

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Office of Special Education
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and
State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), April 2023**

State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)

- Cohort 2 for the 2022-2023 includes Dawson Education Service Cooperative, Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative, Glen Rose School District, Mulberry Pleasant View Bi-County School District, and Heber Springs Schools.
- 2 Cohorts of Cognitive Coaching for the 2022-2023 school year. Days 7 and 8 happened in early February.
 - DESE Cohort has 31 participants
 - Cohort 3 for Districts and ESCs has 65 participants
- Conducted 6 monthly Coaching Collaborative Calls focused on coaching practices and support, averaging 55 attendees
- SPDG has started the Annual Performance Report which is due May 5.
- 107 educators enrolled in SPDG micro-credentials focused on high-leverage and evidence-based practices
- 28 educators have completed a micro-credential
- 12 micro-credentials are currently available to educators
 - Current Titles
 - UDL-Multiple Means of Engagement
 - UDL-Multiple Means of Representation
 - UDL-Multiple Means of Action and Express
 - UDL-Applying UDL Principles and Guidelines to Lesson Design
 - Supporting Positive Behavior Through Conversation with Students
 - Collaborate with Professional to Increase Student Access
 - Establish a Consistent, Organized, and Respectful Learning Environment
 - Educator Self-Assessment and Professional Growth
 - Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom
 - Providing Feedback to Promote Professional Growth
 - Using Explicit Instruction to Teach Vocabulary
 - Provide scaffolded supports
 - Titles Coming Soon
 - Teach pro-social behaviors
 - Use explicit instruction
 - Use flexible groupings
 - Use assistive technology (4 micro-credentials)
 - Organize and facilitate effective meetings with professionals and families
 - Collaborate with families to support student learning
 - Develop a comprehensive learner profile to understand students' strengths and needs
 - Provide positive and constructive feedback to guide students' learning and behavior



Introduction to Micro-credentials video



Are you interested in earning a micro-credential? If so, scan the QR code or use the link to provide us with your information.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires each State Educational Agency (SEA) to develop a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) as part of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. Arkansas's multi-year plan outlines strategies to address state capacity for leading change efforts in Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). The Arkansas SSIP is intended to drive innovation in the delivery of services to students, especially students with disabilities in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Arkansas SSIP highlights the need for a system of support that is aligned with other units within the Arkansas Department of Education to improve the literacy results in grades 3-5 for students with disabilities. The SSIP is aligned with the Arkansas State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) to support general and special educator collaboration focused on improving tiered systems of support for academics and behavior through the implementation of high-leverage and other evidence-based inclusive practices. The State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) for Arkansas is the percent of students with disabilities in grades 3-5, from targeted schools, whose value-added score in reading is moderate or high for the same subject and grade level in the state.

The SSIP targeted schools have continued receiving support through the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and through the Inclusive Practices Project. For more information regarding SPDG-supported schools, see the above SPDG section of this report. A new cohort (Cohort 4) of the [Inclusive Practices Project](#) was announced via a statewide webinar on March 16, 2023. The timeline for this project is as follows:

Statewide Webinar	March 16, 2023 @ 2:00
Letters of Intent Due	April 7, 2023
Applications Mailed to Points of Contact	April 21, 2023
Applications Due	May 5, 2023
Evaluation Period	May 8-May 12, 2023
Finalist Interviews	May 15-May 19, 2023
Notification of Awards	May 26, 2023
Tentative Project Start Date	July 2023

Current (Cohort 3) project schools have completed an overview, a needs assessment, a PLC Continuum Survey, and initial principal and teacher efficacy surveys. Follow up principal and teacher efficacy surveys will be collected in April. The SSIP Coordinator and state liaisons have visited with project schools to observe collaborative processes and collect value creation stories regarding the work. The value creation stories will be included on the [Inclusive Practices Website](#) and in an Inclusive Practices Toolkit that is being developed to engage stakeholders with information about the All In Initiative. The SSIP Coordinator facilitated a parent/family engagement session on March 16th in collaboration with The Center for Exceptional Families (TCFEF). The focus of this engagement session was to seek feedback regarding the Inclusive Practices Toolkit and supporting resources. Data acquired from this stakeholder meeting will be used to calibrate the Inclusive Practices Toolkit to the needs of families in Arkansas.

State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) Indicator 17 State Systemic Improvement Plan Data:

FFY 2021 Target	61.50% of students with moderate to high value-added growth scores in literacy
FFY 2021 Data 877/1304	67.25% of students had moderate to high value-added growth scores in literacy

The State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) is the percent of students with disabilities (SWD) in grades 3-5, from the targeted schools, whose value-added score (VAS) in reading is moderate or high for the same subject and grade level in the state.

[SSIP Logic Model](#)

[SSIP Theory of Action](#)

[SSIP Alignment and Evaluation Plan](#)

Arkansas Collaborative Consultants (ACC)

The Arkansas Collaborative Consultants (ACC) serve as the technical assistance arm of the Office of Special Education and are coordinated through the work of the State Systemic Improvement Plan. The ACC continues to provide technical assistance to LEAs across Arkansas for all areas served under IDEA. The following consultant groups comprise the ACC:

- Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Consultant
- Arkansas Behavior Support Specialists (BSS)
- Arkansas Brain Injury Support
- Arkansas Co-Teaching Project
- Arkansas Public School Resource Center - Special Education Consultant
- Arkansas Transition Services
- Children and Youth with Sensory Impairment (CAYSI)
- Deaf Education Specialist
- Dispute Resolution
- Early Childhood Special Education Support
- Easterseals Outreach Program and Technology Services (esOPTS)
- Educational Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Resources for Schools (EARS)
- Educational Services for the Visually Impaired (ESVI)
- Office of Coordinated Supports and Services (OCSS)
- Related Services Coordinators Consultant
- State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)