



State of Arizona
Department of Education



Special Education Monitoring Alert

March 2018

Alert to Special Education Directors and Program Administrators: Provision of Specially Designed Instruction by Non-Special Education Providers

Arizona Revised Statutes §15-763 was recently amended to allow for the provision of specially designed instruction (SDI) by general education teachers or other certificated personnel. Specifically, the statute explains that, “If appropriate to meet the needs of a pupil and to ensure access to the general education curriculum, specially designed instruction that is in accordance with a pupil’s individualized education program may be delivered in a variety of education settings by a general education teacher or other certificated personnel provided that special education personnel certificated pursuant to section 15-203 are involved in the planning, progress monitoring, and when appropriate, involved in the delivery of the specially designed instruction.”

In order for the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services to ensure that public education agencies are meeting assurance 12 of the IDEA grant application that “all personnel providing special education and related services to children with exceptionalities meet the standards set by the State Department of Education, the State of Arizona, and as required by the IDEA,” during a monitoring, the program specialist will expect to see the following items when general education or other non-special education certified providers are noted in a student’s individualized education program (IEP) as the service provider for the specially designed instruction:

1. An explanation of why the use of a general education teacher or other non-special education certificated provider is appropriate to meet the needs of that specific student and ensure access to the general education curriculum.
2. An explanation of how certificated special education personnel will be involved in the planning, progress monitoring, or delivery of SDI.

Additionally, the certification of the special education teacher of the child present at the IEP meeting at which the IEP was developed will be verified through the Arizona Department of Education’s Online Arizona Certification Information System (OACIS), as will the certification of the individual who is providing SDI (if different from the special education teacher of the child).

As Arizona receives further clarification from OSEP related to the State’s implementation of this statute, and as we see exemplars of documentation, we will continue to send clarification out to the field.

If you have questions or need further guidance, please speak to your assigned Program Support and Monitoring specialist.