

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Curriculum and Assessment, April 2021

Inclusive Practices

The Curriculum and Assessment team has completed the first iteration of an Inclusive Practices website that is linked to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit (DESE-SEU) website. The site will be updated as more research is completed.

Two introductory presentations have recently been provided for state charter schools. The DESE-SEU will be providing full-day presentations across the state this summer.

IDEA and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law

Robin Stripling provided a presentation for the Ozarks Unlimited Resources Educational Cooperative in March. The presentation focused on ways in which the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law can work together. An upcoming presentation is planned for the dyslexia specialists from the Southeast Educational Cooperative in May.

Alternate Assessment

The Curriculum and Assessment team has coordinated onsite folder reviews in the districts that have over 1% of their students participating in the alternate assessment. We have seen tremendous improvement in the percentage of students participating in the alternate assessment across the state. We greatly appreciate the hard work that educators have done in this area.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Observations

The Curriculum and Assessment team is working with the DESE Assessment Unit to conduct observations of the DLM assessment. This assessment is given one-on-one with the teacher and is to be embedded within instruction. The teacher is asked to provide suggestions of instructional resources and suggestions regarding the assessment itself.

Alternate English Language Proficiency Exam Development

Arkansas continues to work with a collaborative of states working to develop an alternate English language proficiency assessment for students who are English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Robin Stripling from the DESE-SEU and Dr. Alan Lytle from the DESE Assessment Unit are the state members on this team. The team, which meets on a weekly basis. A Community of Practice (CoP) has also been formed to move Arkansas ahead as this new assessment is implemented. The CoP includes Arkansas Educators and members of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.