

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.

WELCOME

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR URBAN SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE



Lauren Katzman is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative, having taken this leadership role in November upon the retirement of David Riley, the founder of the 21-year-old membership organization.

Dr. Katzman's training and experience makes her an excellent choice to lead the organization in its third decade. Lauren was a long-term member of the Collaborative, having been the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education in the Newark (NJ) Public Schools and the Executive Director of Special Education in the New York City Department of Education. She was also an Associate Professor at Boston University, where she developed and taught special education courses for students majoring in special education, general education, and educational administration. She taught for 14 years as a special education teacher, starting in self-contained classes and schools and ending with the development of New York City's first inclusive middle school.

Dr. Riley will continue to serve the Collaborative in the role of Senior Advisor.

FALL MEMBER MEETING: MINNEAPOLIS

Reducing Disproportionality & Expanding Inclusive Practices Through Systems Redesign Concurrent Session Handouts

We extend our thanks to the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School districts for helping us make our Fall meeting such a great success. We also wish to thank the 11 member districts who shared their successes and challenges with the attendees during the exciting and informative concurrent sessions. We have posted the handouts from these session on our website. You can see them [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE



THE COLLABORATIVE
SUPPORTING EDUCATION LEADERS SINCE 1994

SAVE THE DATES

Spring 2016 Member Meeting

May 4–7, 2016

*Building Capacity to
Successfully Educate Students
within Urban School Districts*

Hosted by: Compton Unified School District
Omni Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

www.urbancollaborative.org

The poster features a background image of a city skyline with a blue sky and a body of water. On the left, there is a small image of a person in a red and gold costume. On the right, there is a small image of a modern building with a white facade.

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK
DECEMBER 7–11, 2015
www.inclusiveschools.org

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event sponsored by the [Inclusive Schools Network](#) (ISN) and Stetson & Associates, Inc., which is held each year during the first full week in December. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The Week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

Join the celebration this year! [Download free resources that make celebrating Inclusive Schools Week easy.](#)

OSERS GUIDANCE

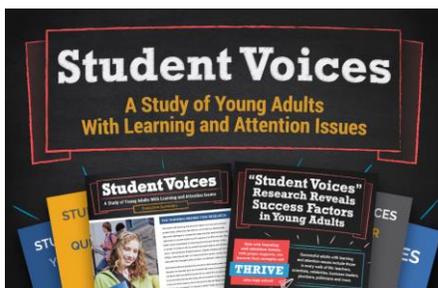


Policy Guidance Clarifying Use of Terms Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dysgraphia

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) has received communications from stakeholders, including parents, advocacy groups, and national disability organizations, who believe that state and local educational agencies (SEAs and LEAs) are reluctant to reference or use dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia in evaluations, eligibility determinations, or in developing the individualized education program (IEP) under the IDEA. [A policy guidance letter from OSERS](#) clarifies that there is nothing in the IDEA that would prohibit the use of the terms dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia in IDEA evaluation, eligibility determinations, or IEP documents.

RESEARCH

Student Voices: A Study of Young Adults With Learning and Attention Issues



The National Center for Learning Disabilities [has released information about their study](#) designed to gather firsthand information from young adults and determine what factors had the greatest impact on them during post high school transition. More than 1,200 young adults with learning and attention issues were surveyed to gather firsthand information about factors that had the greatest impact on them during and after their transition from high school.

The findings of the study are intended to encourage debate and discussion about ways to ensure that all young adults, including those with unidentified learning and attention issues, can move beyond their struggles, past having to simply cope with their challenges, and become successful navigators after leaving high school.

NEW MEMBER

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District



Santa Monica-Malibu School District is located in Santa Monica, CA and serves approximately 11,244 students. Ms. Pam Kazee, Director of Special Education, is the Member. To learn more about the Santa Monica-Malibu School District, please [visit their website here](#).

We look forward to meeting them at our Spring Member Meeting in Los Angeles!

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