

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE BEST PRACTICES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

HANDOUT 1

Act 839 of 2015

I. SPED Task Force Responsibilities	Agency	Report Provided	Date
(A) Review the current practice of identifying students for special education services and programs in public schools in Arkansas and other states.			
(B) Compare outcomes of students participating in special education services in Arkansas with those in other states.	BLR/ADE	Special Education and Funding Report (SPEDFR), pages 6-10	11/04/2015
(C) Review the requirements for teacher preparation and licensure of special education teachers in Arkansas and other states.	BLR/ADHE	SPEDFR, pages 16-17; Proposed Options for increasing the number of teachers for Special Education	10/07/2015
(D) Review the requirements for professional development related to special education, including anticipated changes to professional development in Arkansas and other states.	ADE	Overview of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), pages 8-9	10/07/2015
(E) Review support staff and staffing ratios for special education services and programs, including nurses, teacher aides, and personal student aids.	BLR	Matrix FY2013-FY2015	09/16/2015
(F) Review discipline practices for students in special education programs in Arkansas and other states.	ADE	SSIP, page 7	10/07/2015
(G) Review Response to Intervention (RTI) practices in Arkansas, including identifying RTI programs in public schools that are successful and can be identified as best practices.	ADE	SSIP, page 10-11(need more)	10/07/2015
(H) Review the current practice for screening students for learning disabilities and the services provided for students with learning disabilities.			
(I) Review the availability of support services for SPED programs, students, and families, including without limitation, behavioral health services and social services with an effort made to identify best practices.	BLR	SPEDFR, pages 13	
(J) Review the practices of school districts regarding self-contained classrooms, inclusion programs, and resource rooms, including model policies and programs in Arkansas and other states.	ADE/BLR	SSIP, page 6; SPEDFR, page 5	
(K) Review the use of outside services and organizations by school districts that provide the best level of support for students receiving special education services or participating in special education programs.			
(L) Review the facilities, equipment, and materials available in schools districts for special education services and programs.			
(M) Compare the amount of academic instruction with the training time for independent function and career development.			
(N) Review special education services and programs currently in Arkansas public charter schools and public charter schools outside of Arkansas.			
(O) Identify exemplary school district special education programs in Arkansas and other states.			
(P) Review of the research and findings of national organizations that support students receiving special education services or student participating in special education programs.			
II. SPED Task Force Responsibility - Financial			
(4a) Review of the financial practices of school districts in Arkansas for the support or special education service.	BLR	Resource Allocation of Foundation Funding for Arkansas School Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, July 09, 2015	09/16/2015
(B) The review under subdivision (d)(4)(A) shall include a review of the financial practices of school districts in Arkansas for the support of special education services and programs.			