

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report
State Personnel Development Grant
April 21, 2016

On October 1, 2015 the Arkansas Department of Education was awarded a new State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. The SPDG will directly support the ADE SSIP targeted districts and build upon the Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Arkansas initiative, which is a multi-component, general education model designed to identify students who may be at risk academically or behaviorally, offer support, and monitor progress. The five-year grant will be used to develop RTI literacy and behavior resources and tools, including professional development and technical assistance, that co-ops, districts, and schools can utilize to assist all students, especially students with disabilities.

Grant Goals

- Develop statewide RTI literacy and behavior resources and tools.
- Increase the capacity of regional and district teams to deliver high quality RTI professional development and technical assistance to support implementation fidelity of evidence based instructional practices within schools.
- Improve educators' ability to implement evidence based literacy and behavior support practices.
- Improve literacy and behavior outcomes for students.

The SPDG will work with Little Rock School District for the entirety of the grant and will also scale up to additional districts in year two of the grant. The protocols and resources utilized and developed by the SPDG will align and support the implementation plans outlined in the ESEA Flexibility Plan for schools in school improvement. The SPDG has three main partners that will support the work in targeted districts:

- The American Institute of Research will provide RTI support and resources
- Arkansas State University's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) will provide support to implement a multi-tiered system of support for behavior
- The Parent Training and Information Center will provide parents with an understanding of RTI and their role in supporting their child

Update on Statewide RTI Resource Development

- The SPDG in partnership with the ADE Curriculum and Instruction Unit has created a statewide RTI Advisory Team. The purpose of the Advisory is to more effectively address statewide RTI Implementation including identifying strengths and barriers, guiding implementation, and supporting effective communication. The Advisory met on March 1, 2016 and will continue to meet quarterly in Little Rock. The Advisory will provide an opportunity for feedback on implementation challenges, professional development, and guidance documents.

- Arkansas State University will develop three AETN Modules (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Overview, PBIS Leadership, basic classroom management). They will also develop mini modules (short videos with resources) that guide districts through PBIS implementation.
- American Institute of Research is currently developing longer professional development modules. They are finishing an RTI Overview module that will be used to train district implementation teams and other state level/regional specialists. They are also working on a RTI screening module and a RTI Leadership Module.
- SPDG is working on a role and function document for the State, Regional, and District Implementation Teams. This document will outline what the role and function of each team in regards to how they support RTI work through the SPDG.
- The SPDG is working closely with the ADE School Improvement Unit to align resources to support Little Rock School District (LRSD).



STATE PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Arkansas Department of Education’s State Personnel Development Grant works with districts and education service cooperatives to support Response-to-Intervention (RTI) implementation and maximize all students’ literacy and behavioral outcomes, especially students with disabilities

GOALS

- 1 Increase the capacity of Education Service Cooperatives and districts to support RTI implementation with fidelity in schools
- 2 Improve educators’ ability to implement evidence-based literacy and behavior support practices with fidelity leading to increased student outcomes

SPDG SUPPORTED DISTRICTS

Year One

Year Two

Year Three

IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

Phase I Exploration

Establish broad commitment and support of RTI goals and outcomes

Phase II Installation

Create infrastructure to support and sustain successful RTI implementation; establish teams, data systems, baseline data; develop implementation plan

Phase III

Initial Implementation

Establish an effective problem solving model; utilize data to plan, implement and monitor interventions; try out practices; work out details; learn and improve before expanding

Phase IV

Full Implementation

Provide professional development and ongoing coaching; make adjustments based on learning from initial implementation

SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate SPDG goals and alignment with school improvement requirements • Support needs assessment and data analysis • Build understanding of RTI practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with School Leadership Team on building infrastructure • Identify data systems that meet school needs • Identify area of focus in literacy and behavior (ensure commitment, need, and fit) • Develop implementation plan • Begin evidence-based professional development and coaching support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data to make data-based decisions • Provide professional development and coaching support • Adjust plan in response to data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use data to improve implementation • Improve and refine professional development and teaming activities • Increase efficiency and cost effectiveness |
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