

Welcome to the June 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.

RESEARCH BRIEF

Multi-tier System of Support (MTSS)

The underlying tenets of both Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) draw upon the U.S. Public Health Service's conceptual multi-tier pyramid model of prevention, which involves primary, secondary and tertiary approaches as an organizing framework for efficiently delivering interventions in order to improve outcomes. This framework provides a source for understanding how RtI and PBIS originated, and how they can be woven together, offering the foundation for a Multi-tier System of Support (MTSS).



The Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative has published a [Research Brief](#) focusing on MTSS. The Brief, written by Collaborative staff members Orla Higgins Averill and Claudia Rinaldi, provides an introduction to the concept of MTSS and how it can be brought to scale in urban school districts.

NEW IRIS CENTER MODULE

RTI Mathematics

The IRIS Center is a national center that aims to provide high-quality resources for professional development providers about students with disabilities. The IRIS Center has posted its latest *STAR Legacy* Module, [RTI: Mathematics](#).

RTI: Mathematics provides the opportunity to work alongside the staff of an elementary school in Tennessee. Two years ago, the staff at the school began working to improve their high-quality

mathematics instruction, making sure to implement standards-based curricula and evidence-based strategies at each grade level. They were excited to see greater understanding of mathematics concepts and increased student interest and motivation, which resulted in improved student performance on the year-end standardized tests. Even so, a relatively large number of students continued to struggle, and the school again did not achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP). The staff wondered whether response to intervention (RTI), the approach they had implemented in reading, could also be successfully applied to mathematics.

In addition to an overview of the RTI approach, *RTI: Mathematics* covers universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and fidelity measures, among many other topics.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Personnel Improvement Center

[National Center to Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Personnel for Children with Disabilities](#) (Personnel Improvement Center) is a technical assistance and dissemination project, whose mission is to identify, disseminate and assist States in implementing evidence based practices to meet the need for highly or fully qualified special education, early intervention and related services personnel, including paraprofessionals.



The website offers practice briefs intended to provide examples of how states and localities throughout the nation are employing recruitment and retention strategies to address personnel shortages in the area of special education, early intervention and related services.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE

The Department of Education and the White House are Seeking Nominations for "Champions of Change"

President Obama has challenged the nation to help "Win the Future" by out-educating, out-innovating, and out-building our competitors in the 21st century. To inspire that effort, the White House started a series called "Champions of Change." Each week, the White House selects 5-20 Americans, businesses, or organizations who are doing extraordinary things in their communities - everyday heroes who are demonstrating commitment to improving their own communities, their country, or their fellow citizens. This series highlights a different group each week ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community activists.

To read more about the initiative or to nominate someone, please visit the [website](#).

POSITION AVAILABLE



The Milwaukee Public Schools has posted a [Job Announcement](#) for the position of Director, Specialized Services. The deadline for application is July 29, 2011.

Peer Support in Inclusive Settings!



Peer support is a strategy that involves placing students in pairs or small groups to participate in learning activities that support academic instruction and social skills. This instructional approach does not require additional staff or extra funding. It is a research-based methodology that yields positive results related to student achievement over the course of time. Peer supports provide teachers with a learning tool to enhance instruction for students with disabilities.

Each month, Inclusive Schools Network News features a Tip of the Month that is focused on issues related to the inclusion of all children in education systems. To read more about Peer Support in Inclusive Settings in our most recent edition or to access archived editions, please visit <http://inclusiveschools.org/news>.

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