

# 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 REGISTRATION DEADLINE

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



There is still time to register for the Fall Member Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. The deadline for early registration is Tuesday, October 9th. All member districts receive one free registration and all additional registrations are \$150 per participant. Beginning October 9th, all additional member registrations will increase to \$250 per participant. To register online, [please click here](#).

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### Concurrent Presentations Preview

We have many exciting and informative concurrent presentations that are being planned for Friday, October 26th, at our Fall Member Meeting. The tentative agenda for that day includes presentations from the following member districts:

- **Albuquerque Public Schools**  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*
- **Charlotte-Mecklenberg Public Schools**  
*Charlotte, North Carolina*
- **Chicago Public Schools**  
*Chicago, Illinois*
- **Los Angeles Unified School District**  
*Los Angeles, California*
- **New York City Public Schools District 75**  
*New York, New York*
- **Orange County Public Schools**  
*Orlando, Florida*

- **Palm Beach County Public Schools**  
*West Palm Beach, Florida*
- **SPEED SEJA 802**  
*Chicago Heights, Illinois*
- **Washoe County Public Schools**  
*Reno, Nevada*

#### Size-Alike Sessions

Our Thursday morning pre-meeting Size-Alike Session will feature a discussion of the recent provocative report from the Fordham Institute entitled [\*Boosting the Quality and Efficiency of Special Education\*](#).

#### Saturday Morning

Our Saturday morning closing session will focus on our topic for the Spring Member Meeting in San Diego. The topic for that meeting and the closing session in Pittsburgh will be *Covering the Spectrum: Current Trends in the Delivery of Services to Students with Autism*.

**JOIN US!!  
REGISTER NOW**

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

### Access to the Common Core for All

The [National Association of Elementary School Principals'](#) September/October issue of Principal Magazine focuses on "Gearing up for the Common Core". In this issue, University of Maryland professor and Council for Exceptional Children President, Margaret McLaughlin, [writes about six principles](#) to consider in implementing CCSS for students with disabilities. Dr. McLaughlin notes that too often under the various state-developed standards and assessments, accommodations for students with disabilities -a heterogeneous group with varied characteristics and needs -have not been adequately addressed or have been ignored.

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

### Denver Public Schools and The School District of Palm Beach County



The Collaborative is pleased to announce our newest members, Denver Public Schools and The School District of Palm Beach County.

Denver Public Schools is located in Denver, Colorado, and has a total district enrollment of 81,870 students. Our member contact for this district is Ms. Diann Richardson, Director of Special Education. For more information about this district, [please visit their website here](#).

The School District of Palm Beach County is located in West Palm Beach, Florida, and has a total district enrollment of 168,026 students. Our member contact for this district is Mr. Will Gordillo,

Director of Exceptional Student 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!

## THE LEGAL DIMENSION OF RTI

### RTI Legal Checklist for SLD Identification

The RTI Action Network has [published](#) a checklist online that is designed to allow a school district to assess their process for identification of students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) in terms of federal law, with a specific focus on Response to Intervention (RTI). This is the third in a series of resources that focus on the legal dimension of RTI using federal and state legislation and regulations, as well as the U.S. Department of Education's interpretations and case law.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### Boston Public Schools Director of Schools and Settings

Our member district, Boston Public Schools (BPS), has announced an opening for the position of Director of Schools and Settings for the Office of Special Education and Student Services. The Director of Schools and Settings will focus on ensuring schools have the skills and resources necessary to provide support to the students with disabilities in BPS. The job description and information on how to apply is available [here](#).

### 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](#).

### Cincinnati Public Schools Manager, Department of Student Services

There is an additional opening from Cincinnati Public Schools for the position of Manager, Department of Student Services. This position is responsible for assisting in program development and evaluation by identifying research-based innovative practices that improve the academic success of students with disabilities. More information on this position and how to apply is available by [clicking here](#).

## Collaborative Help Desk:

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