



Welcome to the November Issue of CollabNews!

Volume 10 Issue 11

November 2008

In This Issue

[Member Exchange](#)

[Special Event](#)

[Resources](#)

[Website of the Month](#)

[Fall 2008 Meeting](#)

[Inclusive Schools Network](#)

[Including Samuel](#)

[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 Exchange



Innovative Programs for Students with Emotional and Behavior Problems

We have received several requests from member districts for information regarding innovative programs for secondary-level students with emotional and behavioral problems. These may include successful alternative programs, programs with flexible scheduling or other strategies for providing emotional support to this challenging student population.

If your district has implemented such a program, we have set up a special section in our Member Exchange area to share information and questions with your colleagues. You will need to login to the [Collaborative Website](#) and click the Member Exchange button to participate fully. If you wish to share your ideas and are unable

to access the Member Exchange, please forward the information to rfelton@edc.org and it will be posted.

Using Brigance for Progress Monitoring?

In the "Members Seeking Assistance" section of the Member Exchange we have posted a question from District 75 in New York City. They are asking if anyone is using the Brigance as a tool for monitoring student performance with supporting data. If you have information to share with District 75 please respond on the Member Exchange or write to rfelton@edc.org and he will forward the response to District 75 and the Member Exchange.

Special Event - Dropout Prevention Strategies

The Collaborative is pleased to be a partner with [The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities](#). On Wednesday, December 10, 2008 the Center will be sponsoring a teleseminar **"Research-based Strategies for Dropout Prevention"** from 1:00 - 2:30 pm EST. Dr. Russell W. Rumberger, Director, California Dropout Research Project, University of California, Santa Barbara will present background information about the recently released IES Dropout Prevention Practice Guide and discuss, in detail, each of the six evidence-based recommendations for reducing dropout rates that emerged from the authors' evaluations. You can get additional information [here](#) and can register [at this link](#).

Resources

Reducing Behavior Problems in the Elementary School Classroom



The [What Works Clearinghouse](#) operated by the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences has a series of practice guides that provide practical recommendations for educators to help them address the everyday challenges they face in their classrooms and schools. Developed by a panel of nationally recognized experts, practice guides consist of actionable recommendations, strategies for overcoming potential roadblocks, and an indication of the strength of evidence supporting each recommendation. IES practice guides are subjected to rigorous external peer review.

Their recent release is titled Reducing Behavior Problems in the Elementary School Classroom. This guide, designed for elementary school educators and school and district-level administrators, offers prevention, implementation, and school-wide strategies that can be used to reduce problematic behavior that interferes with the ability of students to attend to and engage fully in instructional activities [Download Guide Here](#).

Website of the Month

American Federation of Teachers Inclusive Schools Contest Deadline Soon!

As we rapidly approach Inclusive Schools Week (December 1-5), we are taking this opportunity to highlight the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) contest focusing on inclusive schools. The AFT's contest is looking for models that are successfully including students with disabilities in a variety of ways across school settings in elementary, middle and high schools. Submissions must be from AFT districts. For information, please visit <http://www.aft.org/tools4teachers/contest.htm>

Save the Date



Our Spring meeting is scheduled for May 6-9, 2009 in Phoenix Arizona. The topic will be ***"Improving Achievement Among Students with Disabilities through Data-based Decision Making."*** At this meeting, we plan to explore how urban districts are successfully collecting, managing and using their student data to improve achievement for students with disabilities and how they have addressed the challenges of making data accessible, understandable and useful to administrators and teachers. We encourage our members to begin thinking about submitting proposals for concurrent sessions.

Inclusive Schools Network

Please join us for:

Webinar



**"Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points
and the Role of the Special Educator in
Today's Mathematics Classroom"**

**December 3, 2008
3:00-4:30 P.M. EST**

As part of the **Inclusive Schools Week**, please join Drs. Hank Kepner and Lisa Dieker in reflecting on the role of special education and general education in providing all students with access to the standards in K-12 mathematics. In this webinar, they will use their collaborative understanding of the unique needs of both fields to provide perspective on Dr. Kepner's platform as President of NCTM: "Equality: All Means ALL". Participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions and comments as part of this discussion. For more information, and to register online for this event, please go to http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Events_Registration:

8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week

The Inclusive Schools Network is hosting the **[8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week](#)** this **December 1-5**, celebrating the theme, "**Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children**". Since its inception in 2001 under the auspices of the Collaborative, the Week has been a celebration of the progress families, schools, and communities have made in promoting inclusive educational practices, and an opportunity for discussion about quality education for all children. See how you can make this week a success by visiting <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/content/inclusive-schools-week-2008>

Products

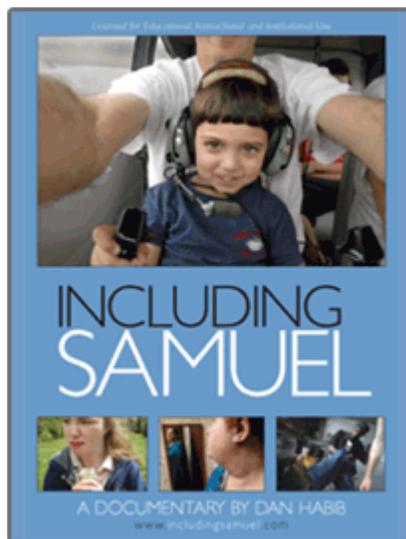
Items such as ISN pencils, pens, bookmarks, posters and stickers are a great way to let educators and families know about Inclusive Schools Week while helping to support the Week and ISN. This year Members are eligible for discounts on stickers, Celebration Ideas CDs, and the 2008 Celebration Ideas Sampler, so place your orders now while there's still plenty of time to plan your 2008 Inclusive Schools Week celebration. To order, visit <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

If you have any questions about Inclusive Schools Week or the Inclusive Schools Network, please contact Tom Beer at tbeer@edc.org.

Including Samuel

Including Samuel DVDs are now available through ISN!

Collaborative Members who attended the Fall 2008 Meeting had the opportunity to view a [short clip](#) from the award-winning documentary *Including Samuel*. Shot and produced over four years by filmmaker Dan Habib, the film follows Dan's son Samuel who has cerebral palsy, and chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film also portrays the experiences of four other individuals with disabilities and their families.



Including Samuel DVDs are now available for sale through the ISN website at: https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/including_samuel_orderform.html. The DVD comes with a 24-page Viewers Guide that includes dozens of excellent discussion questions about the film and about major issues in inclusive education. This resource is ideal for districts to use in Professional Development and in fostering discussion district-wide about the benefits and challenges of inclusive education.

From now through November 25th, order by credit card and you will receive free shipping! To use a Purchase Order, download the PDF Order Form from the sidebar of the order website and submit the completed form by fax or mail. Remember: A portion of the money from your purchase goes to support ISN and the Week. If you have any questions, please contact [Tom Beer](#), ISN Program Coordinator.

Collaborative Help Desk

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative

Education Development Center, Inc.

55 Chapel Street

Newton, MA 02158

Phone: 617-969-7100 x2447

TTY: 617-964-5448

FAX: 617-969-3440

Email: collaborative@edc.org
Website: www.urbancollaborative.org