



GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE Teacher Center Coordinator Updates August 2023

Standards and Assessment:

A. Assessments:

❖ **ACT Aspire Preliminary scores released:**

- [2022-2023 ACT Aspire Preliminary Summary Scores Extended \(XLSX\) – July 20, 2023](#)

❖ **ATLAS Updates:**

- The summative test will be adaptive within grade levels.
- The test will be untimed but will have an estimated time to test.
- Science Interim testing will be available in September. ELA and Math Interim testing will not be available until 2024-25.
- The test will be fully aligned with Arkansas standards.
- The classroom tool will be available in August.
- [Testing Blueprints](#)

❖ [2023-2024 Tentative Testing Calendar - LS-22-057](#)

❖ **K-2 Assessments**

- 2023-2024 is the final year on the contracts for the current K-2 assessments.
- In 2024-2025, new assessments will be available for K-2 and may include a universal screener at the beginning of the year with some through-year interim assessments to help with the requirements of AR LEARNS.

B. Revised Standards:

- ❖ **ELA and math standards are to be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. We are typically given a year for implementation, but since these standards will be the foundation for the new assessments in the spring of 2024, instruction must be on the same standards.**

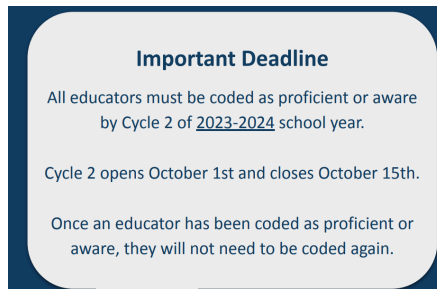
➤ [2023 Revised K-12 ELA Standards.pdf](#)



C. Literacy/Reading:

- ❖ **Due to the LEARNS Act**, the Literacy Specialists will be assigned to schools with a D/F rating. GFESC Literacy Specialists will try to meet the needs of all districts/schools, but please be aware that the Literacy Specialists may not be as accessible to schools with A-C ratings.
- ❖ **Writing Revolution Cohorts** are again being offered this year by DESE. Teachers will be in either the K-2 or 3-12 cohort, and all sessions are virtual. For more information, see the links below:
 - Link to the MOU Instructions - <https://bit.ly/42ugFj3>
 - Link to the MOU Google Form - <http://bit.ly/3HmnwCM>

- ❖ **The deadline for Science of Reading Proficiency is here.** All K-6 core content teachers, ELL, Reading Specialists, and K-12 special education teachers must be proficient.



D. Social Studies:

- ❖ The 2023-24 school year is “soft implementation” for the new Social Studies standards. 2024-25 is “full implementation.”

E. Math:

- ❖ The new math standards must be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. [2023 Revised K-8-ALGI-GEO Mathematics Standards.pdf](#)

F. CTE:

- ❖ Any CTE teacher needing 410 (Keystone), 412 (Internship/WBL/College and Career Readiness), or 418 (Career Development) must contact Jennifer Turner to be admitted to the mentorship program - jennifer.turner@wscstarfish.com. Programs can be limited due to the number of participants.
- ❖ Innovations and Non-Traditional grants opened and must be submitted by September 20th by Jennifer Turner. [Innovations and Non-Traditional Information link](#)
- ❖ New CTE program State Start up grants are also open and information is due back by October 6th for submission by Jennifer. New CTE State Start Up Grants Information
- ❖ Please email jennifer.turner@wscstarfish.com if you have any questions!



G. Special Education:

- ❖ **Inclusive Practices, K-6:** Beginning this school year (23-24), the majority of students in K-6 should be spending the majority of their day in the general education classroom. Schools may still offer resource classes, but they should be in addition to core instruction and not replace it.

- ❖ Guy Fenter will once again be offering training for special education novice teachers on the following dates:

9/28/2023- Day 1 (Session [503147](#))

11/2/2023-Day 2 (Session [503154](#))

1/30/2024-Day 3 (Session [503160](#))

3/7/2024-Day 4 (Session [503163](#))

*The special education novice training is **optional** for any **special educator** who is a **novice special educator** and is offered **in addition to** the required novice training for teachers who are in their first 3 years of education. The special education novice training is designed for **educators who are in their first three years of teaching special education**, regardless of how many years they have taught previously. It is **also available to any veteran special education teacher** who needs further training and support in the topics covered. This training is conducted by Audrey Kengla, Behavior Support Specialist for Guy Fenter, as well as Amber Quillman, Special Education Supervisor for Ozark and Mansfield Schools. Becky Ballard, School Psychology Specialist for Guy Fenter, will also be contributing.*

*Topics covered in the novice special education training are specific to the needs of those who are **new to teaching special education**, such as behavior management strategies, ABA strategies, due process, IEPs, data collection, etc.*

ESSA and Accountability:

- ❖ The Assessment Corrections Engine (ACE) will be open from August 7-21, 2023 (15 days). During this time, districts can submit documentation through the portal to remove students that may not be expected to test. **Making corrections earlier in this window will give our team the time to offer support or provide feedback.**
- ❖ [TRIAND Login Information](#)
- ❖ [ACE Corrections & Required Documentation](#)
- ❖ [ACE Tutorial Video](#)
- ❖ [ACE User Guide](#)

TESS/LEADS/Mentoring/Licensure:

H. Licensure:

- ❖ **Licensure Waiver Fee** for a first-time license: The State Board of Education has approved a waiver of first-time teacher licensure application fees for the following



period: **May 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023.** Graduates should continue to apply for the standard license through the online application but will not be asked to pay the application fee before submitting.

- ❖ **Praxis Test/Support:** teachers who need help with passing a Praxis or the Foundations of Reading, please contact Tammy Brewer (tammy.brewer@wscstarfish.com) for assistance.

❖ Late Hire Novice Teachers Years 1-3 (K-12) [Here](#)

❖ **Mentor Training Date:** (last training of the year) is on Oct. 3, 2023. Tammy Brewer will email out a link when you assign a mentor on the GFESC Novice spreadsheet.

- ❖ **Recruitment and Retention:**

- [Teach Arkansas Site](#)
- DESE's list of teachers looking for jobs (updated April 2023) [LINK](#)

I. TESS & LEADS

- All rubrics were updated for the 22-23 school year. A general overview presentation from the ADE Summit is available below. Accompanying resources have also been updated. See links below:
 - [Rubric Presentations](#)
 - [TESS Rubrics](#)
 - [TESS Resources](#)
 - [LEADS Rubrics and Resources](#)
- **Educator Effectiveness System:** Trent Sarcini, trent.saracini@ade.arkansas.gov, is the new tech support and contact when you need help with the data entry side (error messages, cannot login, employee isn't on the staff list, etc.) of the platform. If you have not reviewed the data entry manual or made plans to attend one of his trainings, see the links below.
 - [Manual](#)
 - [Virtual Training](#)

Other Information:

J. [Act 538](#)

- Upon the issuance of an initial teaching license, an applicant shall obtain training in the following areas within the first two years of initial employment, unless they have received training in a separate ed prep program and can provide evidence of completing training:
 - Mandated reporting
 - Family and community engagement



- Teen suicide awareness and prevention
- AR History
- Human trafficking
- Certified staff will be required to receive training in these areas one time only. Certified staff who have completed these trainings do not have to take it again.
 - Family and community engagement
 - AR History (except as may be required for the subject matter she/he teaches)
- In the 2023-2024 school year and every 5th year thereafter, certified staff shall receive training in the following:
 - Mandated reporter (originally every 4th year after 2013-14)
 - Mental health awareness
 - Teen suicide awareness and prevention
- **2023-2024 School Year: 2 hours Bullying Prevention AND 2 hours of Suicide Awareness.**
- Per Michelle Johnson at DESE, hold off on doing Child Maltreatment, unless you do it every year. She believes they will clean this up in the forthcoming rules.
- **Licensed employees cannot be required to attend PD beyond 60 hours each year according to the new law.**

❖ LEARNS

- **Sec. Oliva's priorities in education this year include:**
 - [Presentation from AAEA](#) (includes data and priorities)
 - Implementing LEARNS
 - School Safety
 - Teaching and Learning (ensuring aligned systems)
 - Impact (data to show the impact of what you are doing)
- **Priorities of DESE** - presentation from Stacy Smith at AAEA on July 25, 2023. This slideshow details the personnel changes and new roles at DESE. It also has important updates related to LEARNS and laws going into effect such as the Science of Reading proficiency. [Click here for the presentation.](#)

❖ **Determining Essential Standards PD Coming Soon!**

- **September 6, 2023: Elementary Session** [LINK](#)
This session is designed for elementary teams. We will take a quick overview of Essential Standards and the newly released Arkansas Standards. This will be a valuable time for teams to work together on their Guaranteed Viable Standards and Unit Plans with support from a PLC Specialist.
- **September 7, 2023: Secondary Session** [LINK](#)



This session is designed for secondary teams. We will take a quick overview of Essential Standards and the newly released Arkansas Standards. This will be a valuable time for teams to work together on their Guaranteed Viable Standards and Unit Plans with support from a PLC Specialist.

Commissioner's Memos:

[Link to all Commissioner's Memos](#)

- [LS-24-002](#): 2023-24 Final Assessment Calendar
- [COM-24-006](#): Special Education Programs: Guidance on Reporting Cycles 2,4,7 for 2023-24
- [LS-24-005](#): School of Innovation Application Process
- [FIN-24-004](#): 2023-24 Guidelines for Posting Personnel Policies and Salary Schedules
- [OIT-24-002](#): Data Update required

<u>2023-24 Principals Mtgs.</u>	<u>2023-24 Superintendent's Mtgs.</u>	<u>2023-24 Federal/Curriculum Mtgs.</u>
August 23 & 24, 2023	August 17, 2023	September 15, 2023
September 20 & 21, 2023	September 14, 2023	October 13, 2023
November 1 & 2, 2023	Oct. Fall Conference 18-20, 2023	November 10, 2023
January 24 & 25, 2024	November 9, 2023	December 15, 2023
February 21 & 22, 2024	December 14, 2023	January 12, 2024
March 27 & 28, 2024	January 18, 2024	February 9, 2024
April 24 & 25, 2024	February 8, 2024	March 8, 2024
	March 14, 2024	April 12, 2024
	April 11, 2024	May 10, 2024
	May 9, 2024	