

Welcome to the October 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.

NSBA and NEA Publish Legal Issues Guide on Undocumented Students

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) and National Education Association (NEA) recently co-published a guide designed to help school districts answer questions about the legal rights of undocumented students in public K-12 schools. This guide, which has been sent to every school district in the United States through funding from the National Education Association, discusses 13 legal questions commonly asked by school board members and school administrators about undocumented students, yet rarely addressed in lower court cases or in state laws. [Click here](#) to access the complete guide.

Fall 2009 Meeting Recap

The Fall 2009 Meeting in Providence, RI, was a great success with more than 200 participants involved in sessions and discussions about the changing definition of FAPE - with a particular focus on the impact on the transition process. Ten member districts presented concurrent sessions that were well received by the attendees as was the Saturday morning session with the panel made up of representatives of three national federally-funded projects that are involved in outcomes for students with disabilities.



Copies of presentations and handouts from many of the session presenters will be available on the Collaborative website very soon. A link will appear on the page describing the Fall 2009 Meeting.

New Member Districts

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest members, Mundelein Consolidated High School and Davenport Community School District.

Mundelein Consolidated High School is located in Mundelein, IL and has a total enrollment of 2,100 students. Our Member contact is Steve Castle, Director of Special Education. Please visit <http://www.mundeleinmustangs.com/default.aspx> for more information.

Davenport Community School District is located in Davenport, IA and has a total enrollment of about 17,000 students. Our Member contact is Julio Almanza, Superintendent. Please visit <http://www.davenportschools.org/default.asp> for more information.

Members can access a complete list of Member Districts and Member contacts by logging into the Collaborative website and clicking on the "Member Contacts" link under the "Members Only" navigation toolbar. For login and password information, please contact Sheri Brick at sbrick@edc.org.

RTI Action Network: Leadership Network - Apply Today!

The RTI Action Network has created a Leadership Network to support district and building leaders in the effective implementation of Response to Intervention. The network is intended 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. Membership is limited to 250. For further information, please visit <http://www.rtinetwork.org/Connect/LeadershipNetwork>.

Inclusive Schools Network



Inclusive Schools Week 2009

The Inclusive Schools Network is hosting the 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week this December 7-11, celebrating the theme, "Inclusive Technologies". 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. 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 help to make this year's Week a success by:

Share your Celebration Plans for Inclusive Schools Week! Each year, Inclusive Schools Week participants from all over flood the ISN email box and online discussion forum with details about their exciting Celebration Plans, and once again you are invited to submit a short description of the events and activities you have planned for the Week to: inclusiveschools@edc.org, or at <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/forums/inclusive-schools-week>. In November, ISN will begin posting Celebration Plans from selected schools, districts and communities on the website.

Purchasing Inclusive Schools Week Products for each of your schools from: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>. 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. Place your orders now while there's still plenty of time to plan your 2009 Inclusive Schools Week celebration!

Spreading the word about Inclusive Schools Week. Let school leaders, staff, students and families know about Inclusive Schools Week by listing the dates (December 7-11, 2009) and posting the Inclusive Schools Week logo on your school district's website, and in your newsletter and email communications. Use ISN's Celebration and Awareness Materials, which can be

downloaded from <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/content2009/celebration-and-awareness-materials>, to organize and promote your events and activities for the Week.

Celebration Ideas Kit - Available Soon! Each year, hundreds of schools and communities around the world use the "Celebration Ideas" kit to plan their events and activities for Inclusive Schools Week. The 2009 "Celebration Ideas" kit will be available on CD-ROM in early November and can be purchased along with other Inclusive Schools Network products at: <https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>. This CD kit will include a variety of celebration and awareness materials that can be used in planning your organization's Inclusive Schools Week celebration, and in promoting inclusive educational practices year-round!

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