

# **Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Curriculum and Assessment, July 2016**

## **Dyslexia**

Information regarding students with IEPs and the Arkansas dyslexia law was shared at the statewide CEC conference in June. Presentations will be made at the SEAS Conference, at AAEA, and at educational cooperatives.

## **Unified English Braille Transition**

The Unified English Braille Transition Committee met on May 17 to finalize the transition plan as the state moves toward implementation of Unified English Braille. The transition plan will be presented to special education supervisors at the upcoming LEA Academy in September.

## **CCSSO Assessment Updates**

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) met in June in Philadelphia to continue their work to “develop and implement high standards and valid assessment systems that maximize educational achievement for all children.” Robin Stripling attended the Assessing Special Education Students (ASES) meeting. Much of the meeting focused on the Every Student Succeeds Act. There was much discussion about the Act and how it will affect our work. One key topic of discussion was the change in policy regarding the alternate assessment. Currently, districts may administer the alternate assessment to as many students as they deem appropriate, but only 1% of those students may count as proficient for the district. The ESSA states that only 1% of the state’s students may take the alternate assessment; however, the State may not place a cap on the percentage of students in a district who may take the alternate.

## **Statewide Assessment**

ACT Aspire will again be the statewide assessment for the 2016-2017 school year for grades 3-10. The ACT will again be offered free of charge to Arkansas students in eleventh grade. The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) will be given in literacy and math in grades 3-8 and 11, and the Alternate Portfolio for Science will be given in grades 5, 7, and 10. The ADE is researching online alternate assessments for science to see if an appropriate assessment could be utilized in the future. Jared Hogue and Robin Stripling from the Special Education Unit will attend the MSAA’s Item Content and Bias Review Meeting at the end of July in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **SLD ID TA Manual**

The *Arkansas Technical Assistance Manual: Identification of Students with Specific Learning Disabilities* has been completed and posted on the ADE Special Education Unit’s website under the SLD ID tab. The manual was recently updated based on the RTI Arkansas model.

## **Special Education Updates PD**

A new professional development opportunity has been made available to all Arkansas Educational Cooperatives. This training provides updates on course codes, special education licensure, LRE calculation, as well as an overview of the special education paperwork reduction committee’s work. The training has been presented at six cooperatives and will be presented at seven additional cooperatives in the coming weeks.