

MINUTES

Legislative Task Force on the Best Practices for Special Education

Wednesday, June 8, 2016
10:00 A.M.
Room 130
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Legislative Task Force on the Best Practices for Special Education met on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 10:00 A.M., in Room 130 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Task Force Members Present: Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Chair and Representative Sheilla Lampkin. Ms. Lisa Haley, Ms. Barbara Hunter-Cox, Ms. Renee Johnson, Ms. Sarah Moore, Ms. Bailey Perkins, Ms. Shirley Ann Renix, Dr. Bruce Smith, Ms. Lisa Tisdale-Parker, Ms. Tina Vineyard, and Ms. Angela Winfield.

Other Legislators Present: Representative James Sorvillo.

Call to Order

Senator Lindsey called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the Minutes of May 11, 2016

A motion was made to approve the minutes and without objection the minutes were approved.

Public Charter Schools Special Education Services and Programs

Tripp Walter, Arkansas Public Resource Center

Barbara Hunter-Cox, Arkansas Public School Resource Center

Sarah McKenzie, Office for Education Policy

Sivan Tuchman, Office for Education Policy

Angela Larrison, Lisa Academy

Luanne Baroni, Lisa Academy

John Bacon, E-STEM

Issues Discussed:

- Currently twenty-two (22) open enrollment public charter schools in Arkansas comprised of twenty- seven (27) campuses, no school district affiliation
- There are twenty- three (23) conversion charter schools within the state contained within eighteen (18) school districts
- In the 2016- 2017 school year, two (2) new open enrollment public charter schools and five (5) new conversion charter schools will begin operation
- Arkansas Charter Survey Results [See Exhibit C-1 for full report]
- Paperwork reduction, more training for special education teachers serving their students at open enrollment charter schools, collaboration and sharing of resources with other schools. One of twenty-two open enrollment charter schools pays stipends to special education teachers
- District/Charter collaboration
- Inclusion model of charter schools
- Student-Teacher Ratio
- White paper requested of Tripp Walter “Resource Report”

Exemplary Special Education Programs and Services

Denny Hoover, Rethink Autism

Jennifer Wilkens, Rethink Autism

Suzie Baker, Easter Seals Arkansas

Dr. Joel Arick, Star Autism Support

Debbie Ware, Easter Seals Arkansas

Issues Discussed:

- Rethink Training Center and data collection system
- Applied behavior analytics
- Inclusion curriculum
- Evidence based practices
- Structure of professional development and training
- STAR Autism Support curriculum of Easter Seals [See Handout D-2 for full report]
- Building sustainable system of support within local school districts

Task Force Assignment Updates - Response to Intervention White Paper [See Exhibit E for full report]

Dr. Linda Dorn, Ph.D., UALR

Renee Johnson, M.Ed., Cabot School District

Dr. Bruce Smith, Ph.D., UALR

Issues Discussed:

- Two major themes throughout the report: How do we maximize what is working? How do we come up with a more collaborative systemic way within schools of bringing people together?
- Insights from 2014 special education data, reflects an 18.6 percent decrease from 2002-2011 in Arkansas students identified as having a specific learning disability.
- Six key recommendations that schools should consider in implementing an effective RTI approach.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 130 of the State Capitol.