



Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
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MEMORANDUM

TO: First Connections Providers
FROM: Regina Davenport
DATE: September 22, 2023
SUBJECT: Notification of Arkansas LEARNS Act 294 Lead Agency

The Arkansas LEARNS Act 294 created the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood within the Arkansas Department of Education. As part of the development of the new office, the federally funded Early Intervention program, operating as First Connections, transferred to the Arkansas Department of Education on August 1, 2023. As allowed, an agreement between the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Arkansas Department of Education (DOE) are working together to facilitate a smooth transition of the program.

Per agreement, DHS/DDS will maintain responsibility for Lead Agency supervision of the Part C/First Connections program through June 30, 2024.

Lead Agency contacts are as follows: Tracy Turner, Regina Davenport, Thomas Tarpley, Melissa Weatherton.