

# Welcome to the January 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 - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative  
Spring Member Meeting  
May 11-14, 2011



A very rich program is taking shape for our Spring Member Meeting in Los Angeles, California from May 11-14, 2011, and we look forward to seeing you all there! The primary topical focus of the meeting is "Successful 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 Dr. Judy Elliot, Chief Academic Officer for the Los Angeles Unified School District, will be serving as our keynote speaker. Dr. Elliot will give her address on Thursday, May 12th, during the meeting's opening session.

Please register for the event at [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org). If you have any questions about registration, or need your login information, please contact Stephanie Stroman at [sstroman@edc.org](mailto:sstroman@edc.org)

We look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles!

## 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](mailto:rfelton@edc.org)) or fax (815-301-8421) no later than March 31, 2011.

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICT

The Collaborative is pleased to welcome our newest member, Greenville County Schools. Greenville County Schools is located in Greenville, South Carolina, and has a total district enrollment of approximately 60,000 students. Our member contact for this district is Mary M. Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education. For more information about the district, please visit their website [here](#).

We welcome Greenville County Schools and look forward to getting to know them at our Spring Member Meeting.

## FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The three-part [Status of Professional Learning research study](#) was launched in 2008 by the National Staff Development Council and a team of researchers from the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) and aimed to measure the effectiveness of professional learning in the United States. Learning Forward, a non-profit professional association committed to ensuring success for all students through staff development and school improvement, has released the third phase of the study, which focused on effective professional development policies and strategies by examining the policy frameworks supporting high levels of professional development activity in four states. All three parts of the report are available at the website.

## BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM - NCLB



Following the State of the Union speech, where education was a major theme, the Obama administration launched the effort rewrite the No Child Left Behind law, including a proposed increase in federal spending, a pledge to make the program more flexible. The administration's blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind Act) as well as supporting documents are available on the [US Department of Education website](#).

## REPORT ON COORDINATED EARLY INTERVENING SERVICES

The [Project Forum](#) has posted a document "Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS): Local Education Agency Programs Required to Withhold IDEA Funds." This report is an in-depth policy analysis describing the legislative background and OSEP supports for CEIS. Project Forum interviewed seventeen states that have required local education agencies (LEAs) to withhold IDEA funds for CEIS. The findings from these interviews are reported in the areas of state changes to identification criteria for disproportionality and resulting changes in the number of LEAs required to withhold funds; services supported with IDEA funds for CEIS; other funding sources used for CEIS; guidance and training provided to LEAs; monitoring activities; and local and state outcome. Also, a summary and discussion is provided.

## INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK



**Products still available!** Inclusive Schools Network products boast our logo "Great Things Happen in Inclusive Schools" and are available for purchase throughout the year. New products this year include colorful travel mugs, crayon kits, and some of our favorites: pencils, pens and other materials to help you promote inclusive practices throughout the year. The purchase of these items also assists in underwriting the costs of supporting the Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week. [Click here](#) to order your supplies now!

**We want to hear from you!** Please send us your stories about how your school and community celebrated ISW 2010. Electronic copies of ISW poster contest winners or photographs from your ISW events are also welcome. We will select several submissions to be posted on the ISN website.

## SPRING MEETING IN LOS ANGELES



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