



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Early Childhood Education Alert

ECSE

January 2010

Updates for Early Childhood Special Education

Happy New Year! I want to introduce you to our newest staff member, Holly Ford. Holly comes to us from within the Department of Education and will be your contact for Ongoing Progress Monitoring (OPM). Holly can be contacted directly at 602-542-2790 or at holly.ford@azed.gov. Mark Nagasawa went on to work on a First Things First grant through ASU. We wish him future success and we are glad to still have him as an integral part of our early childhood community.

State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) is a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs www.ade.az.gov/ess/downloads/AZStatePerformancePlan.pdf.

Three indicators apply to preschool:

1. Indicator 6: Preschool LRE

We are reporting the amount of time within an 8 hour day that a child is with typical peers, but are awaiting changes from OSEP that we hope include amount of time child is *receiving services* with typical children. This indicator is on hold.

2. Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes

Please see additional information below.

3. Indicator 12: Early Intervention Transitions (Part C/AzEIP to Part B/Preschool).

New Information will be sent in the next Alert.

Ongoing Progress Monitoring (OPM). Arizona's OPM process is part of the SPP/ APR's Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes. See Arizona State Performance Plan at <http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/downloads/AZStatePerformancePlan.pdf>. Arizona is required to report preschool outcomes for children that exit preschool special education services or transition into kindergarten. However, Arizona takes a best practice approach to actually USING this data by encouraging local programs to utilize data to drive instruction for individual children, classrooms and programs. See website <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood/downloads/PreschoolAssessmentManual.pdf> for details of current assessment system.

While adults are collecting data in an ongoing manner, districts are asked to submit the data twice a year (6/30 and 12/31). Districts are required to upload scores to the ADE Student Accountability

Information System (SAIS) through their district student management system. Please contact the designated SAIS coordinator for assistance in ensuring your data is meeting these deadlines.

Critical Information to know about Child Outcome Data

The APR that will be submitted by ADE on February 1, 2010, reflects data from the 2008-09 school year and will be used to provide baseline information for our state and the local districts. Targets for improvement will be established using this baseline data. **On the next APR submitted by ADE on 2/1/11, the data for each district will be publically reported.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) for OPM Instruments.

The current assessments, chosen through a five year RFP process, will end after the 2010-2011 school year. ADE is in the process of issuing an RFP for child assessment(s) that will reflect changes in the field and allow Arizona to meet its federal requirements. ADE in collaboration with other ECE Stakeholders is looking for a tool to better meet the needs of our state. Anyone who would like to be considered for placement on the selection committee may email Amy.Corriveau@azed.gov.

ADE intends to announce the newly approved tool prior to the beginning of the 2010/2011 school-year. This will allow time to purchase and train staff as necessary with implementation of a new assessment system in the Fall of 2011.

ICC/SEAP Workgroup. The Interagency Coordinating Council (AzEIP) and the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) created a workgroup last spring. This workgroup aligned a parent training for early intervention transitions between Arizona Department of Education's Parent Information Network Specialists (PINS) and Raising Special Kids (RSK). Both organizations have marketed the trainings and asked for agencies and districts to host trainings for parents. These agencies/service coordinators and districts may request a training(s) to be scheduled with RSK and/or PINS. See attached letter that was sent to districts.

Certification Update/Reminder. Birth-Age 5 teachers may now meet federal highly qualified AND state certification requirements with one of the following:

- A K-12 Cross-Categorical, MR, LD, ED, O/HI, **OR** Severely and Profoundly Disabled **AND** an Early Childhood Endorsement;
OR
- A K-12 Cross-Categorical, MR, LD, ED, O/HI, **OR** Severely and Profoundly Disabled **AND** a valid Early Childhood certificate;
OR
- An Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-age 5) certificate.

Upcoming Trainings. During these fiscally lean times, it may be difficult for ADE staff to keep up with the training demands of the field. However, please check on-line registration for ADE trainings as well as other opportunities supported by ADE staff. www.azed.gov/onlineregistration

Help For Early Learning Professionals (HELP).

The HELP Manual is an essential guide for everyone working in Early Childhood Special Education. The HELP manual is available on our website at <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood/preschool/programs/presch/HELPMANUALFINAL.pdf> . It covers everything from Child Find to Comprehensive Developmental Assessments (CDAs) to Transitions to School-Aged Services. For a hard copy of the manual contact alma.quintana@azed.gov. An updated manual with the developmental delay category and other changes is in the works. The 2008 version is the most up to date.

Due to a decreased need and fiscal budget cuts only one, 1-day HELP Conference is scheduled for **February 19th in Phoenix (see online registration)**. This conference is not new information, but designed for new administrators. Plan on staying over for the DEC Conference on Saturday!

Arizona Council of Exceptional Children/Division of Early Childhood (CEC/DEC). The Spring Conference co-sponsored by Arizona Department of Education is an exciting opportunity! University of Kentucky Early Education Professor, Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Ph.D, is presenting "Inclusion for ALL Preschool Learners: Adapting Your Curriculum, Strategies for Making it Work". Don't miss this exciting economical opportunity on Saturday, February 20th. Flyer and registration are at this link <http://home.mindspring.com/~llevine1/flyers/DEC%20workshop%20flyer.pdf>

Arizona Early Learning Institute. ADE is not able to commit to a conference of this magnitude, however, this summer the National Association for the Education of Young Children is having their national Professional Development Institute in Phoenix during the month of June. You can find more information on their website at <http://www.naeyc.org/institute/>. This is a highly regarded opportunity and many ECE Educators may never have had the opportunity to attend a national conference. ADE will work collaboratively with our ECE partners to possibly host a smaller conference in Fall 2010.

Great Resource. The Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom: Easy Ways to Adapt Learning Centers for All Children. Authors: Patti Gould and Joyce Sullivan. Publisher: Gryphon House, Beltsville, MD.

Next Alert. Changes to Early Intervention Transitions.