

## **Arkansas Department of Education - Special Education Unit Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Curriculum and Assessment, July 2019**

### **Alternate Pathway to Graduation**

In early 2019, the State Board of Education approved the Arkansas Alternate Pathway to Graduation for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The Dynamic Learning Maps alternate achievement standards are in place for literacy, math, and science. Arkansas created alternate achievement standards for Civics, Economics, US History, World History, Art, and Health and Safety which are currently being piloted. The ADE-SEU is working collaboratively with Virtual Arkansas to develop an online Fine Arts course for this group of students. Tabitha Reindeau and Robin Stripling have joined a Community of Practice hosted by the National Center on Educational Outcomes to guide this work. Eighteen trainings have been scheduled for Summer 2019 to inform Arkansas educators of this new pathway. Information pertaining to the pathway may be found at [tinyurl.com/ArAltPathway](http://tinyurl.com/ArAltPathway).

### **English Learners with Disabilities**

The ADE and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) have developed a collaborative project designed to provide supports for teachers of English learners with disabilities. A guidance document has been developed and five trainings will be provided this summer across the state. Additional trainings will be scheduled after the first five have been completed.

### **Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment**

Arkansas has joined a collaborative of states working to develop an alternate English language proficiency assessment for students who are English Learners with significant cognitive disabilities. The group is reviewing the resources that are currently available before they move ahead in the development of this new assessment.

### **Making Improved Decisions about Alternate Assessments (MIDAS)**

Arkansas is partnering with the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) in a grant proposal aiming to develop guidance and support tools for those making assessment decisions. Arkansas is the lead state in the project; Alabama, Delaware, Ohio, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia have joined the project as well. We expect to learn in late summer whether the project is funded.