

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report

Curriculum and Assessment, January 2017

Paperwork Guidance Task Force

A group of educators and parents from around the state met on November 14 and December 7 to continue work on a guidance document to support teachers as they use the new pilot special education forms. The task force is creating this guidance document for teachers and a guidance document for parents. The task force will meet in May to review all comments submitted by teachers and special education supervisors to determine if changes need to be made before the forms are finalized. The final forms should be available before school starts in the fall of 2017.

CCSSO Assessment Updates

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) is meeting in New Orleans on February 22 and 23, 2017. The agenda will again focus on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and what its implementation will mean for students with disabilities.

Statewide Assessment Data

In January, each district received its assessment participation data which included Annual Performance Report (APR) indicators, the State's Annual Determination data, and data that will be relevant under ESSA. A recorded presentation was created and shared to help district staff understand their data and the upcoming requirements of ESSA. Districts were asked to develop plans for improving any concerning assessment participation data.

Special Education Updates PD

A professional development opportunity was made available statewide (to all Arkansas Educational Cooperatives and to nontraditional programs) that included updates on course codes, special education licensure, LRE calculation, an overview of the special education paperwork reduction committee's work, as well as updates regarding statewide assessment accommodations. The training has been presented across the state and has been attended by over five hundred educators.

Literacy Content Team Meeting

Robin Stripling is meeting on a regular basis with a group of ADE literacy professionals. The team is developing lessons and short webinars that will be used to support effective literacy instruction in Arkansas classrooms, including special education classrooms. Writing lessons have been created and are shared on the ADE Curriculum page in a Livebinder for teachers to use.

Recorded Presentations

Two new recorded presentations are available to Arkansas teachers on the Special Education Unit website. One recording pertains to statewide assessment and assessment accommodations. The other video explains how classroom accommodations and instructional modifications are different. Additional recorded presentations are being planned.