

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

**All In Professional Development**

The Curriculum and Assessment team has been traveling 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 with well over two thousand attendees since June 1, 2023.

**Inclusive Education Training of Trainers**

The Curriculum and Assessment team is collaborating with the Arkansas Co-Teaching Project to provide six days of training to Arkansas educators. The goal of the project is to equip participants in providing coaching and training to other educators within their districts. This project will begin with two days in November at the University of Central Arkansas. There will be two days at six regional cooperatives in the spring and two days in the summer at regional cooperatives. The project registration had to be closed when it reached capacity with two hundred registrants. Sixty-four districts have registered for this project.

**Effective Practices for Inclusive Education Project**

The Office of Special Education has partnered with Novak Education for a project to build inclusive education for students with disabilities by implementing Universal Design for Learning, multi-tiered systems of support, evidence-based tiered interventions, and effective leadership practices. This project kicked off with an in-person day in Little Rock on September 12. There are monthly webinars for the District Leadership Teams and monthly webinars for the Professional Development Providers. There will be an in-person celebration in Little Rock in May. Twenty-five districts are participating as well as staff from two universities.

**New Statewide Assessment**

The Curriculum and Assessment team has 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. All students will have text-to-speech on the math, science, and writing portions. Students with significant print disabilities may receive text-to-speech on the reading passages. The assessment is untimed for all students.

**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](http://Tinyurl.com/ARInclusivePractices).