

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Arkansas Transition Services, January 2020

- Arkansas Transition Services had a great turnout for our December Cadre meeting where we focused on high leverage and inclusive practices. In an effort to recognize the amazing work within transition classes and Opportunities for Work and Learning (OWL) programs, Matt Sewell opened up with kudos to each attending district and shared successes of their teams' efforts. Teams in attendance received information on four high leverage practices and how they are currently being implemented in schools in Arkansas. They also heard about a variety of innovative inclusive practices that are currently going on in schools. The Children and Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI) Project shared strategies of inclusive practices for students with deaf-blindness and how some of those practices have led to success. Additionally they assessed their own use of inclusive and high leverage practices and began building a plan to increase those practices. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Career and Technical Education also provided information on the inclusive practices that are being implemented within their agencies' work. The day wrapped up with an overview of using the Co-Teach model as an inclusive practice.
- Arkansas Transition Services and our four District Leadership Teams, Rogers, Magnolia, Harrisburg, and White Hall, will train six districts on implementing Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students (CIRCLES). This multi-level intervention includes interagency collaboration and teaming as a key component to ensure positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. This past summer, four districts were trained as part of our efforts to increase implementation of research-based and evidence-based practices. By the end of the school year, we will have 14 districts who have been trained and will be ready for implementation.
- Arkansas Transition Services will hold an additional Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training February 25. The September training was well attended and well received, and we are excited that we have once again reached maximum capacity for registration.
- Arkansas Transition Services will hold the February Cadre meeting for members of local transition teams with a focus on transition assessments. This will be a great opportunity for these team members to gain more knowledge on assessments and the importance of transition assessments for effective planning.
- On November 13, the film premiere for the work completed by the 2019 Film Camp attendees was shown at the Ron Robinson Theater with much anticipation and excitement. Mr. Joey Travolta introduced and commended students for their work. Students were able to eat snacks, mingle, and take photos with their families and Mr. Travolta before watching the film. They received their awards from Director of Special Education, Matt Sewell, and Commissioner for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Alan McClain, and Chief of Field Services, Carl Daughtery.
- Applications for Film Camp 2020 will be available for juniors and seniors with disabilities in January. We are excited to announce the Film Camp will be held on the campus of University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College, April 27 – May 1, this year. Details to come soon.
- The Arkansas Transition Services team recently received training on the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction. Self-determination, one of the predictors of positive post-school outcomes, has long been part of the technical assistance we provide. A team from the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities provided training and assisted with planning as we work to scale up this important practice in Arkansas. The Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction is a three-phase process that teachers use to enable students to set a goal, create an action plan to achieve that goal, and adjust their goal or plan. Districts will be trained sometime this spring to prepare for implementation in the fall of 2020. We are excited about all of the opportunities to embed this great intervention. More to come.