



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 - SAVE THE DATES!



We look forward to seeing you in Houston this fall!

SPRING MEMBER MEETING

Boston Meeting Presentations Available Online



Our Spring Member Meeting in Boston was critically informative, engaging, and a worthwhile opportunity to learn and network. We have received very positive feedback from many of our participants who indicated that they enjoyed both the beautiful city of Boston and the program that was thoughtfully assembled by our staff and supported by member districts, corporate partners, and event sponsors. Participants had the opportunity to hear a wonderfully rich and entertaining keynote presentation from our speaker, Dr. George Sugai, and to benefit from district-to-district sharing with concurrent sessions presented by 12 of our Member School Districts. The member-led sessions focused on how urban school districts are providing high-quality social, emotional, and behavioral supports to their students. On our website you can now find [copies of the presentations by Dr. Sugai and our member districts](#). We will be posting a video of the keynote address along with a video of our panel discussion, *Educating Students with Disabilities, A 20-Year Retrospective*, in the next few weeks. Be on the lookout for an announcement!

TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

Mapping the Evolution of Special Education

As part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, our Executive Director, David Riley, shared his reflections on the work of the Collaborative and the evolution of the field of special education over the past twenty years. The article, [Mapping the Evolution of Special Education: Reflecting Back, Gazing Forward](#), speaks both to the successes to be celebrated as well as the challenges education leaders face in providing teachers and students the supports they need to succeed.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Better Speech and Hearing Month

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has released new resources from the [Identify the Signs](#) campaign to educate the public about the early signs of communication disorders and how early detection can help. The *Identify the Signs* campaign was created in response to ASHA's new findings that identify lack of awareness of the early warning signs of speech, language, and hearing disorders as the leading barrier to early detection and treatment of communication disorders.

This year's BHSM theme is "Communication Disorders Are Treatable" and the awareness effort will highlight four weekly topics, including newborn hearing screening and follow up, noise-induced hearing loss in children, communication issues related to autism, and language and literacy.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The Promise of Personalized Learning

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 featuring an article from [Education Next](#) that looks at a charter school in East Los Angeles that uses a hybrid instructional model, known as blended learning. This model combines online and traditional instruction and offers students three different ways to learn. Blended learning is seen by some as a promising means of educating students with a wide variety of learning styles and abilities.

NEW MEMBER DISTRICT

Long Beach Unified School District



Please join us in welcoming Long Beach Unified School District as our newest member to the Urban Collaborative!

Long Beach Unified School District is located in Long Beach, California and serves approximately 81,000 students. Ms. Tiffany Brown, Director of Coordinated Services, is the member. Joining her are two Associate Members, Mr. Christopher Gutierrez-Lohrman, Director of Special Education, and Ms. Rachel Heenan, Program Specialist. To learn more about

Long Beach Unified School District, please visit their [website](#).

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