

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report
State Personnel Development Grant
January 19, 2017

Overview

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 State Systemic Improvement Plan (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.

Partners

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 is working intensively with seven districts: Little Rock School District, Pulaski County Special School District, Watson Chapel, Blytheville, Clinton, Greenbrier, and Hector
- Arkansas State University filmed a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Guidebook Module at AR IDEAS in October. This module provides an overview of a PBIS team and a handbook to help school develop PBIS.
- In December of 2016 a behavior component was added to student GPS. This new reporting features allows districts to drill down discipline data by: time of day, month, year, location, discipline infraction, disciplinary action, and student subgroups. This feature can be utilized to support data based decision making at the district, school, teacher or student level using discipline data.
- The SPDG in partnership with the ADE Curriculum Support Unit has created a statewide RTI Advisory Team. The purpose of this 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 November 14, 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.