



# 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.

## TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS

**1994-2014**

This year marks the Urban Collaborative's 20th anniversary. The organization's twenty years of service will be commemorated throughout the year, but we hope that you will join us to celebrate this milestone at our Spring Member Meeting in our hometown of Boston, Massachusetts.



Our soon-to-be-available new website will be user-friendly and allow you to have access to presentations, notes, and videos of keynote addresses from past meetings. In addition, you will find new and improved ways to see who our members are and how to contact us, as well as a comprehensive list of our consultation and professional learning services.

## SPRING MEMBER MEETING - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### **Bridges to Learning: Providing High-Quality Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Supports to Students in Urban Schools**

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for our Spring Member Meeting in Boston will be Dr. George Sugai. Dr. Sugai received his M.Ed. in 1974 and Ph.D. in 1980 at the University of Washington. His primary areas of interests are positive behavior support, systems change, teacher training, emotional and behavioral disorders, social skills instruction, behavioral consultation, behavioral assessment

procedures, and strategies for effective school-wide, classroom, and individual behavior management.

Currently at the University of Connecticut, Dr. Sugai is Carole J. Neag Endowed Chair in Behavior Disorders and professor with tenure. Dr. Sugai was also faculty at the University of Oregon and University of Kentucky, program director at an alternative school, and classroom teacher for students with behavior disorders. Dr. Sugai and colleagues have established the [Center for Behavioral Education and Research](#) in the Neag School of Education to improve academic and social behavior outcomes for students in schools by engaging in the systematic study of educational issues and interventions, as well as dissemination to preservice and inservice school personnel.

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE GUIDANCE

### Departments of Education and Justice Release School Discipline Guidance Package to Enhance School Climate and Improve School Discipline Policies/Practices

The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, released a [school discipline guidance package](#) that will assist states, districts, and schools in developing practices and strategies to enhance school climate, and ensure that those policies and practices comply with federal law. The guidance package provides resources for creating safe and positive school climates, which are essential for boosting student academic success and closing achievement gaps.



## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

### Center for School Mental Health University of Maryland

As we approach the Collaborative's Spring Member Meeting, we will be sharing resources that focus on providing social, emotional, and behavioral supports to students.

This month we are featuring the [The Center for School Mental Health \(CSMH\)](#). The mission of the CSMH is to strengthen policies and programs regarding school mental health to improve learning and outcomes for America's youth. The CSMH is committed to promoting student education, health, and mental health through a shared family-school-community agenda. The Center's team members are advocates, clinicians, teachers, and researchers, all working on the front line of effective school mental health promotion.

Among the many resources available on the website are [archived webinars](#), including *Creating Trauma Sensitive Schools*. This webinar features a presentation from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction regarding how they built upon existing mental health initiatives to use a Response to Intervention (RtI) framework to help schools support students affected by trauma.

The CSMH is also one of the co-hosts of the [Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health](#).

## NEW MEMBER DISTRICT



The Urban Collaborative is delighted to welcome [Spokane Public Schools \(SPS\)](#) to the Collaborative as our newest member district. SPS is the largest school district in eastern Washington and the second largest in the state, serving approximately 29,275 students.

Ms. Angela Johnstone, Director of Special Education and ELD, is Spokane's Collaborative Member, and Mr. Franklin Day, Program Assistant of Special Education, is the Associate Member. Please join us in welcoming them to the Collaborative!

### **Collaborative Help Desk:**

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