

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report  
State Personnel Development Grant  
October 26, 2016

Overview

On October 1, 2015 the Arkansas Department of Education was awarded a new State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. The SPDG will directly support the ADE SSIP targeted districts and build upon the Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Arkansas initiative, which is a multi-component, general education model designed to identify students who may be at risk academically or behaviorally, offer support, and monitor progress. The five-year grant will be used to develop RTI literacy and behavior resources and tools, including professional development and technical assistance, that co-ops, districts, and schools can utilize to assist all students, especially students with disabilities.

Partners

The SPDG has three main partners that will support the work in targeted districts:

- The American Institute of Research will provide RTI support and resources
- Arkansas State University's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) will provide support to implement a multi-tiered system of support for behavior
- The Parent Training and Information Center will provide parents with an understanding of RTI and their role in supporting their child

Update on Statewide RTI Resource Development

- An application was released to targeted districts for RTI support in September, 2016
- The State Personnel Development Grant filmed a Special Populations module at AR IDEAS on September 9, 2016
- Arkansas State University filmed a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Overview at AR IDEAS on August 25, 2016
- The SPDG is supporting the building of an office discipline referral intake system through the Student GPS system
- The SPDG in partnership with the ADE Curriculum and Instruction Unit has created a statewide RTI Advisory Team. The purpose of the Advisory is to more effectively address statewide RTI implementation including identifying strengths and barriers, guiding implementation, and supporting effective communication. The Advisory met on March 1, 2016 and will continue to meet quarterly in Little Rock.