



These calls are provided to ensure you have the latest information on topics important to your work.

Today's agenda includes:

- Beginning Administrator Program, Julie Amstutz
- SpEd Finance: High Cost, Preliminary Allocations/Budgets & Ch-Ch-Changes in SpEd Finance, Josh Hart
- OSE Updates: Dr. Jeff Adams



- You are muted so please click on the question button if you have a question and the chat button if you have any technical difficulties.
- Sessions are recorded and housed under Related Links: Monthly Calls at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/offices/special-education>
- Let us know if you have any questions or a topic for an LEA Call in the future by [clicking here](#).





The Beginning Administrator Program for New Special Education Administrators is an essential initiative designed to support administrators in their first, second or third year as they transition into their roles within the educational system. This program is provided in partnership with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Office of Special Education (OSE), ensuring that participants receive mentorship, training and resources.

Link to Interest Survey will be in the Chat.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem07rYuhLcXTyAythzYxtvFK4>

[GObwAmBspSceOdnGEh3sUQ/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem07rYuhLcXTyAythzYxtvFK4/viewform?usp=header)



Mrs. Julie Amstutz, EdS.  
State Special Education Leadership Development Coach  
Office of Coordinated Support and Service  
In coordination with  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Special Education  
1401 W. Capitol, Suite 450  
Little Rock, AR 72201

# AR APP - LRE

When LEAs agree to the Combined Assurances as part of the AR App it agrees to offer a Continuum of Alternative Placements as outlined in 13.02 and 17.02.2

- L. **Least Restrictive Environment:** The applicant, in accordance with 20 U.S.C.A. §1412 (34 CFR, Subpart B), assures it has adopted the policies and procedures of *Special Education and Related Services: Procedural Requirements and Program Standards*, Section 13, pages 1 and 2; and Section 17, pages 1-3.

[Section 13](#)

[Section 17](#)

# IDEA Finance - Preliminary Allocations/Budgets

Preliminary Budgets are due in eFinance at the end of the day September 30, 2025.

The Preliminary Allocation Worksheet will be available after the close of Period 13.

Worksheet will contain:

- All budget totals including carryover for:
  - 2260
  - 6710
  - 6702
- Required set-asides for 6702
  - CCEIS
  - PSPS
- Required set-aside for 6710
  - PSPS

# IDEA Finance - Preliminary Allocations/Budgets

## Private School Proportionate Share:

- 6710 will have PSPS set-aside if children were identified on questions 6 or 7 on the PSPS survey submitted in December of 2024
- 6702 will include all PSPS carryover from 24-25 and have set-aside based on children identified in questions 4 or 5 on the PSPS survey submitted in December of 2024.

## EIDT/State Preschool

- The State appropriation for EIDT (SOF 2262) has been added to State Preschool (SOF 2260)
- EIDT cash on hand should be transferred to 2260.

# IDEA Finance - Ch-Ch-Changes

## Maintenance of Effort:

LEAs will no longer be required to enter data into Test 1 and Test 2.

LEAs will still be required to ensure all functions that require an explanation are entered into Box C, and verify/submit the worksheet in section D.

### All 4 Tests Must be Completed

#### TEST #1

State & Local AFR for FY 2024-25 :

Note: Enter the expenditure total from the 2023-24 Year to Date COGNOS State/Local AFR Report NEW, on Line1, Test1. Enter the expenditure total from the 2024-25 Year to Date COGNOS State/Local AFR Report NEW, on Line2, Test1.

1) FY 2023-24 Final Expenditures State & Local (AFR)	\$ 2,079,909.27
	*
2) FY 2024-25 Final Expenditures State & Local (AFR)	\$ 2,253,996.34
	*
3) FY 2024-25 State/Local AFR MOE Status	\$ 174,087.07

(In order to pass Test #1, the amount shown in line 2 must be equal to or greater than the amount shown in line 1 unless LEA has approved exceptions.)

#### TEST #2

Note: After calculating the Local only Percentage, enter the percentage in the box below(99.9999%). For information on calculating the Local Percentage please refer to the October 1 Amendment Power Point.

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/special-education/funding-and-finance/finance-training-material>

2023-24 Local Percentage (%): 35.2745

2024-25 Local Percentage (%): 35.4753 \* (99.9999) DO NOT ROUND

# IDEA Finance - MOE

The 24-25 School Age AFR MOE Data Worksheet is due in MySped on October 15th.

The 25-26 School Age AFR MOE Data Worksheet is due in MySpec on October 31.

- Update contact information
- Include all A1, A3, and A4 exceptions
- All functions that require an explanation must be updated in Box C
  - LEAs must explicitly state how these functions are supporting Special Education.
    - Approvable Example: Nurses: 1 FTE Nurse is required by student's IEP, .5 FTE nurse supports personal care services outlined in IEPs
    - Unallowable Example: Nurse for Special Education

# Ch-Ch-Changes Sept. Trainings

- 09/15: Wilbur: Session #567869
- 09/16: OUR: Session #564793
- 09/17: Northwest: Session #564440
- 9/18: Southeast: Session #565717
- 9/19: Little Rock: Sign-up
- 09/22: Dawson: Session #564280
- 09/23: Southwest: Session #564392
- 9/25: Crowley's: Session #564372
- 09/26: Arch Ford: Session #564312

# High-Cost

LEAs will no longer be required to enter into the HCO LEA Calculation Sheet the Detailed Distribution Detail benefits information!!!

HCO - Demographics and IEPs:

- 12/11/25: [Zoom](#)
- 01/13/26: [Zoom](#)

HCO - Calculation Sheet/Registry

- 02/10/26: Wilbur
- 02/13/26: Southeast
- 02/18/26: Arch Ford
- 02/20/26: Crowley's
- 02/24/26: OUR
- 02/25/26: Northwest
- 03/03/26: Little Rock
- 03/04/26: South Central
- 03/05/26: Dawson

# Resources:

## Funding & Finance

### About Us

The Funding and Finance section provides oversight for finances and data related to the provision of special education and related services by traditional and non-traditional programs. This section is responsible for the accurate and timely submission of required federal reports.

Three-Month Snapshot



Budget/AFR Compliance Sheet



[Three-Month Snapshot](#)

[Special Education Budget/AFR Compliance Sheet](#)

# Updates from the Office of Special Education

# IDEA Data & Research

- **Updated [six Data Dictionaries & one-pagers](#):**
  - All align with the **current** [Statewide Info System \(SIS\) Handbook](#).
  - The **retired** dictionaries are available in the [Resource Archives](#).
- **OSE Family Surveys:**
  - Scantron [Request Forms](#) (SA, EC and EC Spanish)
  - August 29<sup>th</sup>: [Feedback Survey](#)
- **SPED eSchool:**
  - **Resources:** [Cycle 2, 4, and 7](#) reporting requirements and a [one-page summary](#) of deadlines.
  - **Training & Inquiries:** [Teja Pudota](#)
- **Coming up:**
  - Cycle 7 MySPED Review Period- **September 2-30<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Training & Inquires:** [Mohamed Sanogho](#)



[Sept 9 @ 3pm](#)

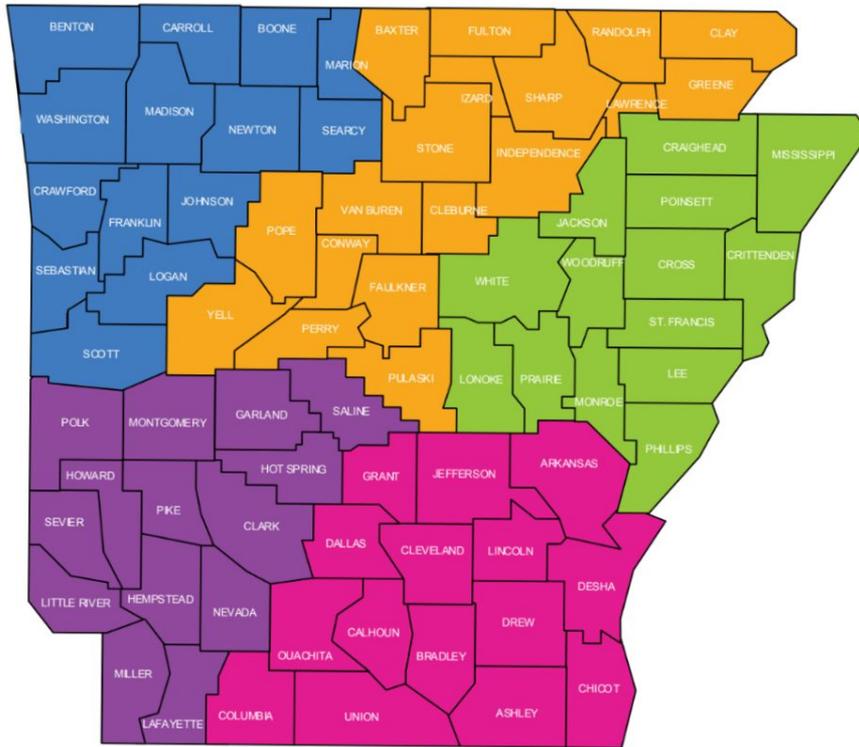
Monthly Office Hours  
eSchool, Monitoring,  
& MySPED



# IRPs/MIPs/IEPs

- **Requirement:** When data indicates a need, an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) is required for students in grades K–3, and a Math Intervention Plan (MIP) is required for students in grades 3–8.
- **For students with IEPs:** The Office of Special Education (OSE) recommends that schools also develop an IRP or MIP when data indicates, even if the student already has an IEP.
- **IEP as IRP/MIP:** While an IEP can meet both purposes, it rarely satisfies all state requirements on its own.
- **Data use:** All data collected through an IRP or MIP should be used to inform the student’s IEP.
  
- **Resources**
  - The **Decision Trees** for MIP/IEP and IRP/IEP are available on the *Offices – Special Education – Assessment & Curriculum* page under [Related Links](#):
    - [MIP/IEP Decision Tree](#)
    - [IRP/IEP Decision Tree](#)

# Educational Support and Related Service Specialists (ESRSS) Coordinators: Dr. Amy Goddard and Charity Avery



<p><u>Region 1</u> Taylor Moses, Educational Specialist Sarah Dennis, Related Services Specialist</p>
<p><u>Region 2</u> Amy Lloyd, Educational Specialist Jodi Hood, Related Services Specialist</p>
<p><u>Region 3</u> Leigh Haynes, Educational Specialist Hope Larson, Related Services Specialist</p>
<p><u>Region 4</u> Amanda Parker, Educational Specialist Tracy Walker, Related Services Specialist</p>
<p><u>Region 5</u> Ashley Bohannon, Educational Specialist</p>
<p><u>Statewide OTs</u> Amy Ringgold, Related Services Specialist Michelle Keaton, Related Services Specialist</p>

<http://esrssarkansas.org/>



# Educational Support and Related Service Specialists (ESRSS)

## Professional Learning Opportunities:

- Monthly CoPs with CAST focused on UDL
- Prioritize with Purpose: 3-Part Webinar Series (Identify priority standards, Transform into accessible learning targets, and Strategies that optimize SDI)
- Access Unlocked: 2-Part Webinar Series (Designing meaningful learning experiences using AI)
- Strategies to Support the Consideration and Selection of Augmentative/Alternative Communication Webinar

## AT4ALL Loan Program:

- ESRSS Process Guide



# Join us as we roll out the red carpet!



**October 21, 2025** at UAPTC

(3000 W. Scenic Dr. NLR)

CHARTS Auditorium

For tickets  and more info visit:

[sites.google.com/view/2025-fc-premiere](https://sites.google.com/view/2025-fc-premiere)



## Save the Date – 2025 LEA Academy



**October 2 – 3, 2025**  
**Hot Springs Convention Center**

We are excited to announce that the 2025 LEA Academy will be held on October 2-3 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This year's Academy will feature a variety of sessions designed to support educators as they lead their districts toward **Building Bridges to Meaningful Futures**.

Registration opens Tuesday, September 2!



- Questions?



- The next LEA call is scheduled for September 18.