



Welcome to the January 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.

Spring Member Meeting

SAVE THE DATES

2009 SPRING MEETING
MAY 6 - 9, 2009

**IMPROVING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
THROUGH DATA-BASED
DECISION MAKING**

WYNDHAM PHOENIX, AZ

THE COLLABORATIVE
SUPPORTING EDUCATION LEADERS SINCE 1994

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Resources

National Disability Rights Network Report on Seclusion and Restraint

The use of seclusion and physical restraint, particularly with student with disabilities, has recently become a topic of concern to many educators and advocates. The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) held a news conference in Washington, D.C. on January 13, 2009 to announce the release of their report on the use of seclusion and restraint in schools. The report, *School is Not Supposed to Hurt: Investigative Report on Abusive Restraint and Seclusion in Schools* charges that there is a significant amount of abuse in the use of restraint or seclusion nationwide by school administrators, teachers, and auxiliary personnel, which has resulted in injury and trauma and, in some cases, death to children with disabilities. The report calls for the ban on the use of seclusion and specific forms of physical restraint. The NDRN website also provides a map highlighting states with laws pertaining to the use of seclusion and/or restraint.

Legislative Action Alert from CEC

As part of an economic recovery package that is now being considered by U.S. Congress, there is a proposal to include \$13 billion for IDEA Part B - Grants to States and \$600 million for IDEA Part C - Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program. This proposal is called the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* and the Council for Exceptional Children is urging immediate action to encourage legislators to support this funding increase for children with disabilities. This additional funding would more than double the current funding for both Part B and Part C over two years. Please go to the [CEC Policy and Advocacy website](#) to see what you can do to support this effort.

Website of the Month

School Data Direct

In line with topic for the Spring Collaborative meeting we are highlighting SchoolDataDirect - an online service of the State Education Data Center (SEDC). The SEDC is a service of the Council of Chief State School Officers, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of the Council's National Education Data Partnership. The SEDC is seeking to position itself as a leading voice on public education data and will focus on two work strands: (1) serving as a national advocacy leader for quality education data collection, standards, and use; and (2) serving as the nation's provider of a [free, easy-to-use website](#) featuring state education data and analytic tools. SchoolDataDirect.org is a place for educators, researchers, and policymakers to access information about public schools.

Inclusive Schools Network



Inclusive Schools Week 2008:

Schools and communities around the world celebrated the 8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week this past December, on the theme: "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children". Thank you for participating in the Week. It was a great success!

Here are some of the highlights of the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week:

- **[Inclusive Schools Network Webinar](#)** - On December 3rd, ISN hosted its first webinar on the topic "Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom" with Dr. Lisa Dieker, Professor of Exceptional Education at the University of Central Florida, and Dr. Hank Kepner, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). [A video-cast of this event is now available for purchase through the ISN website.](#)
- **[Including Samuel Film Screening and Discussion](#)** - ISN sponsored a film screening and discussion on December 1st with filmmaker Dan Habib about his documentary *Including Samuel*. This film examines issues related to inclusive education and honestly portrays the experiences of Habib's son Samuel, who has cerebral palsy, and four other individuals with disabilities. [Video clips of the discussion session](#) and [additional information about this film](#) are available on the ISN website.
- **["Best Ideas for Inclusive Schools" Contest](#)** - For Inclusive Schools Week, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) sponsored a contest to highlight effective inclusive educational practices in elementary, middle and high schools around the United States. To read about the contest winners, [visit the ISN website](#) or go to: <http://www.aft.org/tools4teachers/contest.htm>

Inclusive Schools Week 2009:

Save the Dates:
The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week
December 7 - 11, 2009

If you would like to learn more about ISN or the Week, please contact ISN Program Coordinator Tom Beer at tbeer@edc.org or 617-618-2519.

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