

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

- The Arkansas Transition Services team is still planning to confirm six pilot schools to be trained on the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction. Self-determination, one of the predictors of positive post-school outcomes, has always been part of the technical assistance we provide. The training we received from a team from the KU Center on Developmental Disabilities will help 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. Our original plans to train districts this summer to prepare for implementation in the fall of 2020 have been adjusted due to school closures. We will continue to plan and adjust as needed, but for now, we plan to provide online training in the fall for implementation in the spring of 2021.
- In May, we hosted an online session on Video Modeling with Dr. Ryan Kellems of Brigham Young University. He addressed how video modeling works and who it works for. It was a well-attended session and one we plan to bring back.
- Arkansas Transition Services has provided several new and interactive online training sessions. These sessions are focused on using the Assessment to Practice Model for Teachers, which takes them through seven steps that lead to an effective transition plan in compliance with Indicator 13. We are also providing another training that focuses specifically on transition planning for students with complex needs. We have had good turnout and great feedback on these trainings.
- Arkansas Transition Services completed three weeks of online sessions for our first Virtual College Bound Arkansas! Over a three-week period, we provided 35 sessions for students with disabilities interested in attending college, their parents and other professionals. It was a true success. We had 22 students and 19 parents and professionals register. Students have been so engaged, and in the future, I hope to share some of their presentations about what they learned, as well as feedback on their experiences.
- The Core Team for transition, which includes members of special education, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, school districts, university faculty, and Division of Services for the Blind, has been attending the Capacity Building Virtual Institute hosted by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT). These sessions have focused on collaboration among special education, CTE, and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR); providing supports for students with complex needs; post-secondary education and work-based learning. We have had state sharing sessions and will soon move into team planning—an important piece for our team as we come to an end of being an intensive state with NTACT.
- As we plan our work for the next year, we are planning on additional virtual trainings to host in the future including mental health awareness, Universal Design for Learning, technology tools, and CIRCLES. We know that we need to be prepared to provide our services, in a virtual format, so we are working on adapting our programs and services to fit that need.