

Welcome to the August Issue of CollabNews

Volume 14, Issue 8

In This Issue

Call for Presentations
Registration Open
Fall Member Meeting
New Members
MTSS Article Featured
Project Forum
Standards for Professional Learning

Quick Links

[Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative Home](#)
[Spring 2011 Meeting Presentations](#)
[What Works Clearinghouse: Early Childhood Education for Students with Disabilities](#)
[Conference Materials and Presentations from 2009 Transition State Planning Institute](#)
[The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\)](#)

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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.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Highly Effective Special Education Teachers in Urban Schools: Taking the Measure
October 26-29 2011
Austin Hilton Hotel

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

We are now seeking presentations from our member districts regarding our primary topical focus of the Fall Meeting in Austin, Texas. The topic is ***"Highly Effective Special Education Teachers in Urban Schools: Taking the Measure"***. We are interested in providing our members with the opportunity to hear and discuss what is taking place in member districts relative to the evaluation of teacher performance and effectiveness and how districts are working to develop fair and reliable measures for assessing teacher performance, particularly for special education teachers and related services providers. More details are provided in our [official Call for Presentations](#).

The deadline for submitting a proposal is September 16, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Ronald Felton, Associate Director, at 786-228-7116 or e-mail: rfelton@edc.org.

FALL MEETING - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Fall Member Meeting
October 26-29 2011



We are excited to announce that registration is open for our Fall Member Meeting in Austin, Texas from October 26-29, 2011. The primary topical focus of our meeting is "Highly Effective Special Education Teachers in Urban Schools: Taking the Measure."

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Lynn Holdheide, a Vanderbilt University Research Associate at the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality, will serve as our keynote speaker. Ms. Holdheide will give her address on Thursday, October 27, during the meeting's opening session.

Please register for the event at www.urbancollaborative.org. If you have any questions about registration, or need your login information, please contact Stephanie Stroman at sstroman@edc.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Austin!

FALL MEMBER MEETING

Consultancy Session

A Consultancy is a structured process for helping an individual or a team think more expansively about a particular, concrete dilemma. At our Member Meetings we offer the host district(s) an opportunity to present dilemmas that they would like our Collaborative members to consider and to share their expertise and experience. On Wednesday, October 26, one of our host districts for the Fall Member Meeting, Round Rock Independent School District, will hold one of two consultancy sessions scheduled for that day. The dilemma we will explore with our colleagues from Round Rock will focus on serving students with cognitive impairments who also have behavior disorders. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 26th, for this interesting and informative session.



New Members

Lincoln Elementary School District 156, Westwood Public Schools,
Central Indiana Educational Service Center

The Collaborative is pleased to announce our newest members, Lincoln Elementary School District 156, Westwood Public Schools and Central Indiana Educational Service Center. Lincoln Elementary

School District 156 is located in Calumet City, IL, and has a total district enrollment of 1,130 students. Our member contact for this district is Geneva Oatman, Director of Special Education and Student Services. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

Westwood Public Schools is located in Westwood, MA, and has a total district enrollment of 3,148 students. Our member contact for this district is Abigail C. Hanscom, Director of Student Services. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

Central Indiana Educational Service Center is located in Indianapolis, IN, and our member contact for this district is Margie Labelle, Special Education Professional Development. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

We welcome all of our new members and look forward to getting to know them at our Fall Member Meeting in Austin!

RESEARCH BRIEF FEATURED IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

This month, District Administration Magazine is featuring [an article](#) written by Collaborative staff members Orla Higgins Averill and Claudia Rinaldi based on their [Research Brief](#) that was featured in the June 2011 CollabNews. The article provides an introduction to the concept of the Multi-tier System of Support and how it can be brought to scale in urban school districts.

PROJECT FORUM

Systems for Reviewing Educational Data

[Project Forum](#) has just issued a [brief policy analysis](#) that describes how four states, Kentucky, Missouri, New York and Virginia ensure a quality review process within their educational data system. Each state case study provides a brief description of their data system, how the data is used, how the state ensures quality data, and the benefits and challenges to development of their data system. Three state case studies also include information on their school interoperability framework. Findings show that each of the states believe their data systems are either operational or in progress for at least some of the criteria determined to ensure effective data. Each state interviewee also felt that while their state has specific strengths, there is still have room to grow.

STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

What Does the Research Say About Addressing Challenges in Urban Inclusion Models?

The [Regional Educational Laboratory](#) Northeast and Islands (REL-NEI) is part of the Regional Educational Laboratory Program. This network of ten laboratories provides educators and policymakers with access to high-quality scientifically valid education research through applied research and development projects, randomized controlled trial studies, dissemination of research findings, and related technical assistance activities.

Every Friday, REL-NEI highlights one or two questions submitted to its Reference Desk. Using available evidence and research, REL-NEI provides quick-turnaround responses to questions submitted by education stakeholders around the Northeast and Islands Region.

One recent question was *What Does the Research Say About Addressing Challenges in Urban Inclusion Models?* For the research synthesis regarding that question [click here](#).

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