

## 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, July 20, 2021.

### **Council Members Present:**

Cindy Ball  
Joseph Baxter  
Katie Cravens  
Tracy Dowell  
Courtney Eubanks  
Leslie Faulkner  
Wayne Foster  
Dewey Graves  
Christy Lamas  
Candia Nicholas  
Sherry Rogers  
Deb Swink  
Viviana Villegas  
Sonja Wright-McMurray

### **Special Education Staff Present:**

Dr. Jeff Adams  
Crystal Bethea  
Dr. Jody Fields  
Yvonne Greene  
Josh Hart  
Lisa Johnson  
Danita Pitts  
Rick Porter  
Rhonda Saunders  
Matt Sewell  
Robin Stripling  
Michelle Waldo

The meeting began at 9:01 a.m. with Ms. Courtney Eubanks, Chairperson, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Eubanks welcomed the Advisory Council members and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education (DESE-OSE) staff to the meeting.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made and then seconded to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2021, meeting. The minutes were approved by the Council.

**Presentation: Dr. Jody Fields, Special Education Data Manager**, presented to the Advisory Council a summary of the Annual Performance Report (APR) stakeholder meetings and the feedback provided for setting targets under the new APR package. The following is a list of stakeholder meetings and the Indicators discussed:

- April 20, 2021: State Advisory Council meeting: Overview of APR changes
- April 27, 2021: Stakeholder session one: Indicator 1: Graduation and Indicator 2: Drop out
- April 29, 2021: LEA Monthly Call: Indicator 17: SSIP
- May 11, 2021: Stakeholder session two: Indicator 3: Assessment
- May 25, 2021: Stakeholder session three – Two breakout groups
  - School Age: Indicator 5: Educational environment; Indicator 8: Family Involvement; Indicator 14: Post-school Outcomes
  - Early Childhood: Indicator 6: Preschool Educational environment; Indicator 7: Early Childhood Outcomes; Indicator 8: Family Involvement
- June 23, 2021 @ ADE Summit: Indicator 1: Graduation and Indicator 2: Drop out
- June 24, 2021 @ ADE Summit: Indicator 5: Educational Environment and Indicator 6: Preschool Educational Environment

At the July 20, 2021, Advisory Council meeting members were asked to provide input on Indicator 4A: Discipline. In addition, Dr. Jeff Adams presented an update on Indicator 17 and requested feedback on the expansion of participating schools and state initiatives.

**Mr. Matt Sewell, Director for Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education**, shared highlights from the 2020-2021 Arkansas State Advisory Council for Special Education Annual Report along with the focus areas for 2021-2022. Mr. Sewell mentioned he would like for himself, Dr. Jeff Adams and Ms. Robin Stripling to present their Inclusive Practices presentation. It will provide Professional Development and an opportunity to get feedback from the Council.

Mr. Sewell shared the following focus areas for the 2021-2022 year:

- Inclusive Practices
  - School Age
  - Early Childhood
- Graduation Expectations
- Behavior and Mental Health Supports
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Supports
- Instructional Practices for Students with Significant Disabilities
- Review and Revise Special Education Rules and Regulations to allow greater flexibility within a student-focused learning system.
- SSIP SiMR (State-identified Measurable Result) Adjustments
- State Personnel Development Grant - Professional Learning Competency-based System

**Section Reports:**

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

**Future Agenda Item Suggestions:**

- Matt Sewell – States APR Determination with Dr. Jody Fields

**Next Steps and Final Remarks:**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.