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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.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Michael Wehmeyer, University of Kansas  
Dr. Dianne Zager, Pace University**



We are pleased to announce our keynote speakers for our Spring 2013 Member Meeting. Helping us explore the current best practices and trends in the delivery of services to students with autism will be two highly regarded educators who co-authored and edited the book *Educating Students with Autism*.

Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., is Professor of Special Education; Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities; and Associate Director, Beach Center on Disability, all at the University of Kansas. Dianne Zager, Ph.D., is Director, Center for Teaching & Research in Autism, at the Pace University School of Education, and the Vice President of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

SPRING MEMBER MEETING-  
REGISTER NOW FOR EARLY REGISTRATION!

Covering the Spectrum: Current Trends in the Delivery of  
Services to Students with Autism



Registration is currently open for our Spring 2013 Member Meeting in San Diego, California. This spring, the meeting will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, May 8-11, 2013. The primary topical focus is *Covering the Spectrum: Current Trends in the Delivery of Services to Students with Autism*. Early registration will end April 22, 2013, so please register now on our website, [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:sstroman@edc.org).

We look forward to seeing you this spring in San Diego!



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Current Trends in the Delivery of Services to  
Students with Autism

The topic for our Spring 2013 Member Meeting is *Covering the Spectrum: Current Trends in the Delivery of Services to Students with Autism*. We are looking for presentations from member school districts that highlight program models, methods and/or strategies that have been employed in the school district to deliver quality services to these students.

Our World Café conversations at the Fall 2012 Member Meeting in Pittsburgh uncovered several issues about which our member district leaders are interested in learning more from their colleagues. Among these are: what leadership and professional

development strategies should be developed and implemented? What exemplars are there for effective partnerships with parents, medical professionals, and other service providers? What assessments should be adopted? In other words, what methods and/or strategies have been employed in the school district to deliver quality services to students with autism? What lessons are being learned? What are the continuing challenges being faced?

If your school district has learned lessons that others would benefit in knowing about, please consider submitting a presentation proposal. A copy of the Call for Presentations and the submission form are available [here](#).

## ACCOMMODATIONS POLICIES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### Reading Access and Calculators for Students with Disabilities

The [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\)](#) is a consortium of 23 states plus the U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers.

PARCC is [seeking comment from the public on two draft policies](#) related to its next generation assessment system:

- The PARCC policy for providing reading access accommodations, specifically for reading aloud the passages, items, and response options on the English Language Arts/Literacy summative assessments, for a small number of students with disabilities who meet the accommodation eligibility criteria; and
- The PARCC policy for providing calculator accommodations on the non-calculator test sessions of the Mathematics summative assessments for a small number of students with disabilities who meet the accommodation eligibility criteria.

The deadline for comment is February 4, 2013. The draft policy is available at the second link above. These draft accommodations policies represent only two of a comprehensive set of policies PARCC intends to include in the PARCC Accommodations Manual scheduled for adoption later this spring. Over the next six months, the public will have three opportunities to provide feedback on a draft PARCC Accommodations Manual: (1) Selected Accommodations Policies for Reading Access and Calculators (January-February 2013); (2) Selected Accommodation Policy for Writing Access (February 2013); and (3) Public Comment on the full PARCC Accommodations Manual (April-May 2013). The final PARCC Accommodations Manual will be released in June, 2013.

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



[EdTech Leaders Online](#) is a national, capacity-building, research-based online learning program based at [Education Development Center, Inc. \(EDC\)](#). ETLO works with states, districts, virtual schools, colleges and universities, and other educational organizations to enable them to build successful online and blended learning programs for teachers, administrators, and students.

Recently, ETLO sponsored a webinar entitled *Accommodating Students with Special Needs in the Online Environment*. A recording of this webinar will be available in ETLO's [webinar archive](#).

## AUTISM RESOURCES

### Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee

Each month, as we prepare for our Spring Member Meeting in San Diego, we will be featuring links to information on Autism.

This month we spotlight the [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee \(IACC\)](#). The IACC is a Federal advisory committee that coordinates all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concerning autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Composed of Federal officials representing agencies engaged in autism activities as well as members of the public stakeholder community, the IACC is charged with developing and annually updating a strategic plan to guide federal investments in autism research, monitoring research activities and progress, and communicating information about advances in autism research to Congress and the public. Through its inclusion of both federal and public members, the IACC helps to ensure that a wide range of ideas and perspectives are represented and discussed in a public forum.

### Collaborative Help Desk:

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
43 Foundry Avenue  
Waltham, MA 02453

Phone: 617-969-7100 x2447  
TTY: 617-964-5448  
Fax: 617-332-4318  
Email: [collaborative@edc.org](mailto:collaborative@edc.org)  
Website: [www.urbancollaborative.org](http://www.urbancollaborative.org)

