

State Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Minutes

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities met online via Zoom, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Council Members Present:

Marcella Dalla Rosa
Dana Davis
Courtney Eubanks
Shelby Knight
Christy Lamas - for Alan McClain
Lacey Monroe
Candia Nicholas
Sherry Rogers
Bruce Smith
Deb Swink
Robyn Williams
Sonja Wright-McMurray – for Dr. Angela Kremers

Special Education Staff Present:

Jeff Adams
Bonnie Boaz
Jody Fields
Tiah Frazier
Yvonne Greene
Lisa Johnson
Laura McCammon
Wendy Pascoe
Rick Porter
Tanya Powell
Tabitha Riendeau
Rhonda Saunders
Matt Sewell
Robin Stripling
Michelle Waldo

Guests Present: Jo Ella Peever – LEA Supervisor

The meeting began at 10:02 a.m. with Ms. Deb Swink, Chairperson, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Swink welcomed the Advisory Council members, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education Unit (DESE-SEU) staff and guest to the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2020, meeting. The minutes were approved by the council.

Section Reports:

Section Reports were presented and are available to view on the Special Education website.

Presentation: Ms. Sherry Rogers, Education Specialist Liason for Children and Family Services – Ms. Rogers shared her presentation, “Promoting Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care” that gave an overview of what her job entails and what she is trying to accomplish at the Division of Children and Family Services. Ms. Rogers presented statistics for children in foster care as compared to their peers:

- 4300 children in foster care
- 50% graduate rate from high school
- Unlikely to attend or graduate from college – 20% college graduation rate
- GED used at 6 times the rate of their peers
- Twice as likely to be absent and suspended
- Three times more likely to be expelled

- 56-75% - Change schools when they enter care

Presentation: Ms. Dana Davis, Public School Program Advisor for McKinney-Vento – Ms. Davis shared her presentation, “McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth in the state of Arkansas.” Ms. Davis explained McKinney-Vento is a federal law designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. McKinney-Vento requires that homeless children and youth have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Ms. Davis shared the 2019-2020 Homeless Children and Youth Arkansas Numbers by Housing Type:

- 522 in emergency or transition shelters
- 10,331 doubled-up (sharing housing due to economic hardship or lack of housing)
- 254 unsheltered (living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc...)
- 321 in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations

Presentation: Mr. Jeff Adams, State Systemic Plan Coordinator for Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education - Dr. Adams shared a presentation of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for Indicator 17 State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Dr. Adams discussed the FY 18 State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) data. In SSIP targeted schools, 59.45% of students with disabilities in grades 3-5 had value-added growth scores (VAS) in reading categorized as moderate or high growth.

Measurement Calculation for FFY2018

Component of Calculation	Value
Number of SWD with a VAS in reading at participating schools and grade levels.	730
Number of SWD whose VAS in reading is categorized as low	296
Number of SWD whose VAS in reading is categorized as moderate	332
Number of SWD whose VAS in reading is categorized as high	102
Percent of SWD in grades 3-5, from the targeted schools, whose value-added score (VAS) in reading is categorized as moderate or high for the same subject and grade level in the state. ((C+D)/A)*100	59.45%

Though the target of 62.53% was not met, an increase of 8.82% was noted between FY17 and FY18 data in SSIP targeted schools.

Progress on the State-identified Measurable Result

Percentage of Students with Disabilities (SWD) in grades 3-5, from the targeted schools, whose value-added score (VAS) in reading is categorized as moderate or high for the same subject and grade level in the state.

FFY	Actual	Target
2017	50.63%	61.03%
2018	59.45%	62.53%

In addition to the SiMR data, Dr. Adams reported that improvement on the SSIP strategy to build a coherent system of support for LEAs has also progressed, as measured by the SSIP Infrastructure Development Planning and Progress Management: Using Implementation Drivers and Stages of Implementation. The Arkansas SSIP Theory of Action has been updated to reflect major DESE initiatives, including High Reliability Schools, Professional Learning Communities, R.I.S.E., High-Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms, Advancing Inclusive Principal Leadership, and Arkansas RTI.

SSIP Infrastructure Development Planning and Progress Management Tool Results:

Area of Performance	Score	Implementation Stage
Competency: Selection	4.5	Between Initial Implementation and Full Implementation
Competency: Training	5.0	Full Implementation
Competency: Coaching	4.0	Initial Implementation
Competency: Average Score	4.5	NA
Performance Assessment (Fidelity)	4.0	Initial Implementation
Organizational Drivers: Decision Support Data System	3.5	Between Installation Stage and Initial Implementation
Organizational Drivers: Facilitative Administration	4.5	Between Initial Implementation and Full Implementation
Organizational Drivers: System Intervention	4.0	Initial Implementation
Organizational Drivers: Average Score	4.0	NA
Leadership Drivers: Technical and Adaptive	4.5	Between Initial Implementation and Full Implementation

Dr. Adams requested feedback from the Special Education Advisory Council regarding the plan to continue implementing the SSIP with the updated Theory of Action. The Advisory Council supported this decision to continue the SSIP Implementation Plan as written.

Future Agenda Item Suggestions:

- Bruce Smith – Meeting IEP requirements online
- Matt Sewell – Share guidance SPED has provided for online services
- Courtney Eubanks – Online learning/tele-therapy/Google classroom examples with Deb Swink
- Sherry Rogers – General overview of Extended School Year (ESY) Services
- Matt Sewell – Membership & appointments for the Advisory Council

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.