

# Welcome to CollabNews

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**URBANCOLLABORATIVE**

Leading Equitable & Inclusive Education

## MEMBER MEETING REGISTRATION AND CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

SPRING 2018 MEMBER MEETING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MAY 2-4, 2018

*Shared Decision Making and Its Impact on Inclusive Practices*



**EVENT**  
REGISTRATION

District presentations for this meeting will focus on shared decision making, including what has worked and what are the barriers. We need to learn from each other's successes and challenges, so please do not think that your district needs to have everything figured out to present! Engage your colleagues in finding solutions.



## DISPROPORTIONALITY REGULATIONS - CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

While implementation of the new regulations addressing disproportionality are likely stalled, EdWeek continues to address the issue and provide new information. [Racial Disparities in Special Ed.: How Widespread Is the Problem?](#) provides an update and an interesting national map of districts cited with the amount of funds they set aside in 2015-2016. Let's keep talking about this!

## DISPROPORTIONATE SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES



A study conducted by the Center for American Progress found that while students with disabilities represent 13% of preschoolers, they represent 75% of all suspensions and expulsions. Read [Preschoolers With Disabilities Inordinately Suspended, Report Finds](#), an article describing the study and the report; [Suspensions Are Not Support: The Disciplining of Preschoolers With Disabilities](#).

## BILINGUALISM A PLUS FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

A recent study has found that students with Autism who speak more than one language may be able to switch gears more quickly than those who are monolingual. Read [Being Bilingual May Be A Plus For Kids With Autism](#) for more information. The positive outcomes of students with Autism speaking more than one language is not a new concept. Read *My Daughter, My Teacher: Mary Ann, Autistic in English and Spanish* by Martha Ziegler, who was a founder and first executive



director of the Federation for Children with Special Needs in Boston and also Scientific American's 2016 article [For Children with Autism, Multiple Languages May Be a Boon](#).

## ACCESS + ABILITY EXHIBIT AT THE COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM

Check out the [Access + Ability](#) display at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum showing how design is making a broad range of experiences more inclusive. Read Disability Scoop's article [Smithsonian Exhibit Puts Focus On Accessible Design](#) describing the exhibit.



## TEXAS UPDATES



Read the latest information concerning issues surrounding Texas' special education enrollment. Here is the [US DOE Monitoring Report](#) and Ed Week's article describing the findings: [Texas Illegally Suppressed Special Education Enrollment, Ed. Dept. Finds](#). Read [Texas announces \\$84.5M plan to improve special education](#) to learn about Texas' proposed plan of action.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER DISTRICTS

**Bethel School District** is located in Spanaway, WA, and serves approximately 19789 students. We welcome Lori Haugen, Executive Director of Special Services, as our lead member and joining her is associate member, David Hammond. To learn more about Bethel School District, please visit the [website here](#).



**Newton Public Schools** is located in Newton, MA, and serves approximately 12600 students. We welcome Karen Shmukler, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, as our lead member. To learn more about Newton Public Schools, please visit the [website here](#).



## CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS!

In an effort to invite more collaboration and participation to bridge policy, research, and practice in urban special education, CollabNews will give member's the opportunity to submit articles, research, and news related to special education and/or your district to be published in CollabNews. If you would like to submit material for upcoming issues, please click the link below to fill out a short form and we will contact you!



## CONTACT US

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