

# Welcome to 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.

## FALL MEETING-CONSULTANCY SESSION

Consultancy Session  
October 24, 2012

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 an opportunity to present dilemmas that they would like our Collaborative members to consider and to share their expertise and experience. On Wednesday, October 24, Pittsburgh Public Schools will kick-off our meeting with two consultancy sessions that afternoon. The dilemmas we will explore with our colleagues from Pittsburgh will focus on how to create an assessment plan that serves multiple functions for students with disabilities in grades K-12, and how to effectively transition students from more restrictive environments back to the regular school settings. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 24th, for this interesting and informative session.



## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

### Common, Meet Diverse: The Challenges of the Common Core State Standards for Students with Disabilities

We are seeking presentations from our member districts for Concurrent Sessions at our Fall 2012 Member Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We are seeking presentations that attempt to shed some light on how the Collaborative's member school districts are preparing for the transition from current standards to the Common Core State Standards. We understand that for many districts this is a work in progress, and that there may be unanswered questions that we will want to explore during our meeting. If you would like more specific information regarding the Call for Presentations or are interested in submitting a proposal, please [click here](#). The deadline for submission is August 31.



## NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

### Albuquerque Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools



The Collaborative is pleased to announce our newest members, Albuquerque Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools.

Albuquerque Public Schools is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has a total district enrollment of 87,258 students. Our member contact for this district is Dr. Anne Tafoya, Executive Director of Special Education. For more information about this district, [please visit their website here](#).

Minneapolis Public Schools is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has a total district enrollment of 33,000 students. Our member contact for this district is Dr. Ann Casey, Executive Director of Special Education. For more information about this district, [please visit their website here](#).

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

## REPORT ON STUDENT SUSPENSIONS

### Opportunities Suspended: The Disparate Impact of Disciplinary Exclusion From School

The Civil Rights Project at UCLA has recently released a nationwide report based on an analysis of Federal government suspension-related data from the 2009-10 school year for grades K-12. The report, [Opportunities Suspended: The Disparate Impact of Disciplinary Exclusion From School](#), is the first-ever breakdown of data from nearly 7,000 districts covering about 85% of the nation's public school students. The report shows that 17% of African American students nationwide received an out-of-school suspension compared to around 5% of White students. The comparable rate for Latinos was 7%. The analysis of suspension data for students with disabilities revealed

that an estimated 13% of all students with disabilities were suspended nationally, approximately twice the rate of their non-disabled peers. Most disturbing is the fact that one out of every four (25%) African American children with disabilities enrolled in grades K-12 was suspended at least once between 2009-2010.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

### Core Commons: Emerging Strategies and Issues in Implementing the Common Core



Each month we are using CollabNews to share information and resources to guide our collective conversation at our Fall Member Meeting.

[Core Commons](#) is designed by the [Education Commission of the States \(ECS\)](#) to serve as a resource to states, policymakers, and the public for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. ECS tracks state progress on the development and implementation of common core strategies and policies, and in addition, it explores the critical issues states encounter as they move to full implementation. Core Commons was designed to inform readers of important issues by highlighting implementation strategies across states, drawing attention to important research and reading on the subject, and presenting blog posts that provide analysis and news on the latest developments on the implementation of the standards. As states progress through the implementation process, ECS will be tracking each state's progress, and individual state profiles will be made available as an additional resource.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

### Cincinnati Public Schools Director of Student Services

Our member district, Cincinnati Public Schools, has announced an opening for the position of Director in the Department of Student Services. This position is responsible for continued development, implementation and administration of a city-wide exceptional education program. More information on the position and how to apply is available by clicking [here](#).

### Collaborative Help Desk:

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