

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report  
State Personnel Development Grant  
July 27, 2016

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 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.

#### Grant Goals

- Develop statewide RTI literacy and behavior resources and tools.
- Increase the capacity of regional and district teams to deliver high quality RTI professional development and technical assistance to support implementation fidelity of evidence based instructional practices within schools.
- Improve educators' ability to implement evidence based literacy and behavior support practices.
- Improve literacy and behavior outcomes for students.

The SPDG will work with Little Rock School District for the entirety of the grant and will also scale up to additional districts in year two of the grant. The protocols and resources utilized and developed by the SPDG will align and support the implementation plans outlined in the ESEA Flexibility Plan for schools in school improvement. 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 State Implementation Team is creating an RTI Implementation Guidebook
- The State Personnel Development Grant is filming a Special Populations module in August at AETN
- Arkansas State University is filming a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Overview and Leadership Module in August at AETN
- The SPDG is supporting the building of an office discipline referral intake system through the Student GPS system
- The SPDG in partnership with the ADE Curriculum and Instruction Unit has created a statewide RTI Advisory Team. The purpose of the 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 will continue to meet quarterly in Little Rock. The Advisory will provide an opportunity for feedback on implementation challenges, professional development, and guidance documents.