

# Welcome to the July Issue of CollabNews

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### About Us



The [Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative](#) is a network of special and general education leaders working together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities in the nation's urban schools.

### President Obama Nominates New OSERS Chief



Alexa E. Posny, the Kansas commissioner of education, has been [nominated by President Obama](#) to serve as the assistant secretary for the [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services](#), (OSERS). Dr. Posney is no stranger to the US Department of Education, having served as the Director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) from April 2006 to April 2007 when she returned to Kansas to become [Commissioner of Education](#). She was [profiled in Education Week](#) in 2007 while in the position at OSEP. Her appointment is pending approval by the United States Senate.

### New Member District

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest members, Champaign Unit 4 Schools and Denver Public Schools.

Champaign Unit 4 Schools is located in Champaign, IL and has a total enrollment of over 8,800 students. Our Member contact is Arthur Culver, Superintendent. Please visit <http://www.champaignschools.org/> for more information. Denver Public Schools is located in Denver, CO and has a total enrollment of over 75,000 students. Our Member contact is Cheryl Karstaedt, Executive Director, Student Services. Please visit <http://www.dpsk12.org/> for more information.

## Fall Meeting - Providence Rhode Island

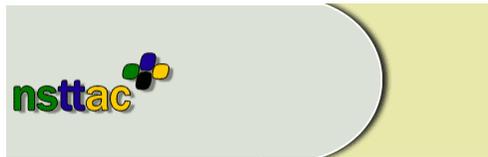


The focus of our Fall Meeting is *"The Emerging Redefinition of FAPE: Preparing Students with Disabilities for Post-Secondary Success"*. We will be exploring how, as a result of recent due process and court decisions as well as increased federal involvement in establishing higher expectations for outcomes in public education, the conceptualization of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is changing. Our keynote speaker will be [Dr. Mitchell A. Yell](#), Professor in Special Education in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, South

Carolina and author of "The Law and Special Education". His address: "The Emerging Redefinition of FAPE: Implications for Urban School Districts" will prove to be a very engaging and exciting highlight of the Fall meeting.

A Call for Presentations will be sent to member districts very soon. Registration for the meeting can be completed [on our website](#).

## Indicator 13 Checklist



The [National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center](#) (NSTTAC) has developed [US Department of Education approved checklists](#) to help states collect data to meet Indicator 13 - the indicator relating to transition services for students with disabilities. These checklists may be helpful to districts as they work on assessing and improving their transition services. NSTTAC is also currently working on a district-level and a school-level self-assessment of use of transition practices that lead to better post-school outcomes. Watch their website for the publication of these valuable tools. (We will watch as well and post it in CollabNews). The website also offers training and other informational materials related to Indicator 13.

## Unlocking the Power of Data!

We are very pleased with the response we received for our project with the University of Maryland, *Unlocking the Power of District Data to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities*. We are now reviewing the applications and will be selecting the member districts for participation in a community of practice focused on exploring innovative ways to examine and use the extensive data that districts collect and report. Districts who applied will be notified very soon as to their status. Member districts not selected for direct participation will have multiple opportunities to learn and benefit from the project via CollabNews and other Collaborative publications, presentations at future Collaborative meetings, and online discussions.



## RTI Action Leadership Network

The RTI Action Network has created a [Leadership Network](#) to support district and building leaders in the effective implementation of Response to Intervention. Designed to accommodate busy educators with full schedules, the Leadership Network will provide important guidance on how to proceed to get results for improved student achievement. The Network is for principals, superintendents, curriculum directors, RTI coordinators, instructional specialists, psychologists - any district or building leader actively engaged in planning or implementing RTI at any stage, from beginning to advanced.

## Inclusive Schools Network



### Products Available for Inclusive Schools Week 2009

ISN products are available for purchase online! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2009 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view these products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our Products Page and Secure Online Order Form: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

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### Collaborative Help Desk

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
55 Chapel Street  
Newton, MA 02458

Phone: 617-969-7100 x2447  
TTY: 617-964-5448  
Fax: 617-969-3440  
Email: [collaborative@edc.org](mailto:collaborative@edc.org)  
Website: [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org)