

Welcome to CollabNews

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In This Issue

Registration Now Open

Call for Presentations

New Members

Summary of Forum on Measuring
Teacher Effectiveness

Update and Summary of Case Law

Juvenile Justice

Membership Drive

Quick Links

[Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative Home](#)

[Fall 2011 Meeting Presentations](#)

[Spring 2011 Meeting Presentations](#)

[Spring 2011 Keynote Presentation](#)

[What Works Clearinghouse:
Interventions for Students with
Special Needs](#)

[Conference Materials and
Presentations from 2011 Transition
State Planning Institute](#)

[The Office of Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\)](#)

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FACEBOOK



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

Spring Member Meeting
April 25-28, 2012



We are excited to announce that registration is open for our Spring Member Meeting in Tampa, Florida from April 25-28, 2012. The primary topical focus of our meeting is "English Language Learners with Disabilities: Successes & Challenges."

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Janette Klingner, Professor of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder, will serve as our keynote speaker. Dr. Klingner will give her address on Thursday, April 26th, 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 Tampa!

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Deadline Approaching



Presentations and discussions during our Tampa meeting will attempt to shed some light on what best practices are being advised to school districts and "what's working and why" among the Collaborative's member school districts. There is still time to submit a proposal to present at our meeting in Tampa. Please consider sharing the successful practices of your district. [Click here](#) to download the proposal submission form and return to us by March 10 (extended from March 7).

NEW MEMBERS

City School District of Albany, Stoughton Area School District, Tacoma School District

The Collaborative is pleased to announce our newest members, City School District of Albany, Stoughton Area School District, and Tacoma School District. City School District of Albany is located in Albany, NY, and has a total district enrollment of 8,661 students. Our member contact for this district is Michele Bridgewater, Assistant Director of Special Education. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

Stoughton Area School District is located in Stoughton, WI. Our member contact for this district is Kurt Schneider, Director of Student Services. For more information about this district, please visit their website [here](#).

Tacoma School District is located in Tacoma, WA, and has a total district enrollment of 27, 704 students. Our member contact for this district is Jennifer Traufler, Executive Director, Special Education. 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 Spring Member Meeting in Tampa!

SUMMARY OF FORUM ON MEASURING TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS

Using Student Growth to Evaluate Educators of Students With Disabilities: Issues, Challenges, and Next Steps

As a follow-up to our Fall Member Meeting, we are sharing a [summary of a two-day forum](#) that was held last September for select stakeholders to discuss the challenges and help inform policy, practice, and research regarding the use of the growth of students with disabilities for measuring teacher effectiveness. The summary of the forum was co-authored by our keynote speaker Lynn Holdheide from Vanderbilt University/National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality. The specific topics discussed included individual and school-level value-added models, student learning objectives (SLOs), classroom-based measures, and alternate assessments (descriptions are included later in the report). For each topic, this brief outlines the benefits, the challenges, state and district considerations, implementation implications, and needed research. Also included are the results of a survey conducted prior to the forum on state efforts as well as the available research.

UPDATE AND SUMMARY OF CASE LAW

A National Update of Case Law 1998 to the Present

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) has released the publication of **A National Update of Case Law 1998 to the Present under the IDEA and Section 504/A.D.A.** by noted legal expert Perry Zirkel. This compendium of litigation will be helpful for anyone looking for the legal history of the case law under these three important civil rights laws with respect to educating children and youth with disabilities. To download a copy of this publication, [click here](#).

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Reentry Programs for Students with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System: Four State Approaches

Evidence strongly supports the notion that juvenile offenders, both with and without disabilities, are significantly more likely to experience successful reentry into their home schools and communities if appropriate programs and supports are in place. [This brief policy analysis](#) by Project [FORUM](#) defines reentry, describes federal efforts to support successful reentry of juvenile justice offenders, relates the prevalence of students with disabilities in the juvenile justice system and recounts recommended reentry strategies from experts in the field. The findings from interviews with four states (AZ, GA, HI, OR) and a review of program-related documents are provided. The primary goal of these four state programs is to reduce recidivism by supporting the smooth transition of youth with disabilities from correctional facilities to community-based schools, jobs, and support services. This report highlights the common theses that emerged from the four states.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Refer a Colleague

The Collaborative has launched its annual campaign to recruit new member school districts and we need your help.

As you know, our ability to maintain member services at current levels is contingent upon revenue generated from several sources: membership fees, professional development and technical assistance contracts, partnerships with federal projects, and corporate Partner and Sponsors. It is membership fees, however, that provide the foundational support for the work of our organization.



If there is another school district and colleague that you think would welcome an invitation to consider enrolling in the Collaborative, please send us that information on our [Member Referral Form](#) and we will be sure to get an invitation packet out to them. If the school district(s) you refer enrolls as a Collaborative member, we will waive the registration fee for an extra participant from your school district at our Spring Member Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

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