

AR CO-TEACHING PROJECT ADVISORY REPORT OCTOBER 2017

The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project provides a tiered system of support to staff at schools interested in starting a co-teaching program or improving the fidelity of an existing program. Tier 1 supports are available to all schools and include online and telephone technical assistance, informational resources, and a DVD co-teaching library. Tier 2 supports include co-teaching overview and implementation planning professional development sessions and onsite consultation. These services are available on request. Tier 3 sessions are the most intensive services provided and include year-long professional development packages with onsite coaching and other activities. The year-long professional development package is offered during the fall, and the activities occur throughout the school year.

As part of the Tier 2 supports, the project invited educators from around the state to attend a one-day co-teaching professional development event in Little Rock provided by Dr. Lisa Dieker, an internationally known co-teaching consultant, author, and researcher. The session was held on September 28, 2017. As part of its goal of building capacity for co-teaching support, the project also invited Arkansas university pre-service (teacher training) faculty, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and education cooperative curriculum specialists, and ADE special education and school improvement specialists. The session was attended by 164 people; 132 were educators from across the state and the other 32 were potential co-teaching capacity builders.

Tier 3 supports are provided in the form of the year-long, blended, professional development package, Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC). The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project has collaborated with Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education (JHU CTE) to make this package available to Arkansas educators. For the 2017-18 school year, schools were able to choose between two blended, year-long, comprehensive professional development packages. Both packages assist schools in creating sustainable, effective co-teaching programs.

- Basic Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC) - The Basic BLC blended package is designed to create co-teacher partnerships that work together to build a 21st century co-teaching team in which each member is clear about the team's mission, goals, and roles. It includes a formal Kick-Off session, facilitated, online, competency-based modules for co-teachers; electronic learning communities for co-teachers and administrators, on-site co-teaching coaching visits, virtual administrators' support meetings, and a comprehensive implementation evaluation process. The target audience for the Basic BLC package includes general and special education co-teaching partners and their principal or designated assistant principal.
- Combined Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC). The Combined BLC package includes all the components of the Basic package as well as a new School-Based Facilitator's BLC package. With the Combined BLC package,

literacy and math facilitators learn how to provide ongoing support to BLC co-teachers while strengthening their skills in coaching adults and working effectively with administrators. The target audience for the Combined BLC package includes general and special education co-teachers, their principal or designated assistant principal, and literacy and/or math facilitators.

The one-day traditional face-to-face Kick Off sessions took place September 19-22, 2017 at three education cooperatives. Co-teachers and administrators from 16 schools in 9 school districts participated. 2017-18 Boundless Learning Co-Teaching schools include: Cooper Elementary, (Bentonville District), Crossett High School, Crossett Middle School (Crossett District), Jacksonville North Pulaski County Middle School (Jacksonville North Pulaski County), Hall High (Little Rock School District), Magnolia High School, Magnolia Junior High, and East Side Elementary (Magnolia District), Mountain Home Junior High, Mountain Home High School, and Pinkston Middle (Mountain Home District), Sonora Middle and Springdale High (Springdale District), Trumann Middle and Trumann High (Trumann District), Vilonia Freshman Academy (Vilonia District).

For schools enrolled in the Basic Boundless Learning (BLC) package, the next step for co-teachers will be to complete the six online modules and participate in the electronic learning community. The co-teaching partners will work together to complete the online modules and create electronic products. Afterwards, they will individually assess their mastery of the content, respond to challenge questions in the electronic learning community, and use a process to rate themselves and their partnerships. Their administrators will participate in four webinars with the teams from the AR Co-Teaching Project and JHU CTE to discuss implementation issues and improve their ability to give co-teachers non-evaluative performance feedback. They will also network with the project teams and other administrators in this year's cohort group through an administrators' electronic learning community. In addition, all participants will engage in the Arkansas Co-Teaching Project's implementation evaluation process designed to measure changes in the co-taught classrooms, building/district level support for the co-teaching programs, and impact on students with and without disabilities.

Co-teachers and administrators who are enrolled in the Combined Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC) package will complete the same activities listed above, with the additional benefit of including their literacy and/or math instructional facilitators in the training. These facilitators will complete online modules specific to their role in order to provide co-teachers with onsite support in the form of check-in meetings, classroom walk-throughs, and fidelity checks.

Over the course of this year, the Arkansas Co-Teaching Project and their partners at JHU CTE will continue to provide support by facilitating the BLC online work, hosting administrator webinars, coaching staff onsite at their school, and providing ongoing technical assistance.

In addition to the year-long professional development package activities, the AR Co-Teaching Project team will continue to provide email and telephone technical assistance to any interested co-teachers and administrators as well as offer onsite consulting and co-teaching overview professional development sessions on request. The project team will also continue to work closely with staff from the ADE Special Education and School Improvement Units to provide support as needed to schools identified as high need.

**Federal Deafblind Grant
CAYSI (Children and Youth with Sensory Impairment
and other disabilities)
Quarterly Report for the October 2017 Special Education Advisory Council**

- The CAYSI Project has received *15 new referrals* since our last report in August, 2017. This is a total of 56 new referrals in 2017, to date; 23 students have been found eligible, 3 were closed due to parent refusal, 4 were found not eligible, and the remaining 26 are outstanding.
- Parent groups in Siloam Springs, Little Rock, and Osceola have continued with topics of self-care and mindfulness, communication for their child and learning how parents can effectively tell their story to individuals and groups. Three mothers have shared their story nationally and were recognized on the National Family Association of Deafblindness (NFADB) website and the National Center for Deafblindness (NCDB) Facebook post and twitter.
- CAYSI is in collaboration with Easter Seals Outreach to provide 4 professional development trainings in central, northeast and southern parts of the state for children with dual sensory impairment and other disabilities.
- Beginning October 24th, CAYSI is providing a pilot program of intensive technical assistance in the northwest part of Arkansas. Teams for each school district in which CAYSI has students will have face to face trainings, along with individual support and on-line distance learning.

**Advisory Council for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities
October 2018 Report**

Personnel Development Activities

Paraprofessional Supports and Training

Three new Foundations in Special Education Training Modules are now available through ArkansasIDEAS. These one hour Modules were developed by a committee of Arkansas school district and agency special education personnel in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Arkansas Department of Education

Special, Education Unit (ADE-SEU). Three additional Modules on Behavior have been completed and will be available through ArkansasIDEAS once they have been finalized. A committee of statewide stakeholders continues the process of updating and revising the Special Health Care Needs Training Module.

Recruitment and Retention

The ADE-SEU continues to support seventeen graduate level students seeking certification as Speech Language Pathologists and will be supporting three teachers seeking Visual Specialist certification for Arkansas public schools through tuition reimbursement.

Staff at ADE-SEU work closely with personnel at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to share information about the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) and State Teacher Education Program (STEP), teacher tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness programs. These programs encourage new personnel to enter the field and current educators to acquire special education licensure.

SEU Personnel Development Staff continue to actively partner with the ADE's Teacher **Recruitment and Retention** program by attending and supporting all "Become an Arkansas Teacher" events and working with Educator Prep and Licensure Units to attract and support persons interested becoming special education teachers.

Educational Interpreters

The ADE-SEU continues to support Educational Interpreters in Arkansas. The ADE-SEU sponsored two Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) opportunities in 2017 for interpreters working in educational settings. Future assessment opportunities will be scheduled. Additionally, the ADE-SEU held a five-contact-hour workshop (free of charge) for Educational Interpreters. At least one more workshop is planned for this school year.

ADE-SEU staff participated in the first statewide Deaf Education Conference with a focus on recruiting and supporting Educational Interpreters.