

## **ARKANSAS CO-TEACHING PROJECT ADVISORY REPORT APRIL 2018**

The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project continues to provide a tiered system of support to staff at schools interested in starting a co-teaching program or improving the fidelity of an existing program. Tier 1 supports include telephone and email technical assistance and access to informational resources about the co-teaching model. Interested administrators, teachers, and co-teachers regularly contact the project team to obtain basic information about the co-teaching model, roles and responsibilities of co-teachers, best practices for implementation, scheduling, sources of co-teaching professional development, etc. The project team also works with the ADE Special Education and other units of Learning Services to respond to informational requests about co-teaching and the types of services provided by the project.

Tier 2 services include more extensive technical assistance that is provided remotely with telephone or internet conference calls or onsite. These services also include onsite or regional overviews of the co-teaching model. At this point, full day co-teaching overview professional development sessions are scheduled at Southeast Education Cooperative, Dawson Education Cooperative, Arch Ford Education Cooperative, Crowley's Ridge Education Cooperative, Wilbur Mills Education Cooperative, Guy Fenter Education Cooperative, OUR Education Cooperative, and South Central Education Cooperative during the summer months. Additional sessions may be added at a later date. In addition, the project has contracted with a national co-teaching expert and researcher, Dr. Lisa Dieker, to provide a one-day co-teaching session in September. The session will be open to all interested educators as well as ADE staff and university preservice instructors.

Tier 3 services are provided in the form of a yearlong, blended professional development package, Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC). This package is provided in partnership with Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education (JHU CTE) and includes a traditional face-to-face Kick Off session, online modules, webinars, onsite coaching, and implementation evaluation for administrators, co-teachers, and instructional facilitators who agreed to serve as BLC facilitators. Currently, sixteen schools in nine districts are participating. Schools include: Cooper Elementary, (Bentonville District), Crossett High, Crossett Middle (Crossett District), Jacksonville North Pulaski County Middle (Jacksonville North Pulaski County), Hall High (Little Rock School District), Magnolia High, Magnolia Junior High, and East Side Elementary (Magnolia District), Mountain Home Junior High, Mountain Home High, and Pinkston Middle (Mountain Home District), Sonora Middle and Springdale High (Springdale District), Trumann Middle and Trumann High (Trumann District), and Vilonia Freshman Academy (Vilonia District).

At this point, the majority of the Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC) package activities have been completed. All of the participants attended the Kick Off session and evaluated their current co-teaching implementation practices in the fall. Administrators and BLC facilitators have attended or reviewed recordings of four webinars designed to assist them in supporting their co-teachers, and the majority of co-teachers have completed their six online modules. All schools have received one onsite coaching visit and should receive the second onsite coaching visit by the end of April. The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project leadership staff has accepted an invitation

from Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education to visit in May to collaborate on changes to the Boundless Learning Co-Teaching Professional Development.

Between now and the end of the school year, the following activities will be completed: BLC facilitators will complete their six online modules in which they document their active support of their BLC co-teachers; administrators and their co-teaching planning teams will engage in implementation planning for 2018-19 with a member of the Arkansas Co-Teaching Project team; and all participants will engage in an implementation evaluation process designed to measure changes that have occurred as a result of their participation in Boundless Learning Co-Teaching. The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project team is also planning a one-day formal follow-up session in May designed to deepen the understanding and classroom application of the content presented in the online modules and to celebrate the achievements of co-teachers, administrators, and facilitators. This session was not part of the original package, so attendance will be optional.

The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project will continue to offer the yearlong, blended Boundless Learning Co-Teaching (BLC) professional development session in 2018-19 for schools interested in the more intensive Tier 3 supports. The Arkansas Co-Teaching Project is in the process of contracting for these services with JHU CTE and revising promotional material to share with districts. Information about registering for this package will be available by the end of April.

**CAYSI (Children and Youth with Sensory Impairment)  
Quarterly Report to the Special Education Advisory Council  
May 2, 2018**

- The CAYSI Project has received *21 new referrals* since our last report in January. We had a total of 74 new referrals and served approximately 215 students in 2017. CAYSI is in the process of completing the census data to report to National Center on Deafblindness.
- CAYSI is preparing to reapply to the US Department of Education for the next grant cycle.
- Parent groups in Siloam Springs, Little Rock, and Osceola have continued with topics of grieving the death of a child, using one's skills, knowledge, and strengths when working in groups, and skills and knowledge in becoming a Parent Companion to other parents whose child has dual sensory impairment.
- CAYSI collaborated with Easter Seals Outreach to provide 4 professional development trainings in Little Rock, Jonesboro, Monticello, and DeQueen/Mena for children with dual sensory impairment and other disabilities. Discussion for continued trainings in the summer has begun.
- CAYSI is concluding a pilot program of intensive technical assistance in northwest Arkansas with its final face-to-face meeting in May to determine the outcomes of the pilot project. The final professional development held on March 27<sup>th</sup> was on Self-determination and Transition.

- The Deafblind Summit meeting and Deafblind International conference was held April 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. CAYSI's family consultant was part of collaborative work in presenting at a breakout session on a multi-state project to connect families nationally through teleconference called Family-to-Family Communities on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A SPARKLE Parent Training was given by CAYSI in collaboration with The Center for Exceptional Families (PTI) Saturday, March 3rd in Little Rock to help parents better understand their child's world with deafblindness. Eight adults attended.
- CAYSI, in collaboration with The Center for Exceptional Children participated in a Family Planning Weekend Retreat in Cordele, Georgia in March. Parents from our SE Cohort of deafblind projects attended along with providers supporting secondary transition from high school. The plan is for CAYSI to use this model in Arkansas.
- CAYSI is collaborating with the SE Regional Deafblind Programs for those students who are preparing for career and/or college bound goals. The 2018 Teen Transition Institute for Young Adults who are deafblind will be held in Knoxville, TN and a parent and her child from Arkansas will be attending.

**Advisory Council for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities  
May 2, 2018**

**Personnel Development Activities**

**Paraprofessional Supports and Training**

Districts and agencies continue to take advantage of the six new Special Education Training Modules available through ArkansasIDEAS. The 6 one-hour Modules were developed by a committee of Arkansas school district and agency special education personnel in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the ADE-SEU. These Modules focus on the Foundations of Special Education and student Behavior. They are available to all Arkansas licensed teachers and administrators and school age paraprofessionals. A committee of statewide stakeholders continues the process of updating and revising the Special Health Care Needs Training Module.

**Recruitment and Retention**

The ADE-SEU continues to support eight graduate level students seeking certification as Speech Language Pathologists through its previous tuition reimbursement program. Eight prior participants have completed their university programs, achieved licensure as SLPs and are fulfilling the terms of their commitment as employees of Arkansas public schools or education service cooperatives. Two program participants completed the terms of their commitment in 2017 and continue their employment with Arkansas ESCs. The ADE-SEU is now working with educational service cooperatives to provide opportunities for recruitment and retention of educational personnel, which can include Speech Language Pathologists, at the local level.

The ADE-SEU will continue tuition reimbursement support for teachers seeking Visual and Hearing Specialist certifications for Arkansas public schools for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year.

SEU Personnel Development Staff continue to actively partner with the ADE's Teacher **Recruitment and Retention** program by attending and supporting all "Become an Arkansas Teacher" events and working with Educator Prep and Licensure Units to attract and support persons interested in becoming special education teachers. ADE-SEU staff were invited to attend the Bradley County Job Fair on April 26<sup>th</sup>, and will be participating in collaboration with ADE Teacher Recruitment and Retention staff. SEU staff also directly assists teachers and others interested in entering the field of Special Education by providing information via phone and email when contacted.

Staff at ADE-SEU work closely with personnel at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to share information about the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) and State Teacher Education Program (STEP), teacher tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness programs. These programs encourage new personnel to enter the field and current educators to acquire special education licensure.

### **Educational Interpreters**

The ADE-SEU will continue to sponsor EIPA assessment opportunities for interpreters working in educational settings. The ADE-SEU will sponsor a 2-day workshop (free of charge) this summer to help Educational Interpreters increase their skills and assist them in obtaining their license and credentials required for working in public schools. The ADE-SEU collaborates with the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Arkansas Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ARID) to support Educational Interpreters and schools in Arkansas