

## Arkansas Division of Youth Services

### District Support Plan

2020-2021

**Goal-What is your goal for 20-21?** To help students become better readers by developing learning strategies that help overcome some of the barriers dyslexia presents.

**Curriculum-Are there any changes to curriculum resources for 20-21?** New resources are being purchased from Winsor Learning, which primarily include intervention kits for teachers, as well as supplies and materials for students.

**Science of Reading PD-Are teachers still receiving training? Or have teachers completed required training?** Veteran teachers have completed the Science of Reading training; however, there are very few of veteran/trained teachers remaining. DYS facilities are under new management: "Rite of Passage," and new teachers have been hired. These teachers will need to start the training or, continue on the path they have started prior to being hired by Rite of Passage (ROP).

**Monitoring-How will you continue to monitor as you carry this plan forward? What timeline will you use to monitor? Who will monitor?** All students are assessed when they first arrive. Progress monitoring takes place every 30 days. The average length of stay is 6 months. Pre and post tests are given to determine the growth students make while they are with us. The two assessments we depend on most for pre and post results are Edmentum Exact Path Diagnostics and the Winsor Learning Reading Placement assessments in reading and spelling. The Woodcock Johnson IV and the CTOPP are used as screeners. Big picture monitoring is done by DYS central office administrators on staff in the education department.

**Evaluation-How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the plan for 20-21? When will you evaluate (quarterly, mid-year, annually)?** The DYS student population differs from a regular school. Our students typically stay 6-9 months, some shorter, some longer. We have found that the best evaluation system is to evaluate each student and determine the growth during the time they are with us. In terms of this district support plan, we will be evaluating reading progress and growth. We can look at the percentage of students (collectively) who showed positive gains while they were with us.

### Background

The Arkansas Division of Youth Services will continue the work we started last year to help struggling readers. Last year, we provided teachers with dyslexia training and purchased small group kits. During the 2020-2021 school year, we will expand the training to include more teachers and we will purchase more intervention kits for classrooms.

Between 70 and 80% of the students remanded to the custody of DYS struggle to read and are several grade levels behind where they should be in terms of their academic performance. We currently use the Woodcock Johnson-IV as a screener then administer the CTOPP to determine which students need further testing and interventions that will improve both their reading and comprehension.

All groups of students benefit from these efforts, including ESL, Special Education, 504, males, females, low socio-economic, highly mobile, Specific Learning Disability, etc. We strive to provide all DYS students with equal opportunities to strengthen their reading skills, recognize words, and comprehend the meanings of what they have read. We know if our students can do these things, the chances of them experiencing success in many aspects of their lives will increase greatly.