

# **Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Curriculum and Assessment, August 2018**

## **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)**

Arkansas will begin using the DLM alternate assessment in the 2018-2019 school year. DLM is providing training to Arkansas teachers at educational cooperatives this summer to provide support for instruction in self-contained classes. Robin Stripling recently attended the DLM training and was pleased to see the supports that will be provided in order to increase academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

## **CCSSO Assessment Updates**

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) met in San Diego, California, on June 25 and 26. This group continued its discussion on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), focusing on students with disabilities. Key topics were the ESSA requirement that each state assess less than 1% of its tested population of students using an alternate assessment and the requirement that each state have an alternate assessment to assess English Learners' English Language Proficiency.

## **Alternate Pathway to Graduation**

Arkansas is moving forward in its efforts to put an alternate pathway to graduation in place for students with significant cognitive disabilities. As we move ahead with this work, the State must have course requirements for an alternate diploma option that align with those of a regular diploma. The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) consortia has created alternate English Language Arts and Mathematics standards. Teams of general education social studies teachers and special education teachers met in Little Rock on July 18 and 19 to develop alternate achievement standards for social studies. Work has begun to align health and wellness standards. The ADE SEU is working collaboratively with Virtual Arkansas to develop an online Fine Arts course for this group of students. Wendy Pascoe and Robin Stripling have joined a Community of Practice hosted by the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) to guide this work.

## **CCSSO ELP Standards for English Learners with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**

Tricia Kerr, ADE Program Director for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Robin Stripling are working with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to develop English Language Proficiency Standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. This work is being completed both remotely and in face-to-face meetings with others from around the nation. The standards are now in draft form and are to be shared with educators in multiple states this fall.

## **Summer Professional Development**

Robin Stripling has provided the following professional development this summer:

- Special Education Updates at fifteen locations around the state
- Dyslexia and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law
- ACT Aspire ELA for Grades 6-8