

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Office of Special Education
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Arkansas Transition Services, April 2022**

- A professional learning opportunity for five districts was held on Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students (CIRCLES) schools. Each team developed an action plan to begin implementation in the Fall of 2022.
- Six Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI) schools are in the second semester of implementation of this intervention. Several success stories have been shared by educators including a student whose improved school attendance resulted in her ultimate goal of improving her grades.
- We continue our efforts in increasing compliance with Indicator 13, as Arkansas Transition Services staff facilitated four schools in the Transition Coalition Self-Study: IDEA and Secondary Transition. Each school completed a module on secondary transition, reviewed compliant and non-compliant transition plans, and developed an action plan to improve secondary transition in their schools. ATS will continue to work with these schools training in January. We will then facilitate the self-study in at least four schools.
- Follow-up coaching for teams who attended the December Cadre and used the Predictors Implementation School Assessment (PISA) is being provided ongoing. The *PISA* is a tool that allows schools to review definitions and characteristics of twenty predictors, identified and based on research, of positive post-school outcomes, assess their use of the predictors in their program, and develop a plan to incorporate any number of predictors within their program. These teams are all in the process of working through their plans and many have required additional assistance from ATS.
- Our efforts working with the Children and Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI) Project on the CAYSI Transition Pilot continue as we meet with school teams to check in on progress of improving transition practices for two students in the Discovery phase. We have completed a home visit with one student and in the coming weeks will complete a home visit with another student to determine greatest needs and strategies to meet those needs. Person-Centered Planning will be provided as needed for students, including follow-up person-centered planning for students who participated in previous years. The goal is for students who are Deafblind to be able to obtain employment, possibly customized employment.
- Additional PoPuP PD sessions on setting independent living skills goals and on transportation are in development and will soon be available on our website. These are short sessions that provide information on different topics.
- Arkansas Transition Services staff is working on development of new tools and training for two summer sessions that will be held at every education cooperative. The two sessions will be **Secondary Transition Compliance Basics** and **Best Practices and Promoting Inclusive Practices through the PISA**. These sessions will be offered during the next school year as well as summer. Additional summer sessions will include, person-centered planning, transportation training with Rock Region Metro, video modeling, executive function skills, and guidance on transition classes.
- Applications are now being accepted for Film Camp, April 25-29, at University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech in North Little Rock. Three teams will be led by Inclusion Films instructors to produce a positive short film and a public service announcement, while engaging in all aspects of the film industry. Each attendee will be interviewed on camera by Joey Travolta. Additionally, attendees will participate in an animation class provided by a University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech instructor. By the end of the camp they will have the makings for three short films that will be edited and finalized to be shown at a premiere event in the future.
- Applications are now being accepted for *College Bound Arkansas* (June 27-29, at University of Central Arkansas). The camp allows attendees to stay in dorms and attend a variety of sessions to see what supports are available on a college campus and how they can succeed if they choose post-secondary education on a college campus. Sessions include, a mock class, self-determination, financial aid, organizational skills, mental health, social life on a college campus, agency services, and more.
- Arkansas Transition Services will attend and present updates on secondary transition events and opportunities at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' celebration event for schools *with* Work based learning Opportunities Leading to Future employment (WOLF) and Working for Independence Now (WIN) programs May 6.

- The NTACT: The Collaborative Core Team, met March 16 and discussed the continued scaling up of CIRCLES with the possibility of it being funded through Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and stipends for future participating districts. We also discussed efforts to collaborate on students with disabilities participating in transition classes that progress to various Career and Technical Education courses, including *Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG)*.
- Members of the *NTACT: The Collaborative Core Team* will attend the *Virtual Capacity Building Institute* May 5-7. This is an opportunity to share our state's successes and to learn from other states implementing programs and practices that work in reaching positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. Arkansas will share on our efforts to implement and scale up CIRCLES.
- Three members of Arkansas Transition Services will attend the Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) conference in Myrtle Beach in May. This will allow us the opportunity to not only learn from others in a variety of secondary transition topics, but also to learn more about holding the international conference in Little Rock in November 2022.