



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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ADE Receives \$5 Million Grant to Create Resources to Assist Students

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education recently was awarded a \$5 million State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. The five-year grant will be used to develop literacy and behavior resources and tools, including professional development and technical assistance, that teachers can utilize to assist all students, especially students with disabilities.

Arkansas was one of nine states to receive the grant. ADE will use the funds to build upon the Response-to-Intervention 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 grant will provide the resources we need to move the needle in Arkansas toward increased results for all students, including those with disabilities,” Lisa Haley, the associate director of Special Education, said.

With the grant, ADE will enhance partnerships with the American Institutes for Research and Arkansas State University at Jonesboro's Center for Community Engagement to implement a statewide system of support for behavior and academics. This school year ADE also will partner with the Little Rock School District to implement the RTI model at the elementary level, with plans to expand the model to the middle and high schools in the future. Over time, additional districts will receive assistance through the grant.

"We are pleased to receive this grant, which will allow us to provide additional support to the Little Rock School District," ADE Commissioner Johnny Key said. "We are committed to ensuring the success of the Little Rock School District, and with this grant, we will be able to better assist the district with building a sustainable support network for teachers and struggling learners."

ADE previously received two grants from the Office of Special Education Programs: a State Improvement Grant (more than \$7 million) from 2003 to 2007 and another State Personnel Development Grant (\$5 million) from 2009 to 2014. The new grant allows ADE to build upon the positive outcomes of the previous grants, such as utilizing personnel at the state, regional and district levels who have benefited from previous professional development provided through the grants.

To learn more about the RTI Arkansas initiative, go to <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/rti>.

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