



Welcome to the June Issue of CollabNews!

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In This Issue

[Member Update](#)

[Employment Opportunity](#)

[Member Exchange](#)

[Resources](#)

[Website of the Month](#)

[Events](#)

[Collaborative Help Desk](#)

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

Welcome New Member Districts

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Marlborough Public Schools and would like to re-welcome US Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Marlborough Public Schools is located in Marlborough, MA, and has a total enrollment of over 1,000 students. Our Member contact is Ned Pratt, Director of Pupil Services. Please visit www.mps-edu.org for more information.

US Virgin Islands Department of Education is located in St. Thomas, VI, and has a total enrollment of over 1,500 students. Our Member contact is Carrie Johns, State Director, Special Education. Please visit www.doe.vi for more information.

Save the Dates!

We are already in preparation for our Fall Meeting in Denver, Colorado October 29th - November 1st! Please mark your calendars as we prepare to discuss this meeting's topic: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners. Remember to keep checking back on the Collaborative website for updates as we move forward at: www.urbancollaborative.org.

News From Miami-Dade County Public Schools

It is with deep sadness we inform you that our friend and colleague, Brucie Ball, passed away at home on June 26 after a long battle with cancer. Brucie was the Assistant Superintendent, Division of Exceptional Student Education, Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She will be remembered for her vivacious spirit and as an

extremely capable, dedicated, and caring educator who was always most concerned with the children and families she served. An obituary and a guestbook to leave condolences is available at: www.legacy.com/Herald/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=112381931.

Employment Opportunity

Atlanta Public Schools - Director of Special Education

Atlanta Public Schools has announced a vacancy for Director of Special Education. The director is responsible for providing leadership and management for the Department of Special Education. You can read more about this position at [Atlanta Public Schools](http://AtlantaPublicSchools)

Member Exchange

Spring Meeting Presentations Now Available Online

Handouts and presentations from the Spring meeting in New Orleans are now available at the Member Exchange section of the Collaborative's website. Log in at www.urbancollaborative.org and click on member Exchange to review and/or download these items.

Resources

Webcast of National Forum on Response to Intervention (RtI)

On June 9, 2008, the RtI Action Network presented the inaugural RtI National Online Forum, entitled "Are You Ready for RtI? What Do You Need to Know, and What Do You Need to Do?" Three experts led the forum:

Ann Casey, Ph.D., Director of the Minnesota Response to Intervention Center

Judy Elliott Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer, Los Angeles Unified School District

David Prasse, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education, Loyola University

A video recording of the forum is now available at: www.connectlive.com

Website of the Month

Dispute Resolution in Special Education

The Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) works to increase the nation's capacity to effectively resolve special education disputes, reducing the use of expensive adversarial processes. CADRE works with state and local education and early intervention systems, parent centers, families and educators to improve programs and results for children with disabilities and encourages the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs.

Together with Project Forum CADRE has released online a report summarizing results from a national survey of states' use of non-IDEA required alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes and findings of an in-depth case review of those processes in eight states. This month CADRE also released a revised version their

document "Resolution Meetings: A Guide for Parents" which is designed to help families have a better understanding of resolution meetings.

Both documents, and other resources regarding dispute resolution are available at the CADRE website: www.directionservice.org

Events

**Inclusive Schools Network Presents:
High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute
Two Day Institute
July 9-10 or July 24-25, 2008
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida**

Specifically designed for teams of general and special educators involved with inclusive education in grades 6-12, the program commences with a two-day summer institute and concludes with follow-up opportunities in the fall. Content will build on knowledge and skills in effective strategies for inclusion at the secondary level and leadership development. For more information, and to register for this summer's institute, please visit: www.inclusiveschools.org.

**Harvard Graduate School of Education Institute
Critical Issues in Urban Special Education: Improving Outcomes for High
School Students with Disabilities
July 14-18, 2008
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA**

This year's Institute on Critical Issues in Urban Special Education focuses on identifying and exploring systemic approaches to improving academic, behavioral, and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities in urban middle and high schools. Participants will have opportunities to analyze significant factors that contribute to success, investigate critical features of effective approaches, interact with colleagues from school districts and universities, and much more. The institute will explore five topics critical to this effort, including: school reform, systems change, dropout prevention, student engagement, and closing the achievement gap. A program fee of \$1,795 includes tuition, resource binder, daily refreshment breaks, opening reception, certificate of participation, and a letter confirming 30 clock hours of instruction. Additionally, members of the Collaborative receive a 10% discount off the institute's tuition. To learn more about the institute and to download a copy of the brochure, please visit the Collaborative's Website at: www.urbancollaborative.org

Collaborative Members attending the Institute are invited to a Collaborative dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club on Tuesday, July 15th. For more information, or if you plan to attend, please contact Mai Chen at mchen@edc.org.

Collaborative Help Desk

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