



# 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 - REGISTRATION REMINDER

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



Our Fall Member Meeting in Houston, TX is fast-approaching! Each district is entitled to one (1) free registration. All subsequent registrations are \$200 before October 20th. Beginning October 20th, there will be a charge of \$300 per registration.

To register, please [visit our website](#). You will need your username and password to access registration. If you need this information, please email Stephanie Stroman, Senior Administrative Assistant, at [sstroman@edc.org](mailto:sstroman@edc.org). We look forward to seeing you in Houston in November!

## CEEDAR CENTER

### CEEDAR Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform



The [CEEDAR Center](#) is a national technical assistance center dedicated to supporting states in their efforts to develop teachers and leaders who can successfully prepare students with disabilities to achieve college and career-ready standards.

The mission of the Center is "to create aligned professional learning systems that provide effective opportunities for teachers to master core and specialized instruction in inclusive settings-and for leaders to establish the conditions in schools that sustain high quality instruction- to enable students with disabilities to achieve college and career ready standards."

In July, the Center released "[Universal Design for Learning: Recommendations for Teacher Preparation and Professional Development](#)" that features an innovation configuration (IC) matrix that can guide teacher preparation professionals in the development of appropriate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) content.

## 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 [The Family Center on Technology and Disability](#). Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, the Family Center on Technology and Disability provides a wide range of resources on assistive technology, from introductory fact sheets and training materials, to in-depth discussion of best practices and emerging research.



## DROPOUT PREVENTION MONOGRAPH

### Decreasing Dropout Rates for Minority Male Youth with Disabilities from Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Backgrounds

In a time when graduation rates are showing notable improvement among students of color and students with disabilities, there are still great challenges that remain. The [National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities](#) has published a monograph that explores the problem of high school dropout rates among American Indian, Africa American, and Latino males. The monograph provides an in-depth look into the specific obstacles that impede this young population from graduating, while offering direction and articulating crucial changes that must be made to better serve these students. [View a copy of the monograph here.](#)



## NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

**Austin Independent School District, Kankakee School District #111,  
Pinellas County School Board, and Santa Fe Public Schools**



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

Austin Independent School District is located in Austin, TX and serves approximately 46,000 students. Ms. Tanya Browne, Director of Special Populations, is the member. Joining her are associate members Ms. Nicole Whetsone, Assistant Director of Special Education-Secondary and Ms. Peggy Garen, Assistant Director of Special Education-Elementary. To learn more about the Austin Independent School District, please [visit their website](#).

The Kankakee School District #111 is located in Kankakee, IL and serves approximately 5,500 students. Dr. Genevra Walters, Superintendent, is the member. Joining her is associate member Ms. Laura Fisher, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. To learn more about the Kankakee School District #111, please [visit their website](#).

The Pinellas County School Board is located in Largo, FL and serves approximately 104,000 students. Dr. Lisa Grant, Executive Director of Exceptional Student Education, is the member. To learn more about the Pinellas County School Board, please [visit their website](#).

Santa Fe Public Schools is located in Santa Fe, NM and serves approximately 2,250 students. Dr. Sherryll Kraizer, Director of Special Education, is the member. To learn more about the Santa Fe Public Schools, please [visit their website](#).

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