

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

All In Professional Development

The team has been traveling this summer to educational service cooperatives providing two learning opportunities. One full-day training consists of inclusionary practices to assist teachers in creating inclusive educational opportunities for all students. The other full-day training focuses on teachers who support students with extensive support needs. Both trainings have been well received. The team plans to continue this work in the fall.

New Statewide Assessment

The Curriculum and Assessment team have been actively involved with the DESE Office of Student Assessment in the development of the Arkansas Teaching and Learning Assessment System (ATLAS). The new assessment system will provide enhanced accessibility features for students with IEPs and 504 Plans. This assessment will be administered to students in grades three through high school.

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. In the spring, Arkansas educators participated in online focus groups and also had classroom observations from MIDAS staff.

Inclusive Education Toolkit

The DESE OSE collaborated with the DESE Learning Services Division to create an inclusive education toolkit. The toolkit provides 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 is linked on the All In website and contains videos and print resources. The All In website may be accessed at Tinyurl.com/ARInclusivePractices.