

# **Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Special Education Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Curriculum and Assessment, July 2021**

## **Inclusive Practices**

Inclusive Practices professional learning opportunities are being provided at sixteen locations across the state this summer. Additional training days will be provided in the fall. School administrators, including superintendents and principals, have been invited so that a common understanding can be developed within schools. Additionally, abbreviated, virtual Inclusive Practices presentations have been provided for several districts that have requested this information.

## **Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law**

Robin Stripling provided presentations for the Southeast Educational Cooperative and the Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative in May. The presentations focused on the ways IDEA and the Arkansas Dyslexia Law should work together.

## **Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Collaborative**

The CCSSO State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) met virtually on June 14, 15, and 16. The Assessment, Standards, and Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES) SCASS covered the following topics:

- Restart and Recovery
- Integrating Systems for Recovery
- Alternate Interim Assessments for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Measuring Academic Progress for Students with Disabilities
- Accessible Educational Materials
- US Department of Education Updates

## **Alternate Assessment Waiver Extension Request**

On June 14, 2021, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Special Education (DESE-OSE) submitted a request for an extension to its 1% Alternate Assessment Waiver. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 stated that any state that has more than 1% of its tested population participating in an alternate assessment must request a waiver from the US Department of Education. Arkansas did not have 2020-2021 assessment data prior to the deadline for waiver extension submission; therefore, even though we didn't know if the state assessed more than 1% of its students on the alternate assessment, a waiver extension request was submitted.

## **Alternate English Language Proficiency Exam Development**

Arkansas continues to work with a collaborative of states working to develop an alternate English language proficiency assessment for students who are English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Robin Stripling from the DESE-OSE and Dr. Alan Lytle from the DESE Office of Assessment are the state members on this team. The team meets on a weekly basis. A Community of Practice (CoP) has also been formed to move Arkansas ahead as this new assessment is implemented. The CoP includes Arkansas Educators and members of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.