

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Curriculum and Assessment, January 2021**

TIES Center Peer Learning Group (PLG)

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit (DESE-SEU) Curriculum and Assessment team participated in the TIES Center PLG on Standards-based Academic Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. The team obtained many resources to share with districts pertaining to this group of students. TIES stands for Increasing **(T)ime**, **(I)nstructional** Effectiveness, **(E)ngagement**, and **State and District (S)upport** for Inclusive Practices.

Alternate Assessment

The Curriculum and Assessment team has coordinated onsite folder reviews in the districts that have over 1% of their students participating in the alternate assessment. We have seen tremendous improvement in knowledge about alternate assessment participation across the state. We greatly appreciate the hard work that educators have done in this area.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Observations

The Curriculum and Assessment team is working with the DESE Assessment Unit to conduct observations of the DLM assessment. This assessment is given one-on-one with the teacher and is to be embedded within instruction. The teacher is asked to provide suggestions of instructional resources and suggestions regarding the assessment itself.

Inclusive Practices

The Curriculum and Assessment team is in the final stages of developing an Inclusive Practices page for the DESE-SEU website. Additionally, the team is contributing to the development of an Inclusive Practices professional development offering.

IDEA and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law

Danita Pitts and Robin Stripling recently gave a presentation to the state's dyslexia specialists. The presentation focused on the way these two laws can work together. There are also two upcoming virtual presentations planned for dyslexia specialists. These will be hosted through educational cooperatives.

Alternate English Language Proficiency Exam Development

Arkansas continues to work with a collaborative of states working to develop an alternate English language proficiency assessment for students who are English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Robin Stripling from the DESE-SEU and Dr. Alan Lytle from the DESE Assessment Unit are the state members on this team. The team meets on a weekly basis.