

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Early Childhood Summary January 2018

Current Activities

- Building conversations related to providing special education services in the early childhood classroom
- Working with DDS on a process for each Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services (DDTCS) center to formally state if they are going to provide IDEA services or how they will work with the LEAs in providing services
- Attending the Arkansas Special Education Early Childhood Professionals (ASEP) meeting (Cooperative EC Coordinators group)
- Attending the Arkansas State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) meeting
- Attending the Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH) meeting
- Webinar participation with Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health (AAIMH)
- Building conversations related to itinerant early childhood special education services with other states that have established effective technical assistance for early childhood educators
- Working intensely with DDS to correct noncompliance identified in 2017 Finding

Statewide Collaboration Projects (ongoing)

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Headstart
 - Group is looking at inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
 - Organization looks at mental health needs of infants through preschool, and supports available
 - Meets monthly
- Project LAUNCH
 - State and local networks will be developed to improve the coordination of the early child-serving system, in particular behavioral health and primary care services, and to enhance the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families
 - LAUNCH state council meets quarterly
- Suspension and Expulsion Work Group
 - Through DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)
 - Reviews needs for students and looks at ways to increase understanding of needs of children behaviorally in the EC setting