

# 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.

## SPRING MEETING

### Session Handouts Available



The Collaborative's Spring Member Meeting in Tampa, Florida was a resounding success. The handouts from the concurrent sessions, the presentation from our keynote speaker, Dr. Janette Klingner, and the Saturday morning session, which highlighted the challenges of the Common Core State Standards, are all [available on our website to download](#).

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

### Common, Meet Diverse

The Collaborative has announced that its Fall Member Meeting will focus on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and its impact on diverse learners - particularly students with disabilities. The intent of the CCSS is to provide more clarity about and consistency in what is expected of student learning from state to state, and a clear and consistent framework to prepare students for college and the workforce. Thus far, all but five states across the nation have adopted the standards.

Leading up to our Fall Member Meeting, the Collaborative will be sharing information about CCSS through our website and CollabNews. This month we are highlighting the website for the [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#) which provides an overview of the initiative and copies of the standards. There is also a statement regarding the [application of the standards to students with disabilities](#) and to [English language learners](#).

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

### Canton City Schools and Guilford County Schools

The Collaborative is pleased to announce our newest members, Canton City Schools and Guilford County Schools.

Canton City Schools is located in Canton, Ohio, and has a total district enrollment of 10,000 students. Our member contact for this district is Debbie Wensel, Director of Special Education. For more information about this district, please [visit their website here](#).

Guilford County Schools is located in Greensboro, North Carolina, and has a total district enrollment of 72,758 students. Our member contact for this district is Susan Griffin, Executive Director of Exceptional Children. 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, Pennsylvania!

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### Director, Exceptional Children Educational Services Charlotte, NC



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District in North Carolina has an opening for the position of Director, Exceptional Children Educational Services. Information about the position can be found [here](#). (Note: We have been advised that the application deadline for this position has been extended to May 30, 2012).

### Assistant Director, Inclusive Education Kent, WA

The Kent School District in Washington has an opening for an Assistant Director for Inclusive Education. The job description is available [here](#).

## CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PBIS

### Culturally Responsive Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Matters

The [Equity Alliance](#) at Arizona State University has published a "What Matters Brief" that explores the critical role of addressing and supporting behavior and socialization in schools as educators, students, families, schools, and communities embrace the waves of diversity that surge through our schools and institutional systems. That diversity is a vital resource for systemic transformation. [This brief](#) provides a description of the features of PBIS and then presents a framework for culturally responsive school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (CRPBIS) to address enduring educational equity issues, such as discipline and outcome disparities, and to build safe, inclusive, and supportive school climates.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

### Blog: Bilingual Special Education

[The Bilingual Special Education Blog](#) was founded in 2005 by the Collaborative's Assistant Director, Dr. Claudia Rinaldi, with the mission to disseminate evidenced-based practices in the areas that integrate bilingualism, special education, and effective models of instruction. Together with her colleague Dr. Julie Esparza Brown, an Assistant Professor in the Special Education Department at Portland State University, Dr. Rinaldi provides readers with information regarding resources and research in the areas of bilingual and special education with the goal of building expertise and capacity for school change that is grounded on research and evidence. The site includes reviews of books and articles, information on supporting students through Response to Intervention, and links to other web-based resources.

#### Collaborative Help Desk:

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