

**Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report**  
**State Systemic Improvement Plan**  
**October 26, 2016**

Overview

In Phase II of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) created a plan to implement two strategies that will improve the infrastructure of the ADE and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in order to increase the State-identified Measurable Result (SIMR) - The percent of student with disabilities in grades 3- 5 who made gains towards reaching a proficient score or maintained a proficient score on the statewide literacy assessment.

Improvement Strategies Update

- Strategy Number One: Create a system of professional development and technical assistance that is aligned with other ADE Units and is differentiated based on LEAs' needs as evidenced by data. This strategy is focused on creating a coordinated professional development and technical assistance system that will provide the necessary structures for how LEA services and supports will be identified, managed, and differentiated at the state-level.

Update:

A cross unit ADE team analyzed data to identify targeted LEA needs through a special education risk assessment. Based on established risk factors, LEAs were identified to receive coordinated support from the Special Education Unit and the School Improvement Unit. An evaluation is currently being development to measure outcomes for the collaborative work between school improvement and special education.

- Strategy Number Two: In collaboration with other ADE Units, restructure Arkansas' Response to Intervention (RTI) model using evidence based personnel development to implement a multi-tiered system of supports for behavior and academics, with a focus on literacy.

Update:

The SPDG is currently developing a number of statewide RTI professional development modules that will be available online for educators at no cost. The SPDG will utilize these online modules, resources, and tools to build the capacity of cooperatives and districts within the state to support RTI. Two modules were filmed last month - RTI Special Populations and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Overview.