

Minutes

**State Advisory Council for the  
Education of Children with Disabilities**

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities met in the Conference Room at the Victory Building, Suite 445, on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

**Council Members Present:**

Sarah Allen  
Cindy Ball  
Mary Broadaway  
Dana Davis  
Leslie Faulkner  
Angeletta Giles  
Bill Glover  
Shelby Knight  
Julie Mayberry  
Candia Nicholas  
Sherry Rogers  
Deborah Swink  
Marylene Tate  
Eric Treat  
Barry Vuletich

**Special Education Staff Present:**

Linda Barnes  
Jody Fields  
Christina Foley  
Jennifer Gonzales  
Lisa Haley  
Veronica Milton  
Courtney Salas-Ford  
Rhonda Saunders

The meeting began at 10:10 a.m. with Marylene Tate, Assistant Chair, calling the Council meeting to order and welcoming the Advisory Council members and Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit (ADE-SEU) staff. Ms. Lisa Haley welcomed Ms. Deborah Swink back as a newly appointed Council member and Ms. Mary Broadaway as a new Council member. Dr. Jody Fields, Special Education Data Manager, introduced Mr. Benson Chu as the new IT System Coordinator in the Special Education office. The April 21, 2016, minutes were read and approved.

**Presentation: Lisa Haley – ADE Vision for Educational Excellence**

At the last meeting the Council discussed setting priorities for the Council. Ms. Haley introduced the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Vision for Educational Excellence, which centers on transforming Arkansas into a national leader in student-focused education.

The ADE Vision for Educational Excellence includes a mission, vision, values, and goals.

The mission of ADE is to provide leadership, support, and services to schools, districts, and communities so every graduating student is prepared for college, career, and community engagement.

The values of the ADE are leadership, support, and service: Leadership is dedicated to the whole child. Support is communicating with honesty and transparency. Service is providing respect, integrity, honesty, and transparency.

The goals of ADE stem from each student meeting or exceeding readiness benchmarks. Each student will develop personal competencies fostering learning, community engagement, and success in life to include social skills, perseverance, soft skills, and communication. Indicators of excellence for schools involve parent expectations, preparing students for success, and post-secondary outcomes.

The Council discussed the importance of a parent/student focus of customer service. Better communication should include discussions about being an advocate for all students with disabilities. What can schools do to make a school more accessible? Schools must involve parents. There is a need for front line listening and more accessibility for parents and districts with IEP facilitators and mediation. Both parties must participate as a team to make the best decisions regarding what is best for the student.

### **Presentation: Lisa Haley – Legislative Task Force on the Best Practices for Special Education**

The Legislative Task Force mission is to identify the best practices in special education. The last scheduled meeting for the Task Force will be in August. The Council mentioned the need for a parent’s guide and parent support groups.

### **Section Reports and Highlights –**

Reports were summarized with highlights noted. Reports are now available to view on the Special Education website. The Council asked questions and discussed the highlights.

### **Presentation: Lisa Haley - Arkansas Annual Determination, Arkansas Monitoring Designation, and Annual Performance Report/State Performance Plan Data**

Council members were reminded that the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) issues an Annual Determination of each state’s overall level of compliance with OSEP accountability indicators. The Council members were each given a copy of the Arkansas 2016 Part B Results-Driven Accountability Matrix. The State was assessed on multiple indicators (compliance and results) including participation and proficiency in literacy and math for fourth and eighth grades. The performance results for Arkansas indicated that both proficiency and participation are areas in need of improvement. Arkansas scored better on the exiting data for dropout and high school graduation. The State’s compliance indicator score was 100 percent. This is the third year that the overall determination rate for Arkansas is “needs assistance.” All of the data for the State determination is posted on the OSEP Grads 360 website.

Just as OSEP assesses results indicators for the State, the State also will also assess results indicators for districts in the coming year. For the first time, district determinations will include performance on both compliance and results.

OSEP implemented a risk based monitoring system for the first time this year, using factors based on the Annual Performance Report (APR) as well as other priority data. The elements rated as “intensive need” for Arkansas were assessment participation and performance. No action was determined necessary for compliance, dispute resolution, or fiscal indicators.

Dr. Jody Fields presented a review of the APR/State Performance Plan. There are seventeen indicators for which the results were presented. It is a priority of the State and Council to increase performance against targets.

**Presentation: Setting Panel Priorities**

Ms. Haley provided a short review of Advisory Council Functions (CFR 300.169). The Council discussed establishing up to three or four priorities. The Council will review the final recommendations of the Special Education Task Force at the next meeting prior to setting priorities. The council discussed establishing three general sub-committees: Student Outcomes/Supports, Inclusive Education, and Family Engagement to meet during the next Council meeting.

**Future agenda items:**

The Council agenda will include reviewing the Special Education Task Force recommendations, discuss priorities and form sub-committees.

The next meeting was set for October 27, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.