



Welcome to the September 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

New Member

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member district, Lincoln Public Schools.

[Lincoln Public Schools](#) is located in Lincoln, MA, and has a total enrollment of 1400 students. Our Member contact is Stephanie Powers, Administrator for Student Services.

Members in the News

The Tennessean recently published an article written by the new Executive Director of Special Education for Metro Nashville Public Schools, Linda DePriest. In the article she speaks of the district's need to move to an integrated serviced delivery approach - aligning educational services with individual student needs instead of perceiving students with disabilities to be recipients of education in segregated placements. Dr. DePriest was also the subject of an article in Nashville's City Paper entitled "A New Day for Special Education?"

Our member from Yonkers Public Schools, Vincent McPartlan, was recently named Executive Director, Elementary/Secondary Administration & Supervision for the school district. We welcome Donna J. Martuge as the new Executive Director for Pupil Support Services and Special Education.

The Collaborative recently completed a comprehensive review of special education services in the Yonkers Public Schools. A copy of the report is available on the school district's website.

Fall 2008 Meeting

Fall Meeting: Concurrent Sessions

October 29th - November 1st, 2008
Sheraton Denver
Denver, Colorado



"Identifying and Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners"

Here is a sneak peek at the topics of some of the scheduled concurrent sessions:

Miami-Dade (FL): *EL SOL (Exceptional Learners Speakers of Other Languages): Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools*

Chesterfield County (VA): *Achieving Academic Success: One Locality's Collaborative Approach to working with English Language Learners*

Clark County (NV): *Student Achievement Linked to Services Alliance (SALSA): Linking Special and Bilingual Education Services*

Austin (TX): *Working with English Language Learners: Making Connections with Learners, Parents and the Community*

St. Paul (MN): *Saint Paul Public Schools' Model for the Special Education Evaluation of English Language Learners*

Greenville (SC): *Effective Strategies for Assessing ELL Students Utilizing the A-Team and R.I.O.T. Approach*

Los Angeles (CA): *Diverse Strategies for a Diverse City*

Orange County (FL): *Making Response to Intervention Work for Culturally and Linguistic Diverse Students*

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.

Resources

OSEP Clarification on Coordinated Early Intervening Services

Early Intervening Services (EIS) is a set of coordinated services for students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. Generally, the use of funds (up to 15%) a local education agency (LEA) receives under Part B of the Act for EIS is discretionary on the part of the LEA, except when an LEA has significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSEP) recently provided clarification to states regarding LEAs' use of Part B funds to develop and provide coordinated early intervening services (CEIS) for students who are identified as needing special education, as well as the relationship of CIES to Response to Intervention (RTI).

[Download the OSEP letter here.](#)

[Training materials on EIS are available here.](#)

Website of the Month



The IDEA Data Website, maintained by Westat, Inc., provides public access to the most recent data about children with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These data are collected annually by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA. The site also provides a wide range of materials (publications, presentations, tables and charts) regarding federal data collection.

Inclusive Schools Week 2008

**Now is the time to begin planning your 2008
Inclusive Schools Week Celebration!**



The **8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week** will take place **December 1-5, 2008**, celebrating the theme: "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children". Since its inception in 2001 under the auspices of the Urban Special Education Leadership 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 what else can be done to ensure quality education for all children. This year's Inclusive Schools Week is hosted by the Inclusive Schools Network (ISN), a web-based network that has grown out of the successes of the Week and is available as a year-round resource for educators, families and others interested in inclusive educational practices.

Inclusive Schools Week has been sustained over the years in large part through the generous purchases of Inclusive Schools Week products by Collaborative Member Districts. New products including the Celebration Ideas CD, posters, stickers, bookmarks, pens and pencils are now available at: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>. These items are a great way to spread the word to teachers, students and families about the benefits of inclusive practices, the Week, and the Inclusive Schools Network. Proceeds from your

purchases will help support our work and promote our collective commitment to supporting inclusive educational policies and practices.

As in past years, Collaborative Members are considered Partners of Inclusive Schools Week, and are integral to the success of the Week. Collaborative Members can celebrate and promote the Week by:

- Using ISN's Celebration and Awareness Materials to organize and promote Inclusive Schools Week activities district-wide. To download the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week Theme Announcement, Proclamation Toolkit, Media Tips and other useful materials, visit <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/content/celebration-and-awareness-materials>.
- Letting school leaders and staff know about Inclusive Schools Week, and encouraging them to visit www.inclusiveschools.org to begin planning their own Inclusive Schools Week celebration and activities. Use the district's newsletter, events and email to spread the word!
- Listing the dates for Inclusive Schools Week (December 1-5, 2008) on your school district's website and providing a link to the Inclusive Schools Network: www.inclusiveschools.org. Downloadable JPG images of the ISN logo and the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week logo are available for your use at: <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/content/celebration-and-awareness-materials>.
- Purchasing Inclusive Schools Week products for each of your schools from: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>.

As ISN Partners, all Collaborative Member Districts will receive the following benefits:

- Member Districts will be listed as a Partner on the ISN website with a link to the District's website. This is a great way to network with other districts and organizations involved in promoting inclusive educational practices, and an opportunity to highlight important work being done in your schools to ensure quality education for all children.
- Teachers, administrators, and parent leaders may submit content for posting on the Inclusive Schools Network website, including celebration plans for the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week.
- Member Districts are eligible for discounted pricing on the **2008 Celebration Ideas CD**. The CD provides lesson plans, suggested school and community activities, and other information/materials vital to supporting the development and expansion of inclusive practices in all schools and classrooms. For more information about Partner-discounted CD prices, please contact Tom Beer at tbeer@edc.org.

Thank you very much for your participation in the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week and for your past support of this important initiative. Look for more information this fall about Inclusive Schools Week on the ISN website and in the ISN Newsletter, and if you don't receive the Newsletter, sign up at:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/news>. Encourage your friends and colleagues to sign up, too! If you have any questions about Inclusive Schools Week or Partnership with ISN, or if your district is unable to be a Partner in this year's Inclusive Schools Week, please contact Tom Beer at tbeer@edc.org.



Collaborative Help Desk

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