

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report

Curriculum and Assessment, August 2017

Paperwork Guidance Task Force

The Task Force met on May 23 to review all questions and comments that had been submitted during the pilot period. Changes were made to the forms based on those questions and comments. The finalized forms are now available on the ADE-SEU website as well as through the three vendors that provide online special education forms to Arkansas LEAs. The Arkansas Special Education Process Guide was also revised based on the updates that were made to the forms.

CCSSO Assessment Updates

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) met in Austin, Texas, on July 26 and 27. The agenda focused on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and what its implementation will mean for students with disabilities. Several states, including Arkansas, are investigating developing a state-defined alternate diploma.

R.I.S.E. Arkansas

R.I.S.E. is the ADE's Reading Initiative for Student Excellence. R.I.S.E. encourages a culture of reading by coordinating a statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities. Through R.I.S.E., we hope to increase the depth of knowledge for teachers in the area of phonics and phonological awareness and how that knowledge impacts fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. This includes focusing on the science of reading, or how a student learns.

Robin Stripling attended the R.I.S.E. training-of-trainers on May 9, 10, and 11 and August 23 and 24.

Special Education Updates PD

A professional development opportunity was made available this summer to all Arkansas Educational Cooperatives and greater Little Rock area districts. This training provided updates on course codes, special education licensure, the Arkansas Special Education Process Guide, and statewide assessment accommodations. Effective classroom practices were also be shared, including those aligned with the R.I.S.E. initiative. This professional development was presented seventeen times around the state, and over 750 special educators attended.

Additional professional development presentations included *Google Apps in the Special Education Classroom* at the Northwest Arkansas Google Summit, *Classroom Accommodations and Modifications* at the DeQueen-Mena Special Education Conference, as well as presentations at the SEAS Conference, the Arkansas Data and Reporting Conference, the Arkansas Counselors' Conference, and the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.