

# Welcome to CollabNews

July 2012

Volume 15, Issue 7

## In This Issue

Fall Meeting Keynote Speakers

Registration Now Open!

Raising Achievement

IDEA Partnership

New Accountability System

Website of the Month

## Quick Links

[Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative Home](#)

[Spring 2012 Meeting Presentations](#)

[Fall 2011 Keynote Presentation](#)

[Fall 2011 Meeting Presentations](#)

[Spring 2011 Keynote Presentation](#)

[Spring 2011 Meeting Presentations](#)

[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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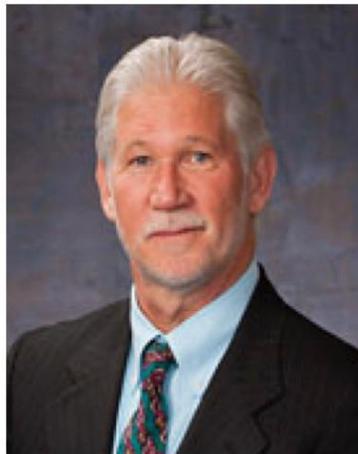
## About Us



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 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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



We are pleased to announce our keynote speakers for our Fall Meeting in Pittsburgh. Helping us explore the implications of the Common Core State Standards for students with disabilities will be two highly regarded educators, Dr. Brian McNulty and Dr. Rachel Quenemoen.

**Dr. Brian McNulty** is currently the Vice President for Leadership Development at the Leadership and Learning Center. An author of more than 40 publications, Brian's most recent books include: *Leaders Make It Happen* with Laura Besser, and *School Leadership that Works: from Research to Results*, a best selling publication co-authored by Robert Marzano and Tim Waters. He is the former Assistant Commissioner of Education for the Colorado Department of Education where, among other duties, he was responsible for special education. Dr. McNulty has had extensive experience in working with school districts and state education agencies across the country.

[Dr. Rachel Quenemoen](#) is a Senior Research Fellow with the National Center on Educational Outcomes. Dr. Quenemoen conducts research and provides technical assistance on educational change processes in order to ensure that students with disabilities are included in and benefit from reform efforts. She has worked to support states in the development of inclusive assessment and accountability systems, and has co-authored one of the foundational books on alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. She now directs one of the national consortia developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards, the National Center and State Collaborative.

## FALL MEETING-REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Fall Member Meeting  
October 24-27, 2012



We are excited to announce that registration is now open for our Fall Member Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! The primary topical focus is "Common, Meet Diverse: The Challenges of the Common Core State Standards for Students with Disabilities." The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Station Square, October 24-27, 2012.

Please register 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:ssstroman@edc.org).

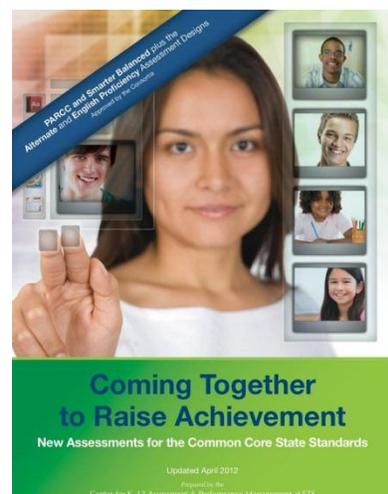
We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

## COMING TOGETHER TO RAISE ACHIEVEMENT

### New Assessments for the Common Core State Standards

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

The [Center for K-12 Assessment and Performance Management at ETS](#) has created a guide, [Coming Together to Raise Achievement](#), to stimulate discussions about the important work underway to implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and to prepare for the transition to the aligned common assessments. This document looks at the assessment development initiatives of the five federally funded State Assessment Consortia. Included is a section on the work being done by the two Alternate Assessment Consortia towards the development of alternate assessments aligned to the CCSS. These centers, the [National Center and State Collaborative \(NCSC\) Partnership](#) and the [Dynamic Learning Maps \(DLM\) Alternate Assessment System Consortium](#), are developing a new generation of assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.



## IDEA PARTNERSHIP

### The Common Core State Standards Collections



The IDEA Partnership reflects the collaborative work of more than 50 national organizations, technical assistance providers, and organizations and agencies at state and local level. The Common Core State Standards Collections are now available on their website. Each includes tools for presenting the information to parents and practitioners interested in learning about the Common Core State Standards. The two collections currently include:

- [The Common Core Collection](#)
- [Assessments for the Common Core Collection](#)

The IDEA Partnership is also hosting a webinar, *Overview to the Common Core State Standards Collections*, that will be offered in July and August. Information about registering for the webinar is available [here](#).

## RESULTS-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY

### Opportunity to Provide Input

The U.S. Department of Education announced in March new steps to help close the achievement gap for students with disabilities by moving away from a one-size-fits-all, compliance-focused approach to a more balanced system that looks at how well students are being educated in addition to continued efforts to protect their rights.

To this end, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is currently rethinking its accountability system in order to make the shift from a system focused primarily on compliance to one that puts more emphasis on results. OSEP is now soliciting input from the field regarding key questions as the department moves forward in developing a framework for the [new Results-Driven Accountability system](#). Over the next several months OSEP is using a [blog to solicit input from the field](#) regarding key questions as they move forward in developing a new framework for our accountability system. Collaborative members are invited to participate.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

### National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials

The [National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials](#) (AIM Center) serves as a resource for stakeholders, including state and district level educators, parents, publishers, conversion houses, accessible media producers, and others interested in learning more about and implementing AIM and the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). The AIM Center provides a readily available base of information and tools to build the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement the NIMAS and other sources of AIM, as well as to provide expert technical assistance and customized "just-in-time" consultation on major issues relevant to the effective uses of accessible instructional materials.

**Collaborative Help Desk:**

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