



Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide

Inclusive Schools Network News

March 2009

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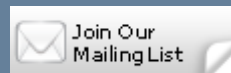
Inclusive Schools Network

"Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide"

The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is a web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. This network has grown out of Inclusive Schools Week™, an internationally-recognized, annual event sponsored by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). In 2009, ISN will be expanding its capacity to offer new products, conferences, online events, and social networking opportunities.



Inclusive Schools Network News is your source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week, and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities. Click below to subscribe:



ISN Resources & Events:

New Resources on ISN Website!

The **Resources** section of the ISN website was recently updated, and is now organized by topic:

- [Inclusive Education: General Information, Articles & School Profiles](#)
- [Differentiated Instruction & Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\)](#)
- [Student Supports: Behavior, Organization & Time Management](#)
- [Technology in Schools](#)
- [Transition](#)
- [Family Involvement & Advocacy](#)
- [Student Empowerment & Self-Determination](#)
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Video-Cast: ISN Math Webinar

On December 3, 2008, the Inclusive Schools Network hosted its first webinar on the topic "**Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom**" with Drs. Hank Kepner and Lisa Dieker. This 90-minute online presentation and discussion was recorded, and a video-cast of the event can now be purchased for viewing through the ISN website. It is an excellent professional development resource for educators and organizations looking to improve practice and help students with disabilities in addressing math standards in inclusive settings. For more information, and to purchase the video-cast, go to:

http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Webinar_2008_December

The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week December 7 - 11, 2009 Save the Dates!

Featured Events:

**"The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act:
Its Impact on Students with LD and AD/HD"**
Special Webinar: March 18, 2009, 12:00 - 1:30 pm EDT

On January 1, 2009, the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA) went into effect, making historic changes to our nation's civil rights law for people with disabilities. Join Matt Cohen, Esq., a Chicago-based attorney and national advocate for children with disabilities to learn how the revised law will strengthen

interpretation of the requirements under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and improve access to accommodations under the ADA and Section 504 for students and young adults with LD and/or AD/HD. Register for the webinar at: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=1fgx6lbrqb4e3>.

International Conference on Self-Determination May 3-5, 2009

The Center for Self-Determination will hold the 2nd Annual International Conference on Self-Determination in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, May 3-5, 2009. For more information, and to register for this event, go to: <http://www.centerforself-determination.com>.

"Contours of Inclusion" Conference: The Intersection between the Arts and Universal Design for Learning May 15, 2009

The Partnership for Arts-based Instruction and Inclusion is hosting a one-day conference to explore the intersection between arts-based instruction and the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to support learning across disciplines for all students. The Partnership is a collaboration between VSA arts of Massachusetts, Lesley University and the University of Massachusetts Graduate College of Education. Visit www.vsamass.org for more information and to register for this event, or download the event flyer at: [http://www.vsamass.org/Fliercontuorsofinclusion%20\(3\)%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.vsamass.org/Fliercontuorsofinclusion%20(3)%5B1%5D.pdf).

Toronto Summer Institute on Inclusion, Community and Diversity July 11-16, 2009

Early Bird registration is now taking place for the Toronto Summer Institute on Inclusion, Community and Diversity. The Institute will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, during the week of July 11-16. Download the Institute pamphlet for more information about this event and early registration: <http://www.inclusion.com/2009torontopamphlet.pdf>.

Tip of the Month:

Parents and Families are Valuable Partners in Supporting Inclusive Education

Inclusive schools that have maintained success over time have a very important commonality: They engage family members in meaningful school and classroom activities. Family involvement is an important component in nurturing a school environment of acceptance and support.

The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) provides funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Parent Centers in every U.S. state, in U.S. territories, and to serve the families of U.S. Military around the world. These Parent Centers provide information and resources to educate parents and to help schools actively engage families in their children's education. The Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers' maintains a **Parent Center Directory** on their website. To connect with your state's Parent Center and learn more about the role of parents and families in supporting inclusive education, visit: <http://www.taalliance.org/ptdirectory/index.asp>.

To see more ISN **Resources** and **Tips** related to Family Involvement & Advocacy, please visit: http://inclusiveschools.org/Family_Involvement_Resources.

Featured Resource:

Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands Webinar Series

The Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands (REL-NEI) hosts a webinar series on topics relating to research-based educational practice. The most recent topic, "**School Practices to Improve Mathematics Teaching and Learning for Students With Disabilities**", featured REL-NEI researchers discussing both math-specific interventions, such as additional math support time, and schoolwide practices, such as teacher collaboration, to enhance math education for students with disabilities. Visit the REL-NEI website to view this and other webinars from their online archive: <http://www.relnei.org/events.webinararchives.schoolpractices.php>.

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

President Obama's Education Plan Aims to Close the Achievement Gap in U.S.

President Barack Obama outlined his plans for education reform in a speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on March 10th. The major themes of his speech were closing the educational achievement gap for minority groups and preparing all students for success in the global economy of the 21st Century. There are five components to the proposed reforms:

- Investment in early childhood initiatives.
- Alignment of curriculum standards across the U.S.
- Commitment to teacher recruitment, training and retention.
- Expansion of charter schools and other "innovative" programs.
- Increased financial aid for post-secondary education and training.

The full text of President Obama's speech is available on the Wall Street Journal website at: <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2009/03/10/obamas-remarks-on-education-2/>.

A summary article about the president's speech and reactions to the plan is

available on the U.S. News and World Report website at:
http://www.usnews.com/usnews/politics/bulletin/bulletin_090311.htm.

Support Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week!

Here's how YOU can make a difference:

Your purchase of products or tax-deductible contribution supports the work we are doing to support families, schools, and communities around the world to create awareness, build knowledge, and encourage systems change toward more inclusive educational opportunities for all children. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, and we are extremely grateful for your support!

ISN products are available for purchase online! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2009 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view these products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our new **Products Page and Secure Online Order Form**:

<https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

Click here to **download a contribution form** and make a donation today:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf>

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