

Welcome to CollabNews

December 2018

Volume 21, Issue 12



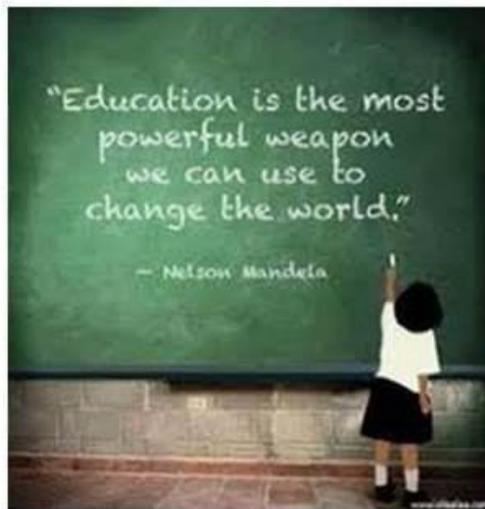
URBANCOLLABORATIVE

Leading Equitable & Inclusive Education

Happy New Year!!

The Urban Collaborative wishes its members, partners, and sponsors a peaceful and happy new year!

You are making the world a better place one district, one school, one class, and one student at a time.



School Discipline Guidance

The Department of Education has rescinded the Obama-era guidance ensuring that students of color and those with disabilities are not unfairly disciplined. This move had been predicted and was finally decided after a recommendation from the Trump administration's Federal School Safety Commission, formed following the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Read these articles for more information:

- [Betsy DeVos Revokes Obama Discipline Guidance Designed to Protect Students of Color](#)
- [What the End of Obama-Era Discipline Guidance Would Mean for Schools](#)

At the same time, while the [Keeping All Students Safe Act](#) bill has been introduced in Congress to regulate the use of restraints and seclusion in schools, yet another student has died while being restrained. This child was 13 years-old. You can read about his death in this article: [Protesters Demand Closure Of School Where Teen Was Restrained, Later Died](#).

In some positive news, the FDA is finally signaling its ban to end The Judge Rotenberg's Center's use of electrical stimulation devices, or electric shocks to a child's torso and limbs that are used to discipline children's self-injurious or aggressive behavior, but causes undo pain, burning, seizures, and muscle spasms. There have been efforts since 1980 to close the Rotenberg Center, but with little effect. Read [FDA To Finalize Ban On Shock Devices Used On Those With Special Needs](#) to learn more about this news and to read the bill. You can also read this 2007 Mother Jones' expose titled [School of Shock](#) to learn more about the practice.

Special Education: Practices and Pitfalls (EdWeek Special Report)



Education Week published a special report this month titled [Special Education: Practices and Pitfalls](#), taking what they describe as "a schoolhouse-level view at the nation's special education system, with a focus on the experience of educators and students." The report explores staffing shortages, co-teaching strategies, technology, as well as parent advocacy and three powerful pieces written by students.

Fully-Funding Special Education?



U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland continues to push for the federal government to fully fund 40 percent of special education costs as required by IDEA with the Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act. Currently the federal government funds approximately 15 percent of special education costs and Title I is similarly underfunded. According to Hollen, "Congress had the right

intentions when it passed Title I and IDEA, but we have fallen short on the promises in the law to fully fund these critical programs. It's time we kept our promises to kids today and to future generations. The Keep Our PACT Act will make sure we do just that," said Senator Van Hollen." Read [Van Hollen Introduces Bill to Fund Title I, Special Education](#) to learn more.

U.S. Education in 2018 in 10 charts

[This EdWeek article](#) looks back at 10 educational trends and events in 2018 through the lens of data. The piece examines the use of technology, attendance, the effect of Maria on schools in Puerto Rico, and even the trends of young voters. Look at #8, an info graphic describing the shortage of special educators. The graphic explains that while the percentage of students with disabilities has decreased by 1%, the pool of special education teachers has decreased by 17%.

Over the past decade



Note: Data is for students ages 6-21.
SOURCE: Education Week Research Center analysis of IDEA and CCD data, 2018

EDUCATION WEEK

Coding Skills for People with Autism

Autism Speaks and NXT Gen Codes have partnered to support 14 programs across the country teaching people with autism to code and develop digital literacy skills, with the intent of improving employment prospects with people with Autism. You can read [Programs Teaching Those With Autism To Code Get Boost](#) for more information.



Charter Schools Ignoring Special Education?



Charter schools are less likely to respond to application inquiries from parents of students with severe disabilities, according to researchers from Columbia University and the University of Florida.

The new study dives into the old debate over whether charter schools favor the easiest-to-educate students when it comes to admissions either to save money or to make their schools look better academically. Check out the article below.

[Charter Schools More Likely to Ignore Special Education Applicants, Study Finds](#)

Settlement Agreements in Berkeley, California and for the State of Ohio

The Berkeley, Calif., school system and the state of Ohio recently settled two long-running special education disputes with promises that they will better serve students with disabilities. In Berkeley, students should see improved access to 504 services and in Ohio, the focus was on providing more effective inclusive services in the state's more urban districts. Read [Special Education Reforms at Center of New Settlement Agreements](#) for more information. You can also read our colleague [Tom Hehir's report](#) used in the settlement to help better understand the state of special education services in Ohio.

Save the Date for our Spring 2019 Member Meeting!
Registration opening in January.

A promotional poster for the Spring 2019 Member Meeting. The background features a city skyline and a river. The text is as follows:
URBAN COLLABORATIVE
Leading Equitable & Inclusive Education
SAVE THE DATES
SPRING 2019 - Member Meeting
May 1-3, 2019
The Power of Social and Emotional Learning:
"A Good Head and a Good Heart are Always a Formidable Combination" (Nelson Mandela)
www.urbancollaborative.org
The Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA
The poster also includes three small inset photos: a group of diverse children, a child writing, and a family.



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