

**Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report**  
**State Systemic Improvement Plan**  
**January 19, 2017**

Overview

In Phase III of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is implementing two strategies that will improve the infrastructure of the ADE and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in order to increase the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) - The percent of student with disabilities in grades 3- 5 who made gains towards reaching a proficient score or maintained a proficient score on the statewide literacy assessment.

Improvement Strategies Update

- Strategy Number One: Create a system of professional support that is aligned with other ADE Units and is differentiated based on LEAs' needs. This strategy is focused on creating a coordinated support system that will provide the necessary structures for how LEA services and supports will be identified, managed, and differentiated at the state-level.

Update:

A Cross Unit ADE team has formed and is meeting biweekly to develop a system of support. Currently the Cross Unit Team is working together in supporting some high needs districts as determined by their accountability status and data. The Special Education Unit is working with a national technical assistance center to create an evaluation survey for this strategy.

- Strategy Number Two: In collaboration with other ADE Units, restructure Arkansas' Response to Intervention (RTI) model using evidence based personnel development to implement a multi-tiered system of supports for behavior and academics, with a focus on literacy.

Update:

The SPDG is currently developing many statewide RTI professional development modules that will be available online for educators for free. The SPDG will utilize these online modules, resources, and tools to build the capacity of cooperatives and districts within the state to support RTI. RTI Special Populations and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Overview modules have need developed as well as a PBIS Implementation Guidebook.