

**Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report  
State Systemic Improvement Plan and State Personnel Development Grant  
October 24, 2017**

**Summary of Phase III Submission**

In Phase III of the State Systemic Improvement Plan, the Arkansas Department of Education has implemented a plan for two coherent strategies to improve ADE's infrastructure and increase the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR). Arkansas' SIMR is focused on improving the literacy achievement of students with disabilities in third through fifth grade.

The two improvement strategies that are being implemented are

Strategy One: Create a system of support that is aligned with other ADE Units and is differentiated based on LEAs' needs as evidenced by data.

Strategy Two: In collaboration with other ADE Units, restructure Arkansas' Response to Intervention (RTI) model using evidence-based personnel development to implement a multi-tiered system of supports for behavior and academics, with a focus on literacy.

**Strategy One Update**

Strategy One focuses on creating a coordinated system of support to provide the necessary organizational structures for state-level staff to be able to identify, manage, and differentiate LEA services and supports.

A Cross Unit ADE Team will begin working with a national technical assistance center to develop, implement, and potentially scale up a comprehensive needs assessment to support districts. The team has outlined goals to move the work forward in ESSA and Act 930 implementation. ACT 930 outlines Arkansas new comprehensive accountability system, which includes levels of support ADE will provide for districts.

**Strategy Two**

Strategy Two focuses on RTI. This evidence-based practice is being implemented in SSIP-targeted districts and intensively supported by the State. The Arkansas SPDG was written to directly align and support the SSIP. The State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) functions as the "boots on the ground" for the RTI implementation in targeted SSIP districts. Currently the SPDG is working closely with multiple units within the ADE to support and scale up RTI resources at the district level. This work is anticipated to be utilized in ESSA implementation. The State Implementation Team has also supported RTI work at the regional level through building online RTI modules. The online modules are built to be facilitated in professional learning communities and/or LEA staff meetings. The modules include a facilitation guide that educational specialists at regional co-ops can utilize to support RTI work. The co-op content specialists have received training in how to facilitate the modules.

