



# 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 MEMBER MEETING - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Designing Learning Environments for All Students:  
Increasing Access through Technology  
November 5-8, 2014**



We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the Fall 2014 Member Meeting is Dr. Matthew Marino, Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Marino is a former special and general education teacher, technology coordinator and professional development center coordinator.

Furthermore, he has studied technology implementation and assessment in schools for the past 16 years across 14 states, with research funding from the Office of Special Education Programs, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the National Science Foundation.

Join us for his keynote address on Thursday, November 6th, by [registering on our website](#).

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

### There is Still Time!



As district-to-district sharing is a central focus of our Collaborative Meetings, we invite our Member Districts to submit proposals to present a Concurrent Session during our Fall Member Meeting. With this Call for Presentations, we are looking for presentations from Member Districts that use technology and pedagogy to address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, and/or cultural backgrounds of individual students.

A copy of our invitation and proposal form has recently been emailed and mailed to our members and associate members. [An electronic form can also be accessed on our website here.](#) Please consider submitting a presentation proposal no later than Friday, September 19th, to the Collaborative's Associate Director, Ron Felton, at [rfelton@edc.org](mailto:rfelton@edc.org).

## AIM CENTER WEBINAR



**NATIONAL CENTER ON  
ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The [AIM Center](#) is offering a free webinar session to build knowledge about accessible instructional materials.

### Making a Measurable Difference with Accessible Instructional Materials

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 16, 2014

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT

As more and more students are receiving accessible instructional material formats in a timely manner, it is time to think about how these materials are impacting the educational outcomes of students to whom they are provided. This webinar will highlight three aspects in which change would be expected to occur and will consider ways to capture qualitative and quantitative data on these changes. To participate in this website, please [register here](#).

## EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

### Website of the Month

In preparation for the Collaborative's Fall Member Meeting, we will be sharing resources that focus on designing personalized learning environments, particularly those that increase access to the curriculum through technology.

This month we are highlighting [Edudemic](#), a web-based resource designed to "connect teachers, administrators, students, and just about everyone else with the best technology on the planet" (<http://www.edudemic.com/about/>). This site features tools, tips, resources, visuals, and guest posts from dozens of authors around the world.

## USDOE POLICY GUIDANCE

### **Inclusion of English Learners with Disabilities in English Language Proficiency Assessments and Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives**



The US Department of Education (USDOE) has just issued a [guidance document](#) regarding the inclusion of English Learners (ELs) with disabilities in English language proficiency (ELP) assessments under Titles I and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). These are assessments designed to measure the progress of ELs in attaining English language proficiency. [This guidance document](#), which was released jointly by The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), helps states and LEAs understand how Part B of the IDEA and Titles I and III of the ESEA address the inclusion of ELs with disabilities in annual state ELP assessments.

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

### **Alief Independent School District, Bellevue School District, Chelsea Public Schools, and Verona Area School District**



The Urban Collaborative is delighted to welcome four new school districts!

Alief Independent School District is located in Houston, TX and serves approximately 46,000 students. Ms. Martha Bissett, Director of Special Education, is the member. To learn more about Alief Independent School District, please [visit their website](#).

The Bellevue School District is located in Bellevue, WA and serves approximately 19,000 students. Ms. Jean Anthony, Director of Special Education, is the member. Joining her is associate member Ms. Kelley Clevenger, Special Education Supervisor. To learn more about the Bellevue School District, please [visit their website](#).

Chelsea Public Schools is located in Chelsea, MA and serves approximately 6,500 students. Our very own Dr. David Riley, Executive Director of the Urban Collaborative, is a distinguished alum of Chelsea Public Schools. Ms. Victoria Crisp, Director of Special Education, is the member. To learn more about Chelsea Public Schools, please [visit their website](#).

The Verona Area School District is located in Verona, WA and serves approximately 5,500 students. Ms. Erin Schettler, Director of Student Services, is the member. To learn more about the Verona Area School District, please [visit their website](#).

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