

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report

Curriculum and Assessment, October 2016

Paperwork Guidance Task Force

A group of educators and parents from around the state met on September 8, 2016, to begin work on a guidance document to support teachers as they use the new pilot special education forms. The task force will create a guidance document for teachers and a guidance document for parents. The task force continued their work on October 10 and will meet again on November 14 and December 6.

Dyslexia

Information regarding students with IEPs and the Arkansas dyslexia law was shared at the two-day Focus on Dyslexia: Building Bright Futures conference at Guy Fenter Educational Service Cooperative on October 6 and 7.

CCSSO Assessment Updates

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) will be held in Minneapolis October 25 through the October 27. The agenda focuses on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and what its implementation will mean for students with disabilities. Another agenda topic of interest to the ADE-SEU is online alternate assessment for science. One breakout session will provide round-table discussions regarding alternate assessments for science. Robin Stripling and Allison Prewitt will be attending from the ADE Special Education Unit.

Statewide Assessment

The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA), which will be given in literacy and math in grades 3-8 and 11 in Spring 2017, is being revised to a stage-adaptive format. Students will answer a few initial test questions, and the program will then place the students in the one of four levels of difficulty based on the students' initial responses.

Special Education Updates PD

A new professional development opportunity that encompasses a variety of timely topics around special education has been made available to all Arkansas Educational Cooperatives and to nontraditional programs. This training provides 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 at eleven cooperatives and will be presented at three additional cooperatives and at the Special Education Unit in the coming weeks.

Literacy Content Team Meeting

Robin Stripling is meeting on a regular basis with a group of ADE literacy professionals focused on developing short webinars that will be used to support effective literacy instruction in Arkansas classrooms, including special education classrooms. The team plans to meet weekly throughout the year.