

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Arkansas Transition Services, April 2020

- Arkansas Transition Services had a great turnout for our February Cadre meeting during which we focused on transition assessments and writing meaningful post-secondary goals and activities. Included within the presentations offered were information on assessments for students with more severe disabilities shared by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, a presentation from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services on assessments used with students, as well as information on tools and resources from the Department of Workforce Services.
- Arkansas Transition Services and our four District Leadership Teams, Rogers, Magnolia, Harrisburg, and White Hall, trained five districts on implementing Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students (CIRCLES). This multi-level intervention includes interagency collaboration and teaming as a key component to ensure positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. Since the training, districts have begun the planning process for implementation in the fall.
- Arkansas Transition Services also held a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training February 25. The training was a great success with tools and information provided that sparked great conversations leading to productive action planning.
- We are disappointed to have had to cancel the 2020 Inclusion Film Camp due to COVID-19. We will begin planning for a great camp for 2021 and will keep all aware of the dates and details.
- The Arkansas Transition Services team is still working to confirm six pilot schools to be trained on the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction. Self-determination, one of the predictors of positive post-school outcomes, has long been part of the technical assistance we provide. A team from the KU Center on Developmental Disabilities provided training and assisted with planning as we work to scale up this important practice in Arkansas. The Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction is a three-phase process that teachers use to enable students to set a goal, create an action plan to achieve that goal, and adjust their goal or plan. We are planning to train districts this summer to prepare for implementation in the fall of 2020.
- Arkansas Transition Services team has been working diligently to provide valuable resources, tools, and information to help teachers, agencies, students, and their families while at home during COVID-19, to continue to prepare for the transition of life after high school. We have created activities and recorded valuable information in an effort to help all stakeholders in this transition. We continue to work with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition and other states to bring the most valuable resources available. We will also be working hard to make sure special educators in our public schools have the training and information they need to help ensure students have a transition plan based on their needs. These tools are on our website.