

# Welcome to the February 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.

### SPRING MEETING SIZE ALIKE TOPIC

#### The Budget Crisis and Finding Efficiencies in Special Education

At the Collaborative's Spring meeting in Los Angeles we will devote the size-alike sessions on Thursday morning to sharing what our member districts are doing, or contemplating doing, to maintain the integrity and quality of programs and services to student with disabilities while addressing the need to reduce expenditures.



In the effort to trim local school district budgets, school boards and administrators have had to consider cuts that may impact the quality of programs for all students, including those with disabilities. Proposals to cut federal aid for special education, if enacted, may exacerbate the already formidable task of reducing expenditures for special education. Leaders in urban districts have had to come up with ways to find savings and, [according to a recent article in Education Week](#), seek to identify innovations that will maintain mandated services to students in a cost-effective manner.



Be a part of the conversation, [register now!](#)

## SPRING MEETING

### Judy Elliott to Keynote Opening Session



The primary topical focus of our Spring Member Meeting is "**Systemic Implementation of Multi-Tier Academic and Behavioral Supports.**" At this meeting, we will be exploring the different states of implementing behavioral and academic components of Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) of a systemic basis at the classroom, school, and school district level. MTSS is a framework for the integration and provision of academic and behavioral supports for all students, including those who are struggling in school.

We are pleased to announce that Judy Elliott, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District, will be our keynote speaker at our Spring Member Meeting in Los Angeles, CA, May 11-14, 2011. Dr. Elliott was previously the Chief of Teaching and Learning in the Portland Oregon Public Schools and prior to that an Assistant Superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District in Long Beach, CA.

Dr. Elliott has focused much of her professional work on systems change and reform, effective instruction for all students, and data-based decision making for accountability and accelerated student achievement. She will thus offer much to set the tone for our conversations around our meeting topic in Los Angeles, California.

Please register for the event at [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org).

We look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles!

## SPRING MEETING PRESENTATIONS

### Call for Presentations

The primary topical focus of the Spring Meeting is: "**Systemic Implementation of Multi-Tier Academic and Behavioral Supports.**" Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) is a framework for the integration and provision of academic and behavioral supports for all students, including those who are struggling in school. MTSS, as with Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), includes the adoption and implementation of research-based interventions, universal screening and progress monitoring, and a problem-solving process to inform decisions at each tier of service delivery. MTSS refers to this broader view and incorporates RtI and PBIS. The meeting promises to be a very rich learning experience and will offer numerous opportunities for participants to share, as well as learn about how school districts that are implementing behavioral and academic components of MTSS on a systemic basis.

The Collaborative invites member districts who have experienced success in initiating and refining systems level change incorporating RtI, PBIS, and/or MTSS to share their rollout and

implementation experiences as well as any measures of effectiveness they might have. You can obtain a submission form at this [link](#). Please return to us via email (rfelton@edc.org) or fax (815-301-8421) no later than April 1, 2011.

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICT

### Newburgh Enlarged City School District

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Newburgh Enlarged City School District, located in New Windsor, NY. With a total district enrollment of 11,860 students, Newburgh Enlarged City School District seeks to provide the programs and resources to insure that all students reach their full academic potential. Our member contact for this district is Mr. Kenneth Swanson. [Please click here](#) for more information.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

### An Interview with the Assistant Secretary

[Disability Scoop](#), an online news service focused on developmental disabilities, recently conducted an interview with Alexa Posny, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. In [this article](#) she shares some thoughts on academic standards, restraint and seclusion, teacher training, the future of inclusion and more.



## HELPING THE STUDENT WITH DIABETES SUCCEED

### A Guide for School Personnel

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) has released an updated edition of [Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel](#). This comprehensive education and resource guide offers a coordinated team approach to help students with diabetes manage routine diabetes care tasks and to take action in case of a diabetes emergency.

## GUIDE TO THE NEW COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### Coming Together to Raise Achievement

The Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management at Educational Testing Service (the K-12 Center) has released an updated version of "[Coming Together to Raise Achievement: New Assessments for the Common Core State Standards](#)". This guide provides short, clear summaries of the new assessment systems being developed by two federally funded Consortia, comprising of 45 states and the District of Columbia.

The adoption of a common set of college - and career - readiness standards by 43 states and the District of Columbia, to date, means that more than 80 percent of the nation's public school students and teachers will be focused on the same content standards for their students.

This guide tries to answer many of the basic questions that educators, parents and policymakers have concerning the new standards - why they were developed, how they differ from most states' current standards, and their implications for assessments. In addition, this guide includes descriptions of each of the two assessment Consortia, their memberships, and the assessment systems and related resources they are developing.

## INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK

Sign up to receive Inclusive Schools Network News!



Inclusive Schools Network News is a monthly online newsletter dedicated to promoting ideas, resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities.

Monthly features of the ISN Newsletter include:

- "Tip of the Month," an original feature of ISN (sponsored by Stetson & Associates), focuses on promoting inclusive practices in schools\
- Information about ISN events including Inclusive Schools Week
- Online and print resources
- National events
- International resources and events

To view the most recent edition and to register for the Inclusive Schools Network News, please visit <http://inclusiveschools.org/news>.

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