

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Early Childhood, July 2020**

Current Activities for Early Childhood Program Advisors/619 Coordinator:

- **Multi-state Inclusion Cohort:** The Arkansas Early Childhood Special Education Program, in partnership with Early Intervention (Part C) and the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), has begun to meet virtually with a cross-sector state leadership team to analyze the current state of Birth to five inclusionary practices across our state. Arkansas is one of five states chosen to collaborate in a multi-state Preschool Inclusion Cohort to improve inclusionary practices in early childhood special education. This team is analyzing the current state of birth to five inclusion in Arkansas.
- **Preschool Inclusion Team:** This statewide early childhood taskforce has temporarily merged with the state leadership team formed for implementation of the Inclusion Cohort. These two groups are working together to analyze the current state of birth to five inclusion in Arkansas.
- **Early Childhood Virtual COVID Discussion Group:** Meetings are being held (first weekly and now bi-weekly) with EC Coordinators across the state to discuss supports and collaboration during COVID.
- **Think Tank:** Meetings have temporarily been placed on hold during the COVID crisis and have temporarily been replaced with the virtual discussion group.

Current Early Childhood Special Education Technical Assistance:

- **Virtual Child Outcomes, Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP), Goals, and Progress Monitoring for Early Childhood Special Education:** outlines the purpose and process for determining child outcomes as reported to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as well as procedures for incorporating these into writing a correct PLAAFP statement and goals/progress.
 - Presentation completed for eleven early childhood special education programs
- **Site Visits:** temporarily been suspended during the COVID outbreak.

Statewide Collaboration Projects:

- **AAIMH** (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health) Mental health needs of infants/toddlers/preschoolers and available supports.
- **AECCIG** (Arkansas Early Childhood Collaborative Impact Group: formerly Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (AECCS) Medical Home Workgroup) Work on drafting recommendations and providing feedback for the plan and standards for Better Beginning.
- **ELAN** (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Head start. Addresses inequities in preschool services for African American boys.
- **Excel by Eight (E8)** Formerly known as the Pritzker Grant, this is a planning grant and initiative to allow a team to develop a well-informed plan for infant and toddler support within the broader realm of developing successful children overall.
- **Natural Wonders** A workgroup for people interested in the various aspects of child health in order to learn and understand the problems facing Arkansas' young.
- **TECI (Teaming for Early Childhood Inclusion) Project** This project led by the Partners for Inclusive Communities and is designed to build capacity within the early childhood education network for successful inclusion of children with disabilities.