Washoe County School District](#) is located in Reno, NV and has a total enrollment of over 63,000 students. Our Member contact is Scott Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services.

## Member Exchange

### Fall Meeting Materials

As we prepare for the Fall Member Meeting in Denver, we will be posting advance materials for the meeting on the Member Exchange Section of our website as they become available. You can access the Member Exchange by logging in at the [Collaborative's website](#) and navigating to the page by clicking the button on the left column. If you need help posting or retrieving items on the Member Exchange, please contact Ron Felton at [rfelton@edc.org](mailto:rfelton@edc.org).

## Resources

### Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS)

The IRIS Center is a national center that aims to provide high-quality resources about students with disabilities for college and university faculty as well as professional development providers. We have featured some of their materials in past issues of CollabNews. Of interest this month is a revision to their training module on Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS). The new module is Reading Strategy: Peer Assisted Learning Strategies, Grades 2-6, a peer tutoring strategy in which students work in pairs to strengthen their reading skills. This module outlines the benefits of implementing PALS for Grades 2-6. Also included are step-by-step instructions for each of the three PALS activities as well as printable PALS materials.

You can find the new module at:

<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/pals26/chalcycle.htm>

## Website of the Month

### The Adaptech Research Network

The Adaptech Research Network consists of a team of academics, students, and consumers based at Dawson College in Montreal, Canada. Funded by federal and provincial grants, they conduct research and provide information on the use of computer, information, and adaptive technologies by Canadian college and university students with disabilities. Their website includes a listing of free and inexpensive adaptive and "adaptable" software titles for students with disabilities that is useful to K-12 educators.

You can find their site at:

<http://adaptech.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/index.php>

## Events

### Urban Collaborative Fall Meeting



The topical focus for our Fall Meeting is "Identifying & Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners". Culturally and linguistically diverse students present challenges for school districts in providing appropriate instruction and educational opportunities. As a result, many of these students have been referred to and ultimately placed in special education programs. English Language Learners (ELL) have a right to services in special education if they do have a disability and many school districts have been working to distinguish between a learning disability and a learning difficulty attributable to linguistic, cultural, and experiential differences.

We are privileged to be having as our keynote speaker, Dr. Alba Ortiz, Director of the Office of Bilingual Education, in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin where she is also a Professor in the Department of Special Education. Her keynote address is titled ***Educating English Language Learners in General and Special Education: Lessons from the Past and Directions for the Future.***

## Inclusive Schools Week 2008

### "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children"



The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is pleased to announce that the 8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week will be held this December 1-5, 2008. Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event that highlights 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, "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children", provides an opportunity to focus on the advantages of inclusive schools in promoting quality education and better educational outcomes for ALL students.

Inclusive Schools Week is an event sponsored by ISN and Education Development Center, Inc (EDC). Since its inception in 2001 under the auspices of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The Week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

The 2008 Celebration Kit, including celebration ideas, planning materials and a variety of resources will be available at [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org) in September 2008. Highlights include a report, resources, and events focusing on the benefits of inclusive education for all children.

For more information about the Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week, please visit [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org) or email [inclusiveschools@edc.org](mailto:inclusiveschools@edc.org). Be sure to sign up for Inclusive Schools Network News for regular updates, news, and information related to building schools and communities that are welcoming of all children and youth.



## Collaborative Help Desk

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