

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Special Education
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Curriculum and Assessment, January 2023**

Alternate Assessment

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 required that every district that assesses more than 1% of its tested students on the alternate assessment submit information to DESE justifying those decisions. Those justifications were reviewed by DESE-OSE staff in mid-September. Based on the justification information provided, required actions were put into place for districts. For districts anticipating administering the alternate assessment to more than two percent of its students, DESE-OSE staff will make an onsite visit to review student due process folders.

MIDAS Grant

The DESE Office of Special Education (OSE) has been awarded a federal grant in the amount of \$2,145,418 to develop resources for students who participate in the state's alternate assessment or previously participated in the alternate assessment. Making Improved Decisions for Students on the Cusp of Alternate Assessment Participation Using Multiple Measures of Academic Achievement from Multiple Sources (MIDAS) will work directly with educators and students in Arkansas, North Carolina, and West Virginia, with Arkansas being the lead state. The MIDAS leadership team is scheduled to meet in West Virginia on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Learning for All Professional Development

During the summer and fall of 2022, members of the DESE-OSE are providing training at all the state's educational service cooperatives. Attendees explored evidence-based approaches to enhance outcomes for all students. The approaches examined included cognitive and metacognitive strategies and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guidelines. Teams collaborated to develop a UDL lesson plan and explored how the Council for Exceptional Children's High Leverage Practices can support all students, including those with disabilities. The knowledge gained will be helpful in providing teachers the skills they need to support all students in general education classrooms as the state promotes core instruction being provided in inclusive, general education settings. As of January 2023, approximately 2200 attendees have participated in this training. Additional inclusive education trainings are being developed for this coming summer. One option will be for all educators and a separate option will be for teachers who support students with complex support needs.

Inclusive Education Toolkit

The DESE Office of Special Education (OSE) is collaborating with the DESE Learning Services Division to create an inclusive education toolkit. The toolkit will provide resources for parents, teachers, and administrators describing why inclusive education is important and how the state is supporting districts in moving in this direction. The toolkit will contain videos and print resources.