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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

**Reducing Disproportionality & Expanding Inclusive Practices Through Systems Redesign
November 4-7, 2015**



Our Fall Member Meeting in Minneapolis, MN is fast-approaching! Each district is entitled to one (1) free registration. All subsequent registrations are \$200 before October 19th. 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 Pilar Miranda, Senior Administrative Assistant, at pmiranda@edc.org. We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis in November.

FALL MEETING CONSULTANCY SESSIONS

**Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative
Fall Member Meeting, Consultancy Sessions
Wednesday November 4, 2015
1:30 PM**



A Consultancy is a structured process for helping an individual or team think more expansively about a particular, concrete dilemma. At our Member Meetings we offer the host district(s) the opportunity to present dilemmas during the Consultancy Session that they would like our Collaborative members to consider and to share their expertise and experience.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 4, Minneapolis Public Schools and St. Paul Public Schools will kick-off our meeting with two consultancies. The dilemma that we will explore with our colleagues from Minneapolis will focus on the district's Special Education Placement Policy and the desire to revise the process used to place students in more restrictive settings. Our session with leaders from the St. Paul Public Schools will address reducing full- or part-day suspensions for students of color in special education.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday for these interesting and informative sessions.

DISCIPLINE

Are We Closing the School Discipline Gap?

In preparation for the Collaborative's Fall Member Meeting, we will be sharing resources that are related to our topic: *Reducing Disproportionality & Expanding Inclusive Practices Through Systems Redesign*. Here is one resource:

The [Civil Rights Project at UCLA](#) issued [a report](#) in February that documents gross disparities in the use of out-of-school suspension experienced by students with disabilities and those from historically disadvantaged racial, ethnic, and gender subgroups. The egregious disparities revealed in the report transform concerns about educational policy that allows frequent disciplinary removal into a profound matter of civil rights and social justice. This implicates the potentially unlawful denial of educational opportunity and resultant disparate impact on students in numerous districts across the country.

This is a report worth reading as we prepare to discuss redesigning systems in ways that attend to the disparities that exist in urban school systems today.

INCLUSION



Policy Statement on Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services recently released a policy statement highlighting the importance of making sure that all young children with disabilities have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the new policy statement in Kansas City, Missouri, during the first stop of his back-to-school bus tour.

The policy statement sets a vision for States, local educational agencies, schools, and public and private early childhood programs to strengthen and increase the number of inclusive high-quality

early childhood programs nationwide. As the country continues to move forward on the critical task of expanding access to high-quality early childhood programs for all young children, it is imperative that children with disabilities be included in these efforts.

The policy statement can be found [here](#).

SCHOOL INTEGRATION AND THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

This American Life: The Problem We All Live With

In July, the NPR radio program This American Life broadcast two powerful episodes devoted to the ongoing challenge to improve the performance of minority students in our public schools and the impact of desegregation. [Episode I](#) focuses on the Normandy School District in Normandy, Missouri. While [Episode II](#) looks at the schools in Hartford Connecticut. The two episodes revisit the issues surrounding school integration - a reform that is considered to be a failure despite evidence that it works.

Urban Special Education Leadership Collaborative
Education Development Center, Inc.
43 Foundry Avenue
Waltham, MA 02453



Phone: 617-618-2447
TTY: 617-964-5448
Fax: 617-332-4318
Email: collaborative@edc.org
Website: www.urbancollaborative.org