

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Special Education
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Curriculum and Assessment, October 2022**

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 grant activities are to

1. Compile information about existing resources;
2. Conduct analyses of identified resources;
3. Identify gaps;
4. Hold educator online focus groups;
5. Conduct classroom observations;
6. Conduct parent interviews;
7. Conduct targeted data analyses;
8. Hold stakeholder meeting to identify strategies for effectively using multiple measures to inform instruction;
9. Draft customizable templates for using data from multiple measures;
10. Draft PD modules and materials;
11. Stakeholders review drafts;
12. Iteratively refine;
13. Pilot;
14. Revise;
15. Implement dissemination plan.

Learning for All Professional Development

During the summer of 2022, members of the OSE provided training at all the state's educational service cooperatives. Attendees explored evidence-based approaches to enhance outcomes for all students. The approaches examined include cognitive and metacognitive strategies and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guidelines. Teams collaborated to develop a UDL lesson plan and explore 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. There were over 1,400 attendees throughout the summer. The team will be providing the same training at educational cooperatives this fall.