

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Annual Report of Activities 2023-2024



3010 E. Hwy 22, Suite A  
Branch, AR 72928  
479.965.2191

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Table of Contents**

A Message from the Director	4
Mission Statement	5
State Map	6
Organizational Chart	7
Board of Directors	8
Teacher Center Committee Members 2023-2024	9
Education Service Cooperative (ESC) Annual Report	10
Staffing	12
Teacher Center	15
Administrative Services	16
Direct Services to Students	17
Anecdotal Reports	18
GFESC ACT Prep	18
GFESC Dyslexia Contact Meetings	18
GFESC Professional Learning Communities: Boardroom to Classroom	18
GFESC Federal Programs and Curriculum Coordinators Monthly Meetings	18
GFESC Principals PLC and Monthly Meetings	19
GFESC Annual Leadership Conference	19
GFESC and Local School District Partnership	19
Employment Policies and Practices	20
Employed	20
Terminated	20
Seeking Employment	20
Program: Accounting	22
Program: ADE/APSCN Student Field Analyst	24
Program: Arkansas Transition Services	25
Program: K-12 Behavior Support Specialist	29
Program: Career & Technical Education	34
Program: Computer Science	37
Program: Consolidated Purchasing Services	41
Program: Digital Learning: Virtual Arkansas	42
Program: Early Childhood	46
Program: ESVI and CAYSI	48
Program: Foster Grandparent Program	50
Program: Gifted and Talented	52
Program: Literacy	54
Program: Mathematics	56
Program: Migrant Education	58
Program: Novice Teacher Mentoring	60
Program: School Health Services	62
Program: Science	64

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Program: Teacher Center (Professional Development; Curr. Development; Resources	66
Program: Technology	69
Special Projects and Programs	71
Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP)	71
Communities of Practice Grant (CoP)	71
Praxis Study Sessions	71
Special Education Novice Teacher Training	72
Electronic Fingerprinting	72
Guy Fenter ESC Impact on Student Performance	73
Professional Development Activities Summary	76

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative's Annual Report for the 2023-2024 year. We take great pride in the services we provide to our 21 school districts, charter schools, private schools, and all student populations within our six-county region of Western Arkansas. This report is prepared for school district personnel, school board members, area legislators, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education personnel, and the Governor's office.

Our team has worked diligently to capture a comprehensive overview of the many services and activities we offer to member districts across various program areas. The Guy Fenter ESC region encompasses six counties, 21 districts, 98 schools, over 40,000 students, and more than 2,900 teachers and administrators.

Guy Fenter ESC, like all Education Service Cooperatives, has grown significantly, with member districts increasingly relying on the services we provide. Personnel from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other state-level education organizations frequently seek assistance from Guy Fenter ESC and other co-ops for their initiatives. This underscores our commitment to enhancing student-focused programs through collaborative efforts, cost-saving measures, and partnerships with member districts. By bringing statewide efforts to the regional level, co-ops contribute to significant cost and time savings for both the state and local districts, ultimately enhancing student outcomes.

Jim Ford, Director

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative is to assist the member schools in more effective and more equitable use of their shared resources and to provide shared services for the better education of their children and youth.

## **General Goals**

Service desires of the local school districts shall be the paramount influence on the design of the cooperative's services programs. Such programs will also be influenced by the State Department of Education's desire to make services available to local districts through the cooperative.

The cooperative shall endeavor to provide requested services more economically and/or more effectively than the same services could be provided on an individual district basis.

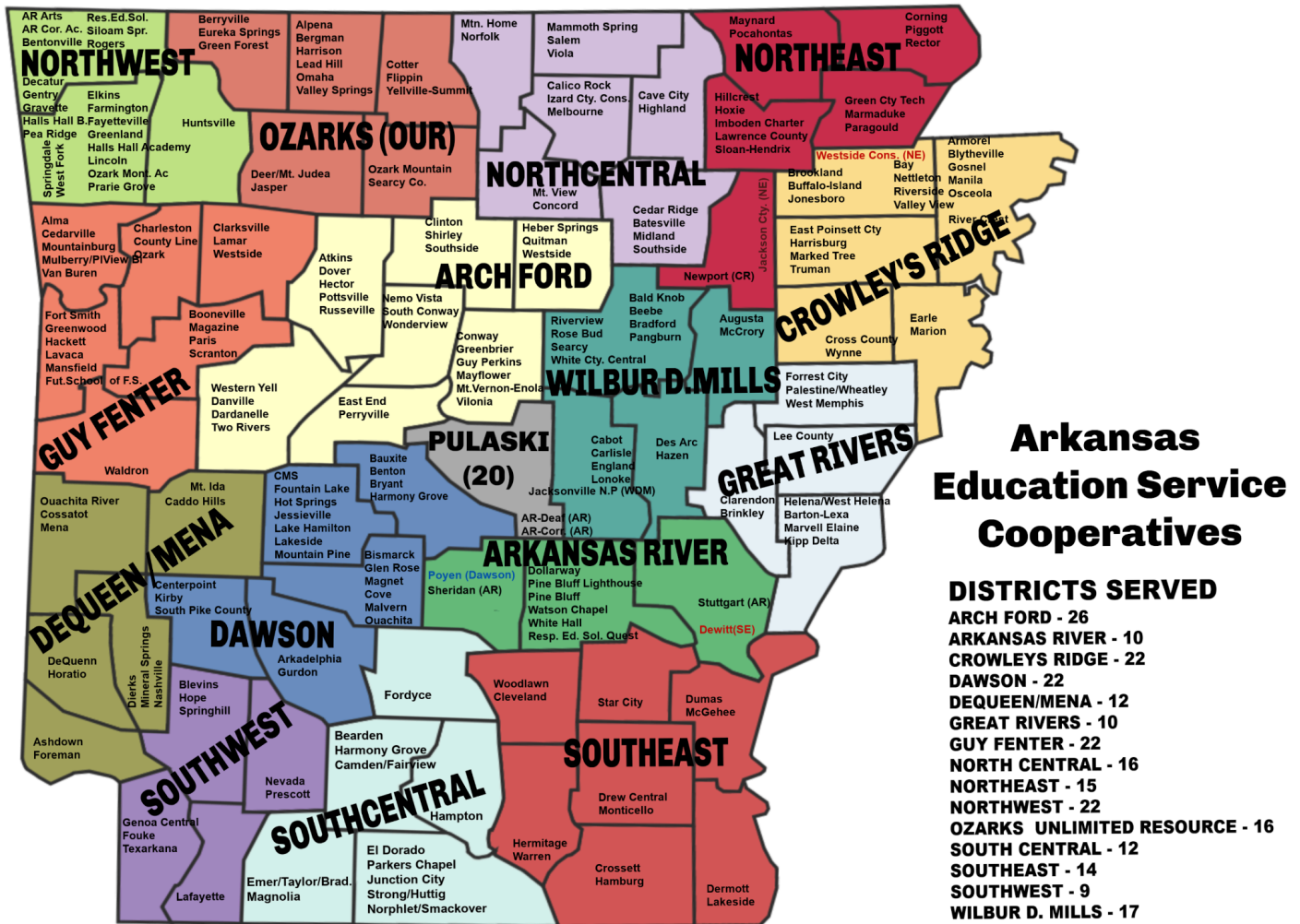
The cooperative shall strive to make services to all interested districts as equally accessible as possible.

## **Communications and Coordination**

The cooperative shall work with its local school districts, with other cooperatives and the State Department of Education to improve communication and coordination through the Arkansas network of local school districts.

This cooperative shall constantly strive to reflect the wishes of the local districts' representatives in its operation, consistent with the applicable provisions of statutes and state regulations.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

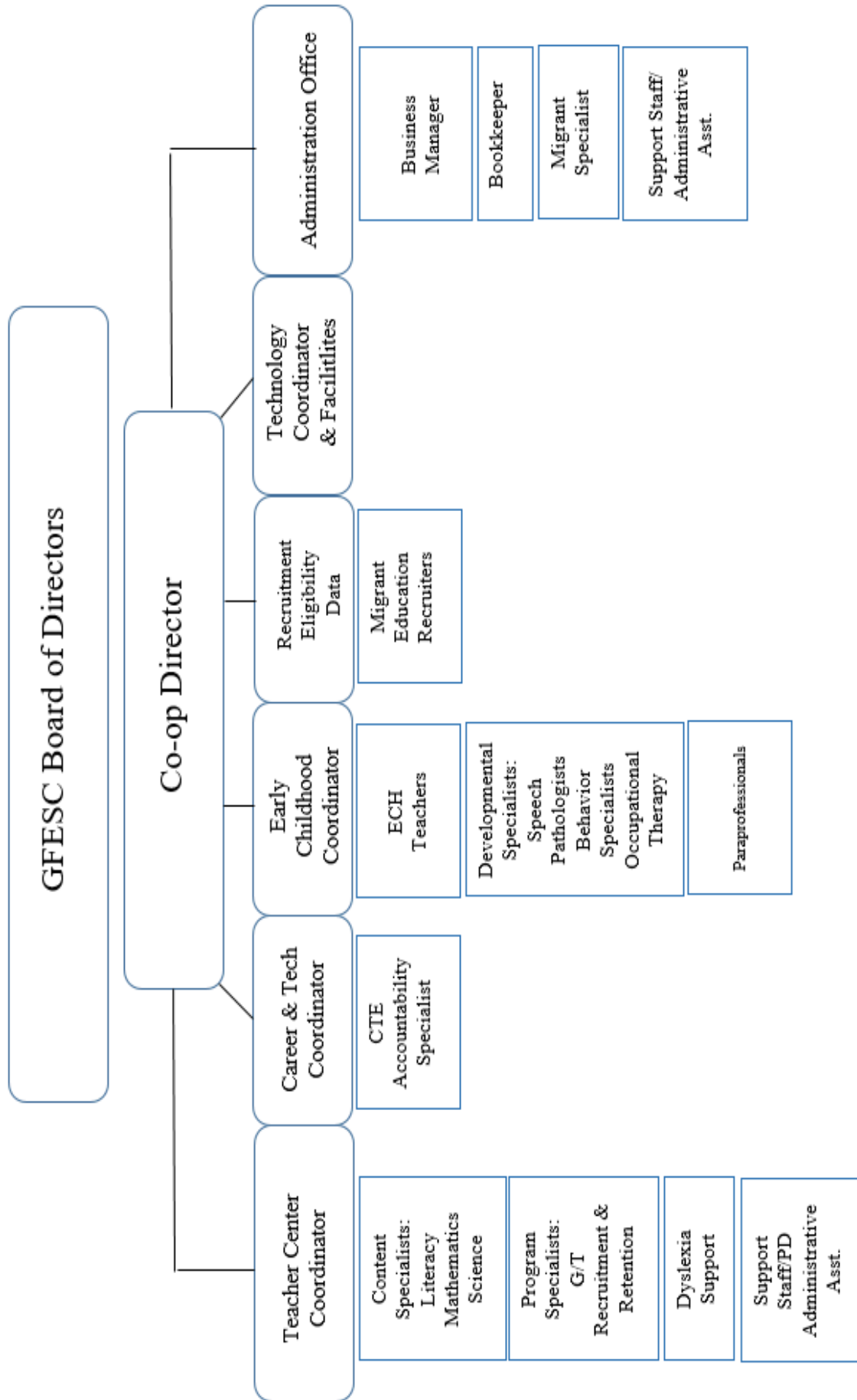


The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative serves the following counties:

- Crawford
- Franklin
- Johnson
- Logan
- Scott
- Sebastian

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## GFESC Organizational Chart



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## School Districts served in the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Future School of FS, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/PV, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside.

## Board of Directors

Name	Position	School District
Dr. Bryan Duffie	Board Member	Alma
Trent Goff	Board Member	Booneville
Dr. Kerry Schneider	Board Member - Vice Chair	Cedarville
Missy Moore	Board Member	Charleston
Dr. David Hopkins	Board Member - Chair	Clarksville
Taylor Gattis	Board Member	County Line
Dr. Terry Morawski	Board Member	Fort Smith
John Ciesla	Board Member	Greenwood
Eddie Ray	Board Member	Hackett
Mario Beshears	Board Member	Lavaca
David Tollett/Shane Gordon	Board Member	Lamar
Dr. Beth Shumate	Board Member	Magazine
Joe Staton	Board Member	Mansfield
Dr. Debbie Atwell	Board Member	Mountainburg
Dr. Lonnie Myers	Board Member	Mulberry/Pleasant View
Zane Vanderpool	Board Member	Ozark
Jim Loyd	Board Member	Paris
Toby Cook	Board Member	Scranton
Dr. Harold Jeffcoat	Board Member	Van Buren
Daniel Fielding	Board Member	Waldron
Brad Kent	Board Member	Westside



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Teacher Center Committee

Committee Member	District	Position	Expires
Bryan Duffie	Alma	Superintendent	Aug-24
Kristin Fennell	Booneville	High School Teacher	Aug-24
Rhonda Brown	Cedarville	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-26
Rachel Fisher	Charleston	Administration, Middle School	Aug-26
Kathy Howell	Clarksville	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-25
April Shaw	County Line	High School Teacher	Aug-24
Courtney Eckles	Future School of Fort Smith	High School Teacher	Aug-26
Nicole Franklin	Fort Smith	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-26
Rick Clow	Greenwood	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-25
Marisa Thornburg	Hackett	High School Teacher	Aug-25
Judith Little	Lamar	High School Teacher	Aug-25
Caitlyn Kilbreth	Lavaca	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-24
Traci Schlinker	Magazine	High School Teacher	Aug-25
Lisa Henson	Mansfield	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-25
Bryson Bradley	Mountainburg	High School Teacher	Aug-25
Sean Cline	Mulberry/PV	Middle/Junior High Teacher	Aug-26
Jennifer King	Ozark	Administration, Elementary	Aug-24
Maranda Pfeffer	Paris	Middle/Junior High Teacher	Aug-24
Leigh Vonderheide	Scranton	Middle/Junior High Teacher	Aug-24
Kathy Wheeler	Van Buren	Elementary School Teacher	Aug-24
Kim Soloman	Waldron	Administration, High School	Aug-26
Christine Payne	Westside	High School Teacher	Aug-24

### Guidelines:

- 1 representative from each school district must be on the committee
- Balance of Elementary, Middle/JH, and High School personnel
- 1/2 to 2/3 of members must be classroom teachers
- Members serve a 3 - year term, with the exception of the Superintendents that serve a 1 - year term

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Arkansas Department of Education Education Service Cooperative (ESC) Annual Report

**Date:** June 2, 2023      **LEA#** 24-20      **ESC#** 14

**ESC Name:** Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

**Address:** 3010 East Hwy 22, Branch, AR 72928

**Phone Number:** 479-965-2191

**Director:** Mr. Jim Ford

**Teacher Center Coordinator:** Angela Miller

**Names of Counties served:** Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Scott, Sebastian

**Number of Districts:** 21 & 1 charter school      **Number of Students:** 43,287

**Number of Teachers:** 3,364

### **Governance:**

**How is the co-op governed?** Board of Directors

**Executive Committee?** No

**How many members are on the Board?** 21

**Executive Committee?** 0

**How many times did the Board meet?** 11

**Executive Committee?** 0

**When is the regular meeting?**

August 17, 2023

Sept. 13, 2022

Oct. 18, 2023

Nov. 9, 2023

Dec. 14, 2023

Jan. 18, 2024

Feb. 22, 2024

March 14, 2024

April 11, 2024

May 9, 2024

June 7, 2024

**Date of current year's annual meeting:** October 18-20, 2023      (Superintendent's Fall Conference)

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**Does the co-op have a Teacher Center Committee? Yes**

**If yes, then:**

**How many are on the Teacher Center Committee? 22**

**How many members are teachers? 15**

**How many times did the Teacher Center Committee meet? 3**

**When is the regular meeting? As scheduled (three times per year)**

November 28, 2023

January 31, 2024

April 17, 2024

**When was the most recent survey/needs assessment conducted? November 2023 - January 2024**

**Have written policies been filed with the ADE? Yes**

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Staffing 2023-2024**

Please list (or attach a list of) all staff members of the co-op (including those housed at the co-op and paid through other sources), their titles and the salary funding sources for the positions. Place an asterisk (\*) beside those who are housed at the co-op only and whose salary does not flow through the co-op's budget.

S=State, F=Federal, H=Head Start, M=Medicaid, P=Private Funding, B=Base Funds, D=District Allocations

* Last Name	First Name	Position	Funding Source	New Hire	Resigned
Atchely	Kristen	Career Coach – CTE	S/D	07/01/2023	
Ballard	Rebecca	Early Childhood Behavior Intervention Specialist	D		
Barrientos	Ilda	Migrant Recruiter	F		
Beauchamp	Amanda	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
Beavers	Evan	AEM Technology Coordinator	F		
Brannin	Jamie	Ark Rehab Business/Logistics Instructor	S		06/30/2024
Bradley	Treva	Administrator Analyst	F	07/01/2023	
Bradford	Marc	Career Coach – CTE	S/D		
Brewer	Tammy	Recruitment & Retention Specialist	S		
Bucella	Katie	Literacy Specialist	S		06/30/2024
Burks	Jason	Systems Specialist	F	07/01/2024	
Camp	Yadira	Migrant Recruiter	F		
Carlton	Robin	Career Coach – CTE	S/D	07/01/2024	
Carter	Angela	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist Assistant	D		
Churchman	Elizabeth	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Cobb	Amber	Science Specialist	S		
Conway	Elizabeth	R&R Assistant – Fingerprint Tech	S/D		
Couthren	Gwen	Early Childhood Coordinator	D		
Cumbie	Candice	Math Specialist	S		
Dawson	Robyn	UA Fort Smith ERZ Director	S		
Dean	Melanie	Career Coach - CTE	S/D		
Debes	Ashley	Early Childhood Teacher	D		

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Dixon	Christi	ESVI Director	F		
Euston	Elizabeth	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
* Featherston	Debbie	APSCN Field Analyst			
Floyd	Brittany	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Ford	James	Director	B	07/01/2023	
Glover	Cheyenne	Early Childhood Paraprofessional (part-time)	F	07/01/2023	06/30/2024
Grady	Karen	Gifted & Talented Specialist	S/D		06/30/2024
Hays	Hannah	Career Coach – CTE	S/D		
Haynes	Gina	PDC Support/Migrant Support/Tech Support	B/S/F		
Hertlein	Trena	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Heydenreich	Kayla	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Holt	Lance	Ark Rehab Hospitality Instructor	S	07/01/2023	06/30/2024
Huff	Elizabeth	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Huffmaster	Lisa	Inclusive Education Specialist	F	07/01/2023	
Hulan	Ashley	Migrant REDS	F		
Irby	Candace	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
James	Mindy	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
Johnson	Lindsey	Career Coach – CTE	S/D	07/01/2023	
Joy	Christena	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
Jumper	Lindsey	Systems Specialist	F	07/01/2023	
Kelley	Susan	Early Childhood Teacher	D		06/30/2024
Kennedy	Cheyenne	Administrative Assistant	B		
Lamb	Patricia	Early Childhood Support Staff	D		
Lee	Ashley	ESVI Administrative Analyst	F		
Likens	Erin	Math Specialist	S		06/30/2024
Lyle	Rebekah	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
Lyons	Stefan	Migrant Program Director	F		
McClure	Melinda	Bookkeeper	B		

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

	McIver	Becky	SSIP Program Coordinator	F	07/01/2023	
	McKee	Jeanna	Literacy Specialist	S		12/31/2023
	Mendez	Cindy	Early Childhood Support Staff/Interpreter	F		
	Miller	Angela	Teacher Center Coordinator	B		
	Mounts	Shyanna	Early Childhood Paraprofessional	F	07/01/2023	06/30/2024
	Musick	Whitney	ESVI Consultant	F		
	Nava	Lourdes	Migrant Education Student Support Specialist	F		
	Nichols	Harvie	Information & Consultation Specialist	D		
	Nicklin	Christi	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
	Niemczyk	Sharon	ESVI Consultant	F		
	Price	Cristin	Specialists/PD Administrative Assistant	S		
	Pearson	Julaine	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
	Pipkins	Matthew	Technology Coordinator	S		
	Reames	Katherine	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		06/30/2024
	Reeves	Jamia	Career Coach – CTE	S/D	07/01/2023	06/30/2024
	Sanders	Sherrie	Business Manager	B		
	Shotzman	Holly	Career Coach – CTE	S/D	07/01/2023	
	Smart	Cathy	Early Childhood Speech Pathologist	D		
	Smith	Stephanie	ESVI Consultant/AT Specialist/Transition Coord.	F		
	Staton	Caitlin	Literacy Specialist	S		06/30/2024
	Strozier	Crystal	Early Childhood Teacher	D		
	Tate	Jennifer	Early Childhood Paraprofessional	D		
*	Tomlison	Damaris	Migrant State Director			
	Turner	Jennifer	Career & Technical Ed Coordinator	S/F		
	Varnell	Curtis	Science Specialist	S		06/30/2024
	Vest	Joshua	Migrant Recruiter	F		
	Whitman	John	CTE Accountability Specialist	F		
*	Whitman	Sarah	Migrant Parent Engagement Liaison			

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Teacher Center**

Please attach a list of all in-service training/staff development workshops offered through the co-op, including month offered, topic, number of districts participating, number of participants and location of workshops. Place an asterisk (\*) beside those which provided curriculum assistance. Include a cumulative total of participants. See attached form.

- A. **Does the co-op provide media services to schools?** No
- Do districts contribute dollars to the media services?** No
- Does the co-op operate a “make-and-take” center for teachers?** Yes

**If yes, then:**

**How many teacher visits have been made to the center? (Count all teachers who have visited the center, using duplicate counts for teachers who have visited the center more than once. 63**

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Administrative Services**

Listed below are examples of the programs offered by the Co-op in partnership with our districts:

Administrators and Local School Board Members Training  
Assessment Data Analysis and Support  
APSCN Field Support  
Assist/Support with Evaluation procedures (OSR, Federal/Categorical Monitoring, GT Program evaluation, etc.)  
Behavior Support Services  
Bookkeeping Assistance  
Business Management Training  
Career and Technical Education/Perkins Consortium  
Community School Health Nurse Services  
Computer Science Support  
Conduct Annual Needs Assessment/Planning assistance  
Cooperative Purchasing  
Curriculum Support  
Dyslexia Support Services  
Early Childhood Special Education  
Education ESVI Services  
English Language Support  
E-Rate Applications  
ESC Works Support  
eSchool and eFinance Support  
ESOL Support/Migrant Education  
Federal Programs Support  
Evaluation Procedures  
Fingerprinting Services  
Gifted and Talented Support  
Grant Writing Assistance  
Instructional Facilitator Training  
Literacy/Science/Math Support Services  
Medicaid Billing  
Novice Teacher/Recruitment and Retention/Mentoring  
Migrant Student Identification  
Principals' PLCs  
Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers  
Special Education Services  
Teacher Center Services  
Teacher Evaluation and Support System (TESS)  
Technology Support and Training Services



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Direct Services to Students**

Please check the student services provided through the Co-op:

**Battle of the Books**

**Behavior Intervention Support Services** – Behavior Support Specialist

**Chess Tournaments**

**Computer Science Competitions**

**Debate Competition**

**GFESC Early Childhood**

**Foster Grandparent Mentoring Program**

**Gifted/Talented Programs:** 21 participating districts

**Itinerant Teachers** – please list areas: Early Childhood Special Education ages 3-5 year olds

**Low Incidence Handicapped** (vision/hearing)

**Migrant Education Services**

**Nursing Services**

**Occupational Therapy**

**Physical Therapy**

**Quiz Bowl**

**Rubik's Cube Competition**

**Speech Therapist**

**Science Olympiad**

**Transition Assistance**

**Other (Please specify):**

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Anecdotal Reports**

### **ACT Prep**

The ACT Prep Grant is designed to provide additional support to students in grades 7-12 in preparing for the ACT. Through this grant, all districts in Arkansas had the opportunity to opt-in for additional support for their students in taking the ACT. The grant included a subscription to On To College for high school students and prep sessions for any student taking the ACT. 261 school districts across the state opted-in to OnToCollege. This program can be used at the school level in multiple ways. Schools are able to use this resource as a class during the school day, an afterschool program or a summer bootcamp. Training was provided to each district. Through this grant cooperatives hosted ACT Prep sessions for students to participate in prior to their ACT test. Chad Cargill provided 9 sessions for 688 students across the state. Each student spent three hours in a live session with Chad Cargill working on strategies for taking the ACT as well as content review. Cantrell and Waller Preparatory (CW Prep) provided 24 sessions across the state to almost 2,000 students. In these sessions, students spent six hours studying content from the ACT. CW Prep also shares strategies with students when taking the test. Students leave the training with a one-year log-in to all the resources that were shared so they can use them to continue studying for the ACT. GFESC hosted an event in the Fall of 2023, where 18 of the 21 districts sent high school juniors to participate.

### **GFESC Dyslexia Contacts Meetings**

Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Dyslexia Contact meetings were developed in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education to support our GFESC member districts with their dyslexia needs. Each district selected a Dyslexia contact to attend quarterly sessions at GFESC. The Dyslexia sessions included guest speakers from ADE and other state agencies and focused on improving student learning by identifying and meeting the needs of students with characteristics of dyslexia, collaborating and training for the administration, analysis, and interpretation of initial screeners, level 1 screeners, and level 2 assessments including using various assessment tools. We believe that building capacity is crucial to providing appropriate learning experiences for all students. GFESC offered two of the four meetings virtually during the 2023-2024 school year. GFESC will be hosting Dyslexia specific training during the summer of 2024.

### **Professional Learning Communities: Boardroom to Classroom (Year 2)**

In support of the DESE's PLC Initiative, Co-ops have been participating in the Boardroom to Classroom training monthly with Janel Keating from Solution Tree. As part of this process, Janel Keating guided educators in developing successful districtwide professional learning communities to ensure high levels of learning for every student. High-performing districts develop when collaborative teams at every level align their concepts, practices, and vocabulary. Aligning this work is a top-down, bottom-up cyclical process, starting with the district level and ending with collaborative teacher teams. This session provided district and school leaders with the tools and strategies needed to create a districtwide culture of continuous improvement. Co-ops are an integral part of this work, and have been supporting districts involved in these sessions through Specialist support, and working with administrators who are implementing PLC processes.

### **GFESC Federal Programs and Curriculum Coordinators' Meetings**

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Federal Programs and Curriculum Coordinators' meetings in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education were established as a way to disseminate information regarding Federal Program guidelines and Curricula choices and implementation. The meetings provide opportunities for leaders to share and discuss various topics with their colleagues from other member districts. All 21 of the GFESC school districts participate in the monthly meetings. Federal Programs and

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Curriculum Coordinators' meetings serve as a venue for ADE to communicate new requirements, explain initiatives, rules, and the implementation of new guidelines and/or curriculum through the Teacher Center Coordinator and other school leaders. We use these meetings to provide support to the leaders in our area schools and to build capacity within our districts. GFESC offered all meetings face to face.

## **GFESC Principals' Professional Learning Community and Monthly Meetings**

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Principals' PLC includes monthly scheduled Principals' meetings that are designed to provide updates and explanation/clarification of current educational initiatives for the principals in the GFESC region. Meetings are split into Elementary (K-6) and Secondary (7-12) sessions, and give an opportunity for principals and assistant principals to share information and/or suggestions with colleagues across the region. This allows for building leaders to stay informed and to build a better capacity for leading the teachers in new and innovative instructional practices. The focus of the 2023- 2024 meetings was data, specifically LEA Insights, Classroom Walkthrough/Learning Walks, and Building-level student growth per subject. GFESC district principals brought data to each meeting to discuss and determine best practices. The K-2 data shared with Superintendents each month was also reported at each principals meeting and principals had the opportunity to discuss patterns, trends, and set goals. Topics of the 2023-2024 Principals meetings included Data, CWs, PLC, LEARNs ACT, Title IX, ATLAS, CTE, LEADS, RTI, Master Scheduling, etc.

## **GFESC Annual Leadership Conference**

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative provides specialized professional development to Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in the areas of Data Disaggregation, Ethics, Instructional Leadership, ESSA Score Report, Curriculum Updates, Facility Issues, Legislative Issues/Updates, and Acts 61 and 730 Fiscal Management Training. This Conference provides an opportunity for Superintendents from all member districts to collaborate and discuss current education trends/issues. School leaders from all twenty-one districts, AAEA, DESE, Western Arkansas Technical Center, Rural Education Association, etc. attend this conference to provide information and updates for the school district leaders in the GFESC region. The GFESC Leadership Conference was held October 18-20, 2023.

## **GFESC and University of Arkansas Partnership - Teacher Recruitment/Pre-Service**

GFESC and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith partnered in both the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024 to bring pre-service/intern students to the GFESC campus. The Pre-Service/Intern Students learned about the Early Career Educator Program and how the GFESC is able to support educators. The GFESC Novice Teacher Mentoring Specialist provided the future educators the opportunity to engage in an Administrative Roundtable with different administrators from GFESC districts to hear tips on best interview practices, professional development, professionalism, social media Do's and Don'ts, PLC/Collaboration, etc. The Pre-Service/Intern students were able to leave resumes to be shared with GFESC districts during these events. GFESC will also host a Pre-Service Teacher Recruitment event at our 1st Annual Novice Teacher Conference in July 2024. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about programs for paraprofessional certification, paraprofessional to classroom teacher licensure pathways, and even Masters degree program options available.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Employment Policies and Practices 2023-2024

Act 610 of 1999 requires that each educational service cooperative report the following information:

### EMPLOYED

Number of new males employed by the cooperative for the 2023-2024 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 1

African American 0

Hispanic 0

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0

Number of new females employed by the cooperative for the 2023-2024 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 5

African American 0

Hispanic 0

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0

### TERMINATED

Number of males terminated by the cooperative during the 2023-2024 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 0

African American 0

Hispanic 0

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0

Number of females terminated by the cooperative during the 2023-2024 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 1

African American 0

Hispanic 0

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0

### SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Number of males seeking employment by the cooperative during the 2023-2024 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 1

African American 0

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Hispanic 1

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

Number of females seeking employment by the cooperative during the 2022-2023 school year:

For this number above, please provide the number in each of the following racial classifications:

White 16

African American 0

Hispanic 0

Asian 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native 0

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**Program: Accounting 2023-2024**

**Funding Source:** Base

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

**Participating Districts:**

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

**Personnel**

Name	Position	Degree
Sherrie Sanders	Business Manager	HSD/CASBO Certified
Melinda McClure	Bookkeeper	HSD
Cheyenne Kennedy	Administrative Assistant	HSD

**Goal**

To provide financial support to all programs and participating districts of the cooperative.

**Program Summary**

**2023-2024 State Funding Source:**

TEACHER CENTER 955.00  
CAREER COACH LOCAL 214,559.00  
STAFF DEVELOPMENT WS 290,306.50  
APSCN 3,600.00  
INFORMATION SPECIALIST 47,250.00  
G T LEA 42,569.00  
SCIENCE WS 500.00  
EARLY CHILDHOOD LEA 1,792,010.00  
DCE ARK REHAB SVCS 137,390.00  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST - TESTING 1000,152.00  
UA FORT SMITH - ERZ 107,149.00  
ADE NBCT SUPPLEMENTAL 8,073.00  
RECRUITMENT & RETENTION 375,000.00  
GT STATE 30,000.00  
WORKFORCE ED COORDINATOR 55,000.00  
CAREER COACH GRANT 271,343.00  
NIET LEAD TEACHER 25,000.00  
EDUC SVC COOPERATIVE 408,618.00  
TECH STATE 80,000.00

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

CONTENT SPECIALISTS 720,000.00

AR PEP 76,700.00

**2023-2024 Federal Funding Source:**

MIGRANT 728,932.00

CARL PERKINS 581,604.03

CP RECRUITMENT & RET 10,000.00

CP CTE TOSA 8,714.00

VI-B ESVI GRANT 607,000.00

VI-B INCLUSIVE PRACTICE 359,205.00

VI-B SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT 1,273,675.00

AEM GRANT 125,000.00

STATE PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT GRANT 1,456,006.63

MEDICAID PRESCHOOL 65,000.00

ARMAC 26,802.00

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program: ADE/APSCN Student Field Analyst**

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

### **Participating Districts:**

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Future School of Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position	Degree
Debbie Featherston	APSCN Student Field Analyst	AS

### **Goal:**

To provide end-user support to district personnel using the statewide student management system (SMS), Cognos BI Tool, PowerSchool Enrollment, and state-reporting system.

### **Program Summary:**

The APSCN Student Field Analyst offers training and technical assistance for various state systems, including eSchoolPLUS, Teacher Access Center, Home Access Center, Cognos, PowerSchool Enrollment, and state reporting to school districts and charter schools in their assigned areas. The analyst is responsible for providing software training (in-person and virtually), researching reported software problems for resolution, reporting software issues, and assisting, as needed, with testing software updates.

### **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Training of the eSchool Software
- 21 Total Training/Workshop Virtual Days at Guy Fenter Co-op
- Facilitate and implement eSchool trainings for new and/or existing users
- Implementation of eSchool (student management system) upgrade and PowerSchool Enrollment
- Kept all districts updated with new reporting changes



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Arkansas Transition Services

**Funding Source:** Federal Grant

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

**NWAESC** – Arkansas Arts Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy, Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Haas Hall Academy, Huntsville, Lincoln, NWA Classical Academy, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, West Fork

**OUR** – Alpena, Bergman, Berryville, Cotter, Deer/Mt. Judea, Eureka Springs, Flippin, Green Forest, Harrison, Jasper, Lead Hill, Omaha, Ozark Mountain, Searcy County, Valley Springs, Yellville/Summit

**GFESC** – Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Future School of Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Hartford, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Paul Johnston	Transition Consultant	MM, BSE, AAS

### Goal:

To provide district, regional, and state-wide trainings throughout the year to prepare teachers to help Special Education students reach their post school goals as stated on their Transition Plans per their IEP. To provide consults with participating districts to assist students, parents, and teachers in assisting students to reach their post school goals. To develop and facilitate local Transition Teams for school districts. To assist LEAs in folder reviews to ensure Transition Plans on the IEP are accurate and help students to reach their post school goals.

### Program Summary:

Arkansas Transition Services is a consultant group in affiliation with the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Secondary and Elementary Education, Office of Special Education, that provides training and technical assistance related to secondary transition to special education teachers, other relevant school staff, and relevant agency personnel in Arkansas. Our services are not only related to ensuring secondary transition requirements in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) are in place, but also include building capacity of local transition teams, and information and assistance on research and evidence-based practices that improve transition programs and post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. We are available to assist at no cost to public schools in Arkansas.

### Major Highlights of the Year:

Arkansas Transition Services (ATS) has been spending this year out in schools consulting and providing on-site statewide and regional professional learning opportunities. ATS also has a YouTube channel and a website ([www.arkansastransition.com](http://www.arkansastransition.com)) as a resource to get our information out across the state.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## State Level

- ATS continues to produce videos that are housed on both our YouTube channel and website that focus on specific areas of Transition. These are resources that can be accessed at any time. These provide educators and families the opportunity to access professional development and information on a variety of secondary transition topics.
- Arkansas Transition Services, Career and Technical Education, and Inclusion Films continue to partner to provide The Inclusion Films Film Camp for students with disabilities. The 2024 camp will be held on-site this year April 22-26 at University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. We have a full camp for 2024 with 50 students registered. Students write scripts, pitch proposals, cast characters, film, and produce a 7-10 minute short video. These experiences give students the opportunity to not only explore a variety of options in the film industry, but to experience team work, responsibility, accountability, and other pre-employment skills. The skills they learn and practice at camp are all transferable work skills. The 2023 Camp had 33 students from across the state.
- Arkansas Transition Services is continuing its work to encourage schools to implement The Predictors Implementation Self-Assessment (PISA) tool. This tool allows schools and/or districts to take a closer look at their transition programs and identify predictors of positive post-school outcomes supported by evidence-based practices. The tool then allows for action planning to include those predictors and evidence-based practices for program growth or improvement.
- ATS has been using the PISA to help districts focus on Inclusion in General Education as well as other areas for which the school determines a need..
- Arkansas Transition Services in partnership with the University of Kansas, are participating in a study to see the effects of interagency collaboration for students with disabilities. The CIRCLES (Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students) model involves three levels of interagency collaboration: Community Level Team, School Level Team, and IEP Team. The approach includes youth with disabilities who may need support from multiple adult service agencies to experience successful post-school outcomes. Training was held in June of 2023 and follow-up training in February 2024 for the participating schools who began implementing the program fall of 2023. NWAESC schools participating in CIRCLES are Bentonville HS and Bentonville West HS, Fayetteville, Pea Ridge, and Siloam Springs. Guy Fenter schools are Future School of Fort Smith and Hackett as well as Eureka Springs from the OUR Co-op.
- College Bound Arkansas 2024 will be held June 3-5, 2024, on the University of Central Arkansas Campus. This is an on-campus experience that offers sessions for students, parents, and professionals, that focus on the following areas: self-advocacy, transitioning, assistive technologies, mental health and college survival. This provides students with an opportunity to explore the expectations of college and what support could be available to help them succeed. College Bound Arkansas 2023 had 17 students and 9 parents/professionals attend.
- Arkansas Transition Services and DESE Office of Special Education, Monitoring & Program Effectiveness team are continuing to collaborate in an effort to educate each group on specific requirements and procedures and to improve monitoring outcomes in transition related indicators through reviewing state and federal requirements.
- ATS held its statewide Transition Cadre for teams from across the state in Little Rock on February 28th, 2024. The meeting was a collaboration among Arkansas Transition Services, the Office of Special Education, Finance Department, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Career and Technical Education and presenting school districts, Greenwood, Springdale, Wynne and Benton. 95

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

participants from across the state came to learn more about Work Based Learning and build action plans to improve or establish these programs at their schools.

- ATS also works with adult service providers around the state to share concerns and possible strategies to better connect with schools and their students. We continue to work collaboratively among districts, agencies and ATS, and help with both on-site and virtual Transition Fairs to increase the knowledge of agency services around the state. Agencies are also invited to participate in IEP meetings and on local transition teams.
  - State Level Organizations Served:
    - Arkansas Council on Exceptional Children (AR-CEC) sub-division Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) - State President
    - Member of the State Core Team for National Technical Assistance Center Transition (NTACT) Intensive Technical Assistance State

## Co-op Level

- Transition Fairs – ATS promotes and provides technical assistance for districts and regions that want to have a Transition Fair. The fairs are opportunities for students, parents, and teachers to connect with state and local agencies that can provide assistance.
  - NWAESC: Premier HS of Springdale held a Transition Fair April 4th, 2024
  - NWAESC: Fayetteville will hold a Transition Fair May 8th, 2024
- Coop Trainings – 1 day of training (2 half day sessions) were offered at all 3 Co-ops.
  - “Indicator 13 Cross Reference Tool: How to Use It to Review a Transition Plan for Compliance”
    - 13 attendees
      - NWAESC-Springdale, Huntsville, St. Paul
      - Guy Fenter-Fort Smith, Clarksville, Booneville, Waldron
      - OUR-Marshall, Cotter, Eureka Springs, Lead Hill, Ozark Mountain
  - “Promoting Inclusive Practices through the PISA”
    - 19 attendees
      - NWAESC-Rogers, Gravette, Farmington, Springdale, Huntsville
      - Guy Fenter-Paris, Waldron, Boonville, Clarksville
      - OUR-Marshall, Valley Springs, Eureka Springs, Bergman, Lead Hill, Ozark Mountain, Cotter
  - Additional Trainings
    - ”Secondary Transition Compliance Basics and Best Practices”-9 attendees-Siloam Springs and 8 attendees-Berryville
    - “Indicator 13 Walkthrough”-72 attendees-Mountainburg, Pea Ridge, Siloam Springs Jr. High, Gentry, Arkansas Arts Academy, Decatur, Huntsville, Fayetteville, Van Buren Jr. Highs, Flippin, Springdale Premier HS, Harrison, Alma.
- Technical Assistance was provided on a variety of Transition related subjects to teachers/staff in districts across the 3 co-op areas.
  - NWAESC – Bentonville, Arkansas Arts Academy, Farmington, Bentonville, Springdale
  - OUR – Eureka Springs, Green Forest, Lead Hill, Alpena, Harrison, Ozark Mountain
  - GFESC – Mountainburg, Lavaca, Hackett, Fort Smith, Magazine

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Other presentations
  - AER Conference w/Jacob Grace from Division of Services for the Blind-October 26, 2023
  - Hands and Voices Conference-February 10, 2024
  - AIM Parent Night-April 30, 2024
- Presentations to Students
  - NWAESC
    - UARK Undergraduate Transition Class
- Meetings regularly attended
  - AASEA Area I and Area II (Special Education Supervisors)
  - AR-CEC Board Meetings
  - Project Search Fort Smith-Mercy Hospital
  - Project Search Rogers-Embassy Suites
  - Project Search-Springdale Arkansas Children's NW
- Trainings/Conferences Attended:
  - Arkansas LEA Academy
  - Arkansas Collaborative Consultants Convening
  - CERT Train the Trainer
  - NWAESC-All in for Students with Complex Needs
  - DCDT International Conference-October 2023
  - New LEA Training

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: K-12 Behavior Specialist

**Funding Source:** Federal-Part B

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

**Participating Districts:** Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Hartford, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Dr. Shelia Smith	Behavior Support Director	Ph.D., L.P., BCBA-D
Shanna Bailey	Behavior Support Specialist	M.S
Jennifer Brewer	Behavior Support Specialist	Ed.S.
Sandy Crawley	Behavior Support Specialist	M.S.E.
Kelly Davis	Behavior Support Specialist	M.Ed., BCBA
Sonia Harsfield	Behavior Support Specialist	M.Ed.
<b>Audrey Kengla</b>	<b>Behavior Support Specialist</b>	<b>BSE, M.S.,CCC-SLP</b>
Amanda Kirby	Behavior Support Specialist	M.S.E.
Kat Lancaster	Behavior Support Specialist	M.A., CCC-SLP
Lindsey Lovelady	Behavior Support Specialist	M.S., BCBA
Allison Mears	Behavior Support Specialist	LPC., BCBA
Sarra Petray	Behavior Support Specialist	Ed.S.
Nicheyta Raino	Behavior Support Specialist	M.Ed., BCBA
Jenna Stapp	Behavior Support Specialist	M.A.T.
Connie Thomason	Behavior Support Specialist	M.Ed., BCBA
Mary Walter	Behavior Support Specialist	Ed.S

### Goal:

In an effort to support the DESE vision, mission, and goals, the Arkansas Behavior Support Specialists build local district capacity by providing educators with support and services needed to implement evidenced-based behavioral practices that meet the needs of all students.

### **BX3 PROJECT**

#### Goal:

- BX3 is a capacity-building project that provides coaching to school behavior teams working to develop tiered systems of positive behavior supports for all students.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

<b>BX3 Cohort 3- Building level teams</b>	
Alma Intermediate School Asbell Elementary- Fayetteville Bald Knob High School Bryant Elementary Guy-Perkins Elementary Happy Hollow Elementary- Fayetteville	Horatio Elementary Hurricane Creek Elementary - Bryant McRae Elementary - Searcy Mena Middle School Mena High School Oscar Hamilton Elementary - Foreman Pottsville Jr High University Heights Elementary - Nettleton

<b>BX3 Cohort 4 - Building level teams</b>	
Caddo Hills High School Arkansas Arts Academy High School Magnolia Middle School Sidney Deener Elementary Westside Elementary - Searcy Southwest Middle School - Searcy Ahlf Jr High - Searcy Janie Darr Elementary - Rogers Arkadelphia High School Prairie Grove Elementary School Lake Hamilton New Horizons - Washington Elementary - Fayetteville Lincoln Middle School Cedarville Elementary Glen Rose Elementary Flippin Elementary Beebe Elementary Bob Folsom Elementary - Farmington The Academies of West Memphis Rector Elementary School Westbrook Elementary - Harmony Grove Bayyari Elementary - Springdale North Heights Community School - Texarkana Beebe Middle School	Bearden Elementary Trice Elementary - Texarkana Benton Jr High Elmdale Elementary-Springdale Louise Durham Elementary- Mena Manila Elementary Lakeside Middle Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies- Jonesboro Public Schools K-8 Connect - Springdale LISA Academy- Rogers & Bentonville Indian Hills Elementary - North Little Rock Newport Elementary East End Elementary Lakeside Primary - Oark Campus- Jasper Allbritton Elementary- Hamburg Earle High School Perritt Primary School - Arkadelphia Wonder Jr. High- West Memphis College Hills Harmony Leadership Academy- Texarkana Lafayette County Elementary

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

The Arkansas Behavior Support Specialists (BSS) affiliated with the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary education (DESE) - Office of Special Education lead the state-wide initiative, the BX3 (Behavior eXtreme 3 - Training, Coaching, Empowering) Project. This BX3 project is designed to build capacity by providing coaching to building-level behavior teams that are working to develop tiered systems of positive behavior supports for all students. BX3 assists building level teams in developing and monitoring at least one SMART goal based on their assessment on the Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI). Additionally, the BX3 teams create and update an action plan focused on meeting their individualized SMART goal(s). The BSS offer at least 6 coaching sessions (one per month) for each BX3 team. Professional learning opportunities are offered as needed based on the SMART goal(s) and action plan.

## **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-24:**

- Cohort 3 continued with 14 building-level teams across the state
- Accepted Cohort 4 with 45 building-level teams across the state
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3 agreed to strongly agreed that the coaching session on the topic covered was beneficial.
- 99% of participants in Cohort 4 agreed to strongly agreed that the coaching session on the topic covered was beneficial.
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3 agreed to strongly agreed that the BX3 Coaches helped their team plan action steps toward meeting their SMART goal(s).
- 99% of participants in Cohort 4 agreed to strongly agreed that the BX3 Coaches helped their team plan action steps toward meeting their SMART goal(s).
- 99% of participants in Cohort 3 agreed to strongly agreed that the interactions with and methods used by BX3 coaches were positive and acceptable.
- 99% of participants in Cohort 4 agreed to strongly agreed that the interactions with and methods used by BX3 coaches were positive and acceptable.
- 98% of participants in Cohort 3 agreed to strongly agreed that they feel confident in carrying out the steps in their action plan.
- 99% of participants in Cohort 4 agreed to strongly agreed that the interactions with and methods used by BX3 coaches were positive and acceptable.

## **CIRCUIT**

### **Goal:**

- To provide technical assistance and support to local school district administrators and school personnel in the development and implementation of evidence-based behavior supports for students receiving special education services
- To provide professional development to local school district administrators and personnel on evidence-based behavior supports

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

The Behavior Support Specialists (BSS) provide technical assistance in the area of behavior to all school districts within the state. The BSS receive requests for technical assistance through the CIRCUIT on-line referral system. Once a request for services is received, the BSS works in conjunction with the Special

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Education Supervisor of the referring school district to identify and provide needed support for students with disabilities. Services include:

- On-site coaching and consultation, student observation, record review and written recommendations with follow up and training as needed
- Coaching student team on Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) development
- Provide professional learning opportunities on evidence-based interventions

## **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024:**

- Provided on-site coaching and consultation, student observation, records review, conference attendance, assistance with functional behavior assessment, safety and behavior intervention planning for student teams for 80 CIRCUIT referrals across all Education Service Cooperatives

## **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Goal:**

- To provide professional development to local school district administrators and personnel on evidence-based behavior supports

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

The Behavior Support Specialist (BSS) position provides professional learning opportunities on evidence-based behavior practices via in-person, virtual, and online learning modules available to all school districts in all Education Service Cooperatives.

## **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024:**

- Offered 24 sessions of the 5 Essential Components of School-Wide Behavior Supports professional developments to building-level teams
- Added 10 Behavior Breaks which are short instructional videos to equip educators and parents with strategies that can be implemented quickly to improve student engagement and success.  
<https://arbss.org/behavior-breaks/>
- Offered over 150 professional learning opportunities in person or virtually to school districts in all Education Service Cooperatives with over 2979 participants

## **ADDITIONAL BSS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023-2024:**

- Partnered with DESE to support THRIVE Leadership Academy Cohorts 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 through June 30, 2024 to improve the implementation of positive behavior supports in school buildings. Provided 21 professional learning opportunities to THRIVE participants
- Served on DESE Leadership Team for Arkansas THRIVE
- Served on the Arkansas Early Childhood Behavior Support Cadre'
- Presented Positive Behavior Supports: A Variety of Options and FBA Overview at SEAS Conference
- Presented THRIVE Arkansas: Promoting Positive Behavior Supports, Mental Health and Wellness with DESE at LEA Academy
- Presented The Behavior Side of RTI with DESE- OCSS for New Administrators
- Presented Inclusive Education ToT: Behavior with DESE-OSE



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Presented Overview of Arkansas BSS with DESE-OSE as part of New LEA Training
- 4 BSS attended the Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference
- 1 BSS attended the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders
- 1 BSS attended the 18th Annual Thompson Center Autism Conference
- 1 BSS attended the LRP Institute Convention

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Career & Technical Education

**Funding Source:** Carl D Perkins Funding

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Pea Ridge, Scranton, Waldron, Westside, and Van Buren.

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Jennifer Turner	CTE Coordinator	MSE
John Whitman	CP Accountability Specialist	BS

### Goal:

The GFESC Carl Perkins Program promotes reform, innovation, and continuous improvement in vocational and technical education to ensure that students acquire the skills and knowledge they need to meet challenging State academic standards and industry-recognized skill standards, and to prepare for postsecondary education, further learning, and a wide range of opportunities in high-skill, high-wage careers.

### Program Summary:

The GFESC Carl Perkins Program addresses and provides assistance to develop high-quality programs that:

- integrate academic and vocational education
- promote student attainment of challenging academic and vocational and technical standards
- provide students with strong experience in, and understanding of all aspects of an industry
- address the needs of individuals who are members of special populations
- involve parents and employers
- provide strong linkages between secondary and postsecondary education
- develop, improve and expand the use of technology
- provide professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators

The CTE Coordinator is required to write the annual application and distribute/spend the funding for area schools on indicator projects approved by the Arkansas Department of Career Education. Required reports, technical assistance, professional development, state start up grant writing, and administrative assistance are other duties provided by the program.

### Major Highlights of the Year:

The GFESC Carl Perkins Consortium hosted 2 FFA Sub Area Leadership Career Development Events for students and teachers to explore the opportunities in Career and Technical Student Organizations. The event was located at GFESC with over 200 students participating and cooperatively working together. It was student led and driven. All participating students and teachers felt a special connection and asked to participate again in the future. An Advanced Leadership FFA Chapter Conduct Management with schools

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

participating from several areas of Arkansas including: Siloam Springs, Lincoln, Cedarville, Huntsville, Vilonia, Jasper, County Line.

GFESC CTE and other Coop Specialists facilitated a Reverse Career Fair and Get Real-Here's the Deal life training event with the Magazine, Mountainburg, Mulberry, Waldron and Paris School district juniors and seniors at each school separately. All students prepared resumes with over 100 Business/Industry representatives attending. A Reverse Career Fair has the students prepare individually and are stationed by areas of interest. Representatives choose who they want to talk to/interview based on resumes submitted. 271 students received at least one job offer and several had multiple interviews. All schools were also invited to the state chambers "Be Pro Be Proud" Draft day with 75 employers attending to meet and interview prospective employees. A Draft day signing event

One of GFESC Carl Perkins Schools was chosen by DCTE to "Showcase" their model CTE programs during CTE month. Paris High School hosted a showcase event where Business/industry, parents, students, educators and State DCTE staff experienced the programs available for students. Programs showcased include, Agriculture Animal Science, Plant Science and Ag Power Structural and Technical Systems, Business Accounting and Supply Chain & Logistics, Computer Science Programming, Work Based Learning and JAG.

GFESC hosted CTE teams from all coop schools, counselors and Administrators with an intense PD for educators with a Deep data dive into CTE data on how to help support every student to achieve an education they deserve. Each school team disaggregated their own data and developed action plans for their schools. Stakeholder Engagement with local Business and industry were brought in to engage with the CTE teams.

Through grant writing assistance from the program, the following schools received a total of \$255,911.47 in CTE State start-up grants:

## **DCTE State Start Up 24-25**

County Line Pre Educator \$39,566.41

Alma Ag Power Structural Syst \$62,905.27

Charleston Ag Power Structural Syst \$62,905.27

Ozark Plant Systems \$90,534.52

Total \$255,911.47

Innovations/Non Traditional Grants were obtained for:

Girl Power to the Max \$15,000

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

DCTE State Start Up for 23-24

Greenwood Pre Educator \$39,566.41

Magazine Banking \$36,465

Mountainburg Criminal Justice \$19,472.25

Lamar Animal Systems \$26,673.23

Total \$166,689.89

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Computer Science

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education Grant – Act 220 of 2017

**Competitive Grant:** Yes

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Hartford, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

Name	Position	Degree
Alex Moeller	CS Specialist	
Ashley Kincannon	CS Specialist	
Jim Furniss	CS Specialist	
John Hart	CS Specialist	MLIS
Adam Musto	CS Specialist	
Tammy Glass	CS Specialist	
Zachary Spink	CS Specialist	MSE
Stacy Reynolds	CS Specialist	MSE

### Goals:

The ADE DESE Office of Computer Science’s established goals and associated tasks for computer science education implementation in Arkansas are divided into five categories:

**1. Standards, Curriculum, and Pathways** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the development and periodic revision of a comprehensive and vertically articulated set of K-12 computer science curriculum standards and courses, the local creation of well-developed curriculum that supports student learning, proper alignment of the K-12 expectations and opportunities to industry needs, and appropriate K-20 pathway development for students seeking formal computer science education beyond high-school.

**2. Educator Development and Training** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the ADE and its partner organizations to anticipate and address the needs of the Arkansas educational system with regards to knowledgeable and informed computer science teachers. ADE in collaboration with the Arkansas Educational Cooperatives and other partners must support quality computer science educator development and training opportunities for all Arkansas Educators and Administrators.

**3. Licensure** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the ADE and its partner organizations to anticipate and address the needs of the Arkansas educational system with regards to licensed and endorsed computer science teachers. ADE will continue and further research and implement, when appropriate, flexible licensure pathways and practices, based on legislation and regulation.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**4. Outreach and Promotion** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires the active use of a broad range of mediums, digital tools, and human networks to properly communicate about the Arkansas Computer Science Education Initiative and respond to the needs and concerns of Arkansas students, educators, community members, and industry leaders.

**5. Program Growth and Student Success** - Successful implementation of computer science education in Arkansas requires encouraging broad school implementation, supporting lighthouse schools to expand their programs, increasing statewide teacher capacity, growing student interest, and increasing stakeholder interest and support using innovative programs and outreach initiatives.

---

## **Program Summary:**

Education Service Cooperatives, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, administers the Computer Science Support Program for grades K-12 (Support for Integrating the Embedded K-8 Standards; Middle School Introduction to Coding: Grades 5-8; and High School CS). In the interest of providing Arkansas educators with access to quality computer science (CS) professional development (PD), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Computer Science provided grants for ten Computer Science Specialists beginning in 2017. The computer science specialists each serve the CS PD needs state-wide for all ESCs, and Public School Districts. Assistance is provided to local school district educators through PD services including sessions (ADE developed & customized based on needs assessments) at the Cooperative as well as support on-site in living the mission and striving for the vision of Computer Science Instruction in Arkansas.

### **Vision**

*All Arkansas students actively engaging in a superior and appropriate computer science education*

### **Mission**

*To facilitate Arkansas's transition to becoming and remaining a national leader in computer science education and technology careers*

## **PD Offered:**

- Computer Science: Teaching K-4
- Computer Science: Intro to Block Based Coding
- Computer Science: Teaching 5-8
- Computer Science: Transition to Text Based Coding
- Middle School Intro to Coding: Learn to Text Based Code (Formerly Coding Block)
- Teaching Middle School Intro to Coding (Former Coding Block Resources)
- High School Computer Science and Certification Preparation
- High School Computer Science and Certification Preparation - 4 days
- Physical Computing training (Raspberry, Arduino, etc.)
- App in A Day
- AP Computer Science Principles Student Day
- AP Computer Science A Student Day
- Introduction to Unity and Virtual Reality
- Creating Embroidery Designs with Turtl stitch
- Intermediate Artificial Intelligence
- Intermediate Mobile Application Development
- Intermediate Robotics
- Intermediate Cybersecurity

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Intermediate Python
- Intermediate Game Design
- Intermediate Java
- Intermediate Networking
- Intermediate Data Science
- Advanced Python
- Advanced Java
- Advanced Networking
- Advanced Cybersecurity
- Advanced Data Science
- Advanced Artificial Intelligence
- Advanced Robotics
- Advanced Mobile Application Development
- Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles
- Advanced Game Development and Design
- Administrator Supporting Computer Science Education in Their Schools

## **Conferences Presented at:**

- State TSA Conference
- Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education

## **Events/Committees/Projects Assisted with:**

- National Computer Science Education Week – Scheduled daily activities with local districts - December 2023
- CS Education Week Activities December 2023
- Solar Eclipse Data Hunt - January-April 2024
- TSA State Conference – March 2024
- Support of Robotics Competitions (VEX, FIRST) March 2024
- Great Arkansas History Video Game Coding Competition March 2024
- Allstate Coding Competition April 2024

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Growth and Development in Accessibility in Computer Science
- Mentoring students across the state in Unity game development.
- Assisted with regional Stakeholder Meetings
- Provided training to annual ADE Counselor sessions
- Provided CS training to over 1595 education professionals and 7125 students.
- Lead Judge and Coding Challenge Creator for All-Region and Allstate Coding Competition.
- Administration statewide site visits for implementation of ACT 414
- Continued growth, development, and support of TSA
- Computer Science Completer Cords
- State of Computer Science Education Report - Code.org
- Partnered in the creation of new computer science related CTE courses

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **ONGOING SUPPORT:**

- Specialists are in the process of revamping trainings for the upcoming summer
- Specialists have increased the number of intermediate and advanced offerings as well as developed and will deliver 2 new trainings this summer. This is in addition to the other 25 trainings to be taught this summer.
- Specialists are currently working to visit all 260 districts to help support their implementation of ACT 414. This work will continue through the remainder of the year and summer.
  - For districts who already have computer science programs in place, specialists are working to identify ways to grow and develop their program to fit their needs



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program: Consolidated Purchasing Services**

**Funding Source:** Member Districts

### **Participating Districts (Paper):**

Alma, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position	Degree
Jim Ford	Director	MED +

### **Goals:**

The goal of Consolidated Purchasing Service is to save money for member schools, to provide convenience and save time for member districts.

### **Program Summary:**

The GFESC seeks bids on instructional material, specifically types of paper, to provide member districts with savings on the materials that they would have to order from other sources.

### **Major Highlights of the Year:**

18 member districts participated, along with GFESC, in the Consolidated Purchasing Services and secured materials from successfully bidding vendors.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Digital Learning – Virtual Arkansas

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### **PARTICIPATING GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS:**

Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Future School of Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Westside

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position
John Ashworth	Executive Director
Dr. Brandie Benton	Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Mindy Looney	Director of Operations
Candice McPherson	Director of Design and Development
Amy Kirkpatrick	Director of Technology
Jason Bohler	Core Campus Director
Tye Bibby	Concurrent Credit Campus Director
Christie Lewis	CTE Campus Director
Dr. Nic Mounts	Off-Campus & Faculty Online Program Principal

**MISSION:** Our mission is to equip, engage, and empower Arkansas schools, students, and teachers by providing equitable access to superior online education.

**VISION:** Leveraging local, national, and global partnerships to advance student and educator success through innovative technologies and services.

**CORE VALUES:** Teamwork, Relationships, Integrity, Quality, Innovation

### **GOALS:**

Virtual Arkansas exists to provide affordable and equitable educational access and opportunities for Arkansas students, teachers, and schools. According to *Act 2325 of 2005*, distance learning opportunities were employed:

- To help alleviate the teacher shortage
- To provide additional course-scheduling opportunities for students
- To provide an opportunity to access an enriched curriculum
- To develop and make available online professional development

Virtual Arkansas has specific goals that drive its operations. These goals are outlined in the chart below, along with the most recent results:

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Goals	2022-2023 Results
Help Address the Arkansas Teacher Shortage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VA made courses available in all critical academic licensure shortage areas</li> <li>- VA provided access to 107 full-time Arkansas-certified teachers for local schools</li> </ul>
Provide a Wide Range of Courses for Arkansas Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VA provided access to 214 total courses; 151 courses with a VA teacher</li> <li>- These courses provided opportunities to 33,977 Content + Teacher enrollments and 7,506 Content Partnership enrollments</li> </ul>
Ensure Educational Options for Economically Disadvantaged Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VA courses were made available to all high-poverty districts and were utilized by 95% of all Arkansas school districts with a 70% or higher FRL population</li> <li>- VA offered preferred automatic concurrent credit registration for high-poverty districts. 100% of high-poverty schools that submitted the necessary paperwork for enrollment during the early registration period were granted seats in the classes for which they registered</li> <li>- 17,654 Content+Teacher enrollments came from schools with a 70%-100% FRL population</li> </ul>
Ensure Educational Options for Rural Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 59% of all Virtual Arkansas Content + Teacher Enrollments were from districts designated as rural</li> <li>- VA provided educational options and opportunities to all rural districts and was utilized by 97% of all districts designated as rural</li> <li>- 85% of all Concurrent Credit enrollments were from districts designated as rural</li> </ul>
Provide Educational Options for Students with Scheduling Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All VA courses can be taken at any time during the day which provides flexibility in scheduling local course options to avoid scheduling conflicts</li> <li>- This is particularly important for smaller districts, as they have many courses only available during certain periods of the day</li> </ul>
Increase the Number of Students Completing Career Focus Programs of Study and Participating in Work-based Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 49 CTE Content + Teacher courses were provided to 6,218 CTE enrollments</li> <li>- VA provided opportunities to students throughout the state in 6 full completer programs and 12 partial completer programs</li> </ul>

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

Virtual Arkansas is a supplemental State Virtual School (SVS) that partners with local Arkansas schools, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the local Education Service Cooperatives to provide 7th-12th grade online courses, resources, and services to Arkansas schools, teachers, and students who might not otherwise have access to these resources and opportunities. This initiative is guided by Act 2325 of 2005: An Act to Provide Distance Learning.

[www.virtualarkansas.org](http://www.virtualarkansas.org)

We are not an online high school or a diploma-granting institution, but a resource for supplementing education for students through their local school.

Virtual Arkansas is comprised of five campuses:

- Core Campus High School: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
- Core Campus Middle School: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
- CTE Campus: Dawson Educational Service Cooperative
- Concurrent Credit Campus: Southeast Educational Service Cooperative
- DYS Campus: Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative

## **Major Highlights of the 2023-2024 School Year - Virtual Arkansas**

- National Award; Virtual Arkansas awarded the Digital Learning Collaborative Unsung Super Star Award for the Department of Youth Services campus.
- Provided 100% virtual student options for local schools through the Off-Campus and Fully Online program.
- Conducted heart dissection labs with Anatomy & Physiology students.
- Provided parent orientation webinars and informational webinars throughout the school year.
- Recognized as a national leader, including the third highest number of Quality Matters externally reviewed and quality assurance certified courses in the nation.
- Partnered with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to provide high-quality online courses and opportunities to adjudicated youth.
- Partnered with ADE's Computer Science Unit to design and develop three additional Computer Science courses.
- Virtual Arkansas launched the pre-educator Arkansas Teacher Residency Certified Teaching Assistant Concurrent Credit pathway and partnership to provide concurrent credit pre-educator options to students throughout the state.
- Spearheaded the state effort to include a new Arkansas Military Service and Security Pathway for students interested in a military future.
- Deputy Superintendent was a member of the national committee that developed a crosswalk of the National Standards of Quality (NSQ) of Online Teaching and the Charlotte Danielson framework of teaching.
- Engaged in a large-scale assessment improvement initiative to align assessments with new standards and the new ATLAS assessment.
- Executive Director served the role of Board President for the Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance (VLLA), a partnership of 20 state virtual programs dedicated to advancing quality online learning.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Virtual Arkansas Data (Based on 2023-2024 School Year)**

- Have saved Arkansas school districts over \$71,000,000 over the last ten years
- Saved Arkansas school districts over \$9,000,000 during the 2023-2024 school year
- Have served over 282,000 enrollments over the last 10 years
- Virtual Arkansas Students had an 89% Pass Rate
- 14,907 Unique Arkansas Students Engaged in 33,977 Content + Teacher Enrollments
- 30,334 Credits Earned
- 75% of Virtual Arkansas teachers have a Master's degree or above
- 151 Content+Teacher courses available to students throughout Arkansas
- Concurrent Credit Students Earned 8,132 College Concurrent Credit Hours
- 85% of Concurrent Credit enrollments from rural districts
- Career and Technical Education: 6,218 enrollments over two semesters
- 6 full completer CTE programs and 12 partial completer programs offered to Arkansas students
- 2,353 Computer Science enrollments
- 2,006 Advanced Placement Enrollments
- 97% of all Arkansas Rural Districts Served by Virtual Arkansas
- 59% of all Virtual Arkansas Content + Teacher Enrollments From Districts Classified as Rural
- 94% of all Arkansas public school districts served

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Early Childhood

**Funding Source:** Federal Grant, State Grant, Local School Districts

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Waldron, Westside.

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Gwen Couthren	Early Childhood Coordinator	MED
Elizabeth Churchman	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Trena Hertlein	Early Childhood Teacher	MED
Mindy James	Speech-Language Pathologist	MED
Susan Kelley	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Trish Lamb	Paraprofessional	BS
Christi Nicklin	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Lisa Reames	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Cathy Smart	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Ashley Debes	Early Childhood Teacher	MED
Beth Euston	Speech-Language Pathologist	MED
Cindy Mendez	Paraprofessional	HSD
Kayla Heydenreich	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Brittany Floyd	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Jennifer Tate	Paraprofessional	HSD
Julainne Pearson	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Amanda Beauchamp	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Rebekah Lyle	Speech-Language Pathologist	MSE
Candace Irby	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Angie Carter	Speech-Language Pathology Asst.	BSE
Christena Joy	Paraprofessional	HSD
Crystal Strozier	Early Childhood Teacher	MSE
Liz Huff	Early Childhood Teacher	BSE
Kelsey Laird	Early Childhood Teacher	MED
Desire Osburn	Speech-Language Pathologist	MED

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Goal:**

- To provide special education and related services for children with disabilities from age three to six.
- To provide transition services from Early Intervention Services to Early Childhood Services, and from Early Childhood to School Age programs.
- To participate in a local interagency coordination council (ICC), and a special education advisory committee.

## **Program Summary:**

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Early Childhood Program provides special education and related services to eligible children, ages three to six, under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Early childhood special education services are provided on an individual basis so that their developmental/educational needs are met. Services may include screening, evaluations, speech-language therapy, direct/consultative developmental instruction, behavior intervention, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling. Special education services must be provided in the least restrictive environment. Services may be provided in homes, preschools, Head Start centers, early childhood operated classrooms, or on local school district campuses. All services are provided through a written Individualized Education program that details what each child's specific needs are, with the ultimate goal being to prepare that child for Kindergarten by bringing skills up to age level.

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- The GFESC Early Childhood Program has grown from a child count of 150 in 1999, to serving 692 in 2023
- 406 students returned in August.
- December 1 Child Count was 692 students.
- Transitioned more than 273 students to Kindergarten with special education services recommended.
- More than 500 students received developmental screenings (by Coop employees)
- More than 700 developmental and/or speech evaluations completed.
- Served on Interagency Coordinating Council to ensure child find and preschool students are linked to community resources.
- Served on River Valley Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee to ensure students have access to health services needed so they are ready to learn.
- Served on the Local LEADS Committee
- Served as the Arkansas Special Education Professionals Council - President
- Results from the 2022-2023 Annual Performance Report indicate that the GFESC Early Childhood Program meets expectations.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program: Educational Services for the Visually Impaired (ESVI) and The Arkansas Project-Children and Youth with Sensory Impairments and additional disabilities (CAYSI)**

### **Funding:**

ESVI is a statewide educational consultative service program administered by the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit. CAYSI is funded by the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

**ESVI's regional vision consultants are funded through the following Education Service Cooperatives:**

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position
Christi Dixon	TVI/COMS, State Director of TSI/COMS
Ashley Lee	ESVI Administrative Analyst
Evan Beavers	Access Technology Specialist
Marsha Holder	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant
Cynthia White	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant
Whitney Musick	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant
Stephanie Smith	TVI/AT, Specialist
Sharon Niemczyk	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant
Melanie Birthright	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant
Paige Dillinger	TVI/COMS, ESVI Educational Vision Consultant

### **Goal:**

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired collaborates with school districts, parents, and communities to provide support that empowers them to remove educational and environmental barriers and to create solutions that foster independence for all students with visual impairments.

### **Program Summary:**

Educational Services for the Visually Impaired Consultants provide recommendations for accommodations to enhance the student's opportunities for learning: develop district building level support teams to meet the needs of students who are blind or visually impaired ages 3 through 21 in educational programs; conduct Learning Media and Functional Vision Assessments; make recommendations for individual student access to educational curriculum; provide large print or Braille textbooks through the Instructional Materials Center; demo, loan, and provide instruction and consultation in the use of assistive technology and low vision devices; provide direct instruction in Orientation and Mobility in the school and local communities. In addition, professional development opportunities are offered to parents, teachers and related staff.



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Regional vision consultants are funded through the following Education Service Cooperatives:

- Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative
- Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative
- Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
- Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

## **ESVI's Central Office is located at:**

1401 West Capitol Avenue  
Victory Building, Suite 425  
Little Rock, AR 72201

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- ESVI staff presented on a variety of topics for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists for students with visual impairments to the state AER members.
- ESVI hosted 7 professional development meetings/training sessions for teachers of the visually impaired.
- ESVI provided workshops for TVIs, PTs, OTs, special education classroom teachers and paraprofessionals on Inspiring Communication and Literacy for students with multiple disabilities with Easter Seals Outreach and the CAYSI (Deaf-Blind) project..
- Public school students with visual impairments and blindness participated in the Arkansas Braille Challenge.
- ESVI staff provided special education information during workshops to several coops throughout the state and at the LEA Academy in Hot Springs.
- Since this is ATLAS' first year as the standardized test, ESVI provided several informative meetings to give direction for braille and visually impaired students taking the test. ESVI also provided technical assistance for many school districts across the state to help administer the tests. Paper, embossers and Windows computers were provided to assist school administrators in the testing process. NWAESC was a location for a group effort in providing embossed materials as well as large print materials as needed to a number of districts at one time.
- ESVI coordinated a large group activity for blind and visually impaired students across the state to coincide with the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The event was held in Morrilton, Arkansas. Hands-on activities were provided to students as well as the experience of the eclipse. NASA's Denna Lambert, a graduate of Arkansas public schools who is blind, provided the expertise for the tactile activities as well as her unique perspective on experiencing the eclipse. As far as we understand, no other activity such as this was performed anywhere else in the United States.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Foster Grandparent Program

**Funding Source:** Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps)

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

**Participating Districts:** Ashdown, Booneville, Charleston, Clarksville, Cossatot River, County Line, DeQueen, Foreman, Horatio, IBCEC, M.A.C. Mena, Mineral Springs, Nashville, Nashville, Ouachita River, Ozark, Polk County Development Center, Scranton, Van Buren, Westside.

### Personnel:

Name	Position
Terry Young	Project Director
Ann Frachiseur	Volunteer Coordinator
Nelda Scroggins	Volunteer Coordinator

### Goals:

- Enable men and women 55 years and over to remain active and find ways to serve their community.
- Enable children with special needs to improve academically, developmentally, and socially.

### Program Summary:

The Foster Grandparent Program is a federally funded program whose purpose is to offer senior citizens the opportunity to serve as mentors and tutors for children with special needs. These senior volunteers provide 15 to 40 hours of weekly service to community organizations such as schools and preschool programs.

### Major Highlights of the Year:

- Eleven grandparents were added to our program this year for a total of 77. One new school station site was added for a total of 25.
- Seventy-seven foster grandparents tutored and mentored 334 students from preschool to middle school.
- Seventy-eight percent of our students in grades K-12 assigned to a foster grandparent showed improvement in their delayed areas.
- 53,440 volunteer service areas were served.
- Forty-eight hours of annual in-service training were provided to each foster grandparent enrolled in the program.
- All of our grandparents contributed snacks to make snake baskets to provide to police departments as part of their 911 Service Project in September.
- Over fifty blankets were made by our foster grandparents and donated to cancer centers throughout Arkansas for Martin Luther King Service Day.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Thirty-six of our foster grandparents have signed up for our annual Foster Grandparent Summer Conference at DeGray State Park and Lodge with the other FGP programs from our state. During the conference they will receive additional training in everything from literacy training to understanding children with traumatic behavior disorders to keeping themselves secure from computer and social media scams. They will also be recognized for their service to the communities and be able to network with other foster grandparents from the state.
- Our Project Director, Terry Young, and Volunteer Coordinator, Ann Frachiseur will be attending the National Americorps Seniors Conference, this summer in Baltimore, MD for additional training in our volunteer program.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Gifted and Talented

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Karen Grady	Gifted and Talented Specialist	MAT, MSE

### Goal:

Assist member districts to meet the State's Standards for Gifted and Talented Education and Advanced Placement. Serve as a liaison with the ADE, Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement, parent and professional organizations, and other public and private agencies. Promote gifted education through public awareness and advocacy.

### Program Summary:

Assisted schools through monitoring their GT programs, with the program application process, and with policies needed to be in compliance. Hosted in-person GT Coordinators meetings for support and strategies to assist them in their local GT program. Provided student activities: Quiz Bowl (Grades 3-9), Chess Tournaments (3-12), Debate (Grades 6-12), Battle of the Books (Grades 3-6), Cube Competition (Grades 3-12), TheatreSquared (6-12). Provided professional development throughout the school, including K-2 Primary Enrichment & Differentiation & Growth Mindset, Teaching Gifted in the Secondary, Common Obstacles and Practical Solutions to Differentiation in Secondary, History of Subiaco, Verbal and Non-Verbal Strategies for Preventing or De-escalating Situation, and Gifted Characteristics. Provided Zoom and in-person opportunities for GT educators to talk with speakers on identification tools, student opportunities, and regional library resources. Accompanied district GT educators and students on field trips, to awards ceremonies, and attended parent advisory meetings. Attended AAGEA and AGATE Conferences in Arkansas. Sits on the AGATE Board as Emeritus Chair and was elected Affiliate Director for 2023-25. Serves as the Conference and Awards Chair for AAGEA.

### Major Highlights of the Year:

- Served on the board of AGATE as Membership Chair
- GT Specialist served as the Conference and Awards Chair for AAGEA
- Served over 1600 students through various competitions and enrichment opportunities.
- GT Specialist attended professional development virtually at AGATE, AGEAA and various state meetings throughout the year.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- GT Specialist was selected to present two sessions at AGATE Conference
- For the fourth consecutive year, one of Guy Fenter GT Programs was selected as the ACT 56 Award Recipient for small schools.
- One GT Coordinator from a member district was selected to receive a GT Educator Award.
- GT Specialist brought in-person and virtual professional development opportunities to the region on gifted characteristics, identification measures, student enrichment programs, and curriculum.
- GT Specialist served on the selection team for Arkansas Governor's School Developmental Engineering.
- GT Specialist served as a judge for Y.E.S. Arkansas
- GT Specialist served on the selection committee for AEGIS Programs
- GT Specialist served as a reviewer for NAGC Conference session submissions.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Literacy

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

## Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

## Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Beth Talley	Literacy Specialist	EDS
Katie Bucella	Literacy/Dyslexia Specialist	MED
Jeanna McKee	Literacy Specialist	MED
Caitlin Staton	Literacy/Dyslexia Specialist	MED

## Goal:

- To enhance teacher awareness and implementation of current best practices through high quality professional development
- To meet the needs of students through integrated assessment and responsive instruction
- To ensure that all students are meeting the state and national standards in literacy

## Program Summary:

**Critical Reading** is a professional development designed for teachers of Critical Reading or Strategic Reading in middle and secondary schools. It consists of four days with objectives focused on Engaging the Reader, Comprehension Strategies, Vocabulary Development, and Response to Text. Critical Reading provides training for teachers of students who are struggling readers needing extra support with Language Comprehension.

**Dyslexia** training provides an awareness of dyslexia and how teachers can recognize the characteristics of dyslexia. Teachers are trained in evidence-based strategies in order to support students who demonstrate these characteristics. Provided training with Stacey Mahurin on Level II assessments and analysis. Facilitated 4 quarterly contact meetings with district level dyslexia specialists and interventionists.

**K-2 R.I.S.E.** is a year-long learning professional development with sustained support in-districts. The training will provide educators with an in-depth knowledge related to the science of reading, evidence-based instructional strategies, and making data-based decisions for ALL students. Participants will attend 6 days of face-to-face training, with coaching support from literacy specialists as needed by districts.

**3-6 R.I.S.E.** is a year-long learning professional development with sustained support in-districts. The training will provide educators with an in-depth knowledge related to the science of reading, evidence-based instructional strategies, and making data-based decisions for ALL students. Participants will attend 6 days of face-to-face training, with coaching support from literacy specialists as needed by districts.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**Science of Reading Stand Alone training-** In order to meet proficiency through Pathway D and to reinforce training from RISE, the six Science of Reading Stand Alone training days were provided. These sessions were delivered virtually in partnership with the Northwest Arkansas ESCs.

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- K-2 R.I.S.E. Training
- 3-6 R.I.S.E Training
- Science of Reading Stand Alone Training
- K-2 & 3-6 Literacy Screeners and Diagnostic Assessment Training
- K-2 & 3-6 Syntax Training
- Standards Alignment with Literacy Curriculum
- Literacy PD
- Dyslexia PD
- Novice Teacher PD
- Team Meetings / Professional Learning Communities
- Assessment and Data Analysis
- Classroom Observations
- Lesson Planning Support
- Modeling/Demonstration Lessons
- Online Book Studies supporting the Science of Reading
- Writing instruction for grades K-8.
- Small group instruction
- Sound Wall training

The Literacy Specialists have also provided targeted professional development as needed at the request of individual districts.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Mathematics

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Candice Cumbie	Mathematics Specialist	BSE
Erin Likens	Mathematics Specialist	MSE

### Goals:

- Foster the implementation of student-focused education and the preparation of all students for college, career, and community engagement
- Develop and provide professional development to support teachers in implementing evidence-based math practices that support the implementation of the Arkansas K-12 Math Standards
- Promote equitable math instruction
- Provide professional development and support for math educators to employ purposeful pedagogy and discourse in math classrooms
- Increase communication with and between teachers, teacher leaders, administrators, and ADE
- Increase student achievement by increasing educator awareness and implementation of research-based instruction through high quality professional development
- Increase student achievement by increasing educator awareness and providing training on High Quality Instructional Materials
- Close the achievement gap for students in math by providing professional development that is focused on understanding the Arkansas math standards and how to help students meet them through differentiation and equitable math instruction
- Support schools in the PLC process

### Program Summary:

Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education, administers the Mathematics Program for grades K-12, established by Act 1392 of 1999 for the improvement of mathematics' instruction throughout Arkansas. Assistance is provided to schools through professional learning programs, demonstration lessons, teacher observations, technical assistance, and teacher/administrator conferences in order to improve the teaching and learning of Mathematics through increased understanding of content and improved instructional strategies across the curriculum. Professional Development offered during the 2023-24 school year included: support for AR Math QuEST, Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum and Instruction Training, Understanding Centers, Developing Mathematical Reasoning and Number Sense, Dycalculia, Essential Standards for Success, Instructional Routines, and



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Desmos. In addition to the summer training, the specialists conducted coaching cycles, classroom observations, lesson planning support, model lessons, school site team meetings, PLC support, and school-based professional development linked to local school data.

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

The Mathematics Specialists have spent a combined 1,077 hours in schools supporting teachers in a variety of ways including:

- Continued providing support for the state-initiated professional development AR Math QuEST. A total of 10 schools and 26 teachers participated in Cohort 2 of AR Math QuEST. Support for planning, carrying out, and reflecting on instruction was provided on-site in school districts.
- Supported schools through classroom observations, lesson planning, curriculum alignment and pacing, PLCs, novice teacher support, TNTP Coaching Cycles, etc.
- The Mathematics Specialist has also provided targeted professional development as needed at the request of individual districts.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program: Migrant Education Program (MEP)**

**Funding Source: Title I, Part C-Education of Migratory Children**

**Competitive Grant: No**

**Formula: Yes**

**Restricted: Yes**

### **Participating Districts:**

**The Guy Fenter Migrant Education Program provides technical support to the following districts:**

#### **GFESC**

Clarksville (Johnson Co.)

Fort Smith (Sebastian Co.)

Van Buren (Crawford Co.)

#### **AFESC**

Russellville (Pope Co.)

### **Non Participating Districts**

**Migrant Program eligible students in the following districts are provided services by the Guy Fenter Migrant Education Program staff.**

#### **GFESC**

Mountainburg, Cedarville, Alma, Mulberry/Pleasant View (Crawford Co.)

Hackett, Mansfield, Greenwood, (Sebastian Co.)

Booneville, Magazine, Scranton, Paris, (Logan Co.)

Charleston, County Line, Ozark, (Franklin Co.)

Lamar, (Johnson Co.), Waldron (Scott Co.)

#### **AFESC**

Western Yell, Two Rivers, Dardenelle, Danville (Yell Co.)

Perryville, East End, Bigelow (Perry Co.)

Pottsville, Atkins, Dover, Hector, (Pope Co.)

Guy Perkins, Greenbrier, Mayflower, Vilonia, Conway (Faulkner Co.)

Quitman, West Side Greers Ferry, Heber Springs (Cleburne Co.)

Wonderview, Nemo Vista, South Conway, (Conway Co.)

Shirley, Clinton (Van Buren Co.)

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position	Degree
Stefan Lyons	Migrant Education Specialist	BS
Ashley Hulan	REDS	BS

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Joshua Vest	Part Time Recruiter/Advocate	MEd
Ilda Barrientos	Recruiter/Advocate	AD
Yadira Camp	Recruiter/Advocate	NA
Lourdes Nava	Student Support	BS

## Goal:

The Migrant Education Program is to identify all eligible migratory children and to provide supplemental services to improve educational opportunities for migratory children to help them succeed in the regular school program, meet the same state academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to meet, and graduate from high schools. Our measurable program goals address reading achievement, math achievement, and high school graduation.

## Program Summary:

During the 2023-2024 school year, approximately 665 children and youth ages three through twenty-one were recruited and/or served in the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative by the Migrant Education Program.

Technical Assistance is provided by MEP staff in the four (4) project schools. Services in non-project schools are provided by MEP cooperative staff.

Services provided include:

- Identification and Recruitment
- Advocacy for MEP families, including health referrals
- Provide parents with information to help their child prepare for kindergarten with readiness skills, and to support their child with graduation from high school/ prepare for college or enter the workforce.
- In home Pre-K Lessons for 3-5 year old MEP children not enrolled in a preschool
- Tutoring/Mentoring students during the regular school term
- Supplying students with supplemental books and magazines to read for pleasure
- Availability of free Red Comet online credit recovery courses
- ExCEL Challenge - AMESLA - 4-H Center Ferndale, AR
- High School students visit colleges and explore post-secondary opportunities
- Provide students with transportation to MEP sponsored activities
- Provide MEP staff with professional development (math, ELA, School Readiness, and ID&R)
- Provide student STEM activity days
- School supplies for new enrollments, and upon request
- Stem Camps and Trade School Camp for grades 9-12
- Summer reading program
- One on One summer instruction

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program: Novice Teacher Mentoring Program**

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### **Participating Districts:**

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### **Personnel:**

Name	Position	Degree
Tammy Brewer	Mentoring Program Specialist	EDS
Elizabeth Conway	Mentoring Program Assistant	HSD

### **Goal:**

To provide all Early Career Professionals (Novice Teachers) with the foundational information and support to enable Early Career Professionals to become an effective first year teacher, to grow and develop as a second year teacher, and to empower a third year teacher to be a teacher leader. Our goal is to provide instruction and support during the formative years of a novice teacher's career.

### **Program Summary:**

All Early Career Professionals are assigned to a cohort led by the Mentoring Program Specialist who has expertise in the content area or pedagogy area of the Novice Teacher. First year Early Career Professionals attended two days of face to face professional learning at the cooperative. Second year Early Career Professionals attended two days of face to face professional learning at the cooperative. Third year Early Career Professionals attended one day of training. The professional learning topics included: Classroom Management, Growth Mindset, Behavior Support, Lesson Planning, Ethics/Professionalism, Special Education Law, Dyslexia and Science of Reading Overview, TESS, and other needs as requested by the Novice Teacher or building principal. The main resources used in the professional development sessions were The New Art and Science of Teaching and The New Art and Science of Assessment by Marzano. Mentor teachers that are in school districts were also given training in how to assist the Early Career Teachers in their district.

In addition, assistance for passing tests necessary for licensure was established. This included creating a library of study materials at the cooperative and assisting teachers with their individual needs. There were also three Saturday study sessions to provide Early Career Professionals with additional protected time and support.

The Mentoring Program Specialist worked in member districts to support Novice Teachers through on-site coaching, modeling, observation/reflection, lesson planning, virtual office hours, etc. The Early Career Professionals also received coaching and/or support from the GFESC Content Specialists through PLCs and on-site coaching.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

During the 2023-2024 school year, 455 Early Career Professionals were supported through the GFESC Novice Teacher Mentoring Program. This was an increase of 19 teachers from the previous year. On-site visits provided necessary assistance on an individualized basis and all requests for support were provided. Also provided were monthly check-ins, open zooms, newsletters, and other various supports as needed.

Pre-Service Teacher Reception- during this event prospective teachers met with districts to network and learn soft skills such as how to find and apply to job openings, interviewing tips and techniques and best practices for following up after the interview. This was our 3rd annual event held on-campus.

Recruitment: Our Mentoring Program Specialist worked closely with districts to support the high school teacher preparation programs, especially grow-your-own initiatives and Educator Rising. Included in this co partnering with Arkansas Tech University to support regional Educators Rising events.

Future Teacher Fair- Education interns from University of Arkansas at Fort Smith met at the Cooperative campus to talk about next steps in education. Administrators from various districts and Cooperative personnel were there to answer questions and for networking opportunities.

Praxis Test Reimbursement- Teachers who need Praxis support have a variety of options from the Coop. The Mentoring Specialist delivered Mometrix flashcards to the teacher or provided 240tutoring (an online study guide) to teachers requesting those aids. For the year 2023-2024, a total of 84 invites were sent to teachers. Additionally, if teachers came to one of the Saturday Praxis study sessions, they were placed on Study.com. If a teacher passed their test within one month of the study session, the novice program grant reimbursed them for the costs of the test. Over 50 teachers took advantage of these Saturday sessions. These study sessions received outstanding feedback from participants and will continue into the future. The program received an additional \$10,000 in grant funding specifically for Praxis assistance.

John Wink- Mr. Wink worked with Year 2 teachers in the summer to help with redefining their policies and procedures from their 1st year.

Mentors- The voluntary mentoring group had 61 mentors that worked with new teachers. They were given monthly checklists and tasks to complete with their novice teacher.

Our Mentoring Program Specialist, Tammy Brewer, was part of the Guiding Coalition for PLCs team for GFESC. She also was on the advisory team for the updating the 2024-2025 Mentoring Manual updates.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**Program:** School Health and Wellness - Tobacco Prevention, Nutrition, Physical Activity

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Health

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** No

**Participating Districts:** Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

Charter Schools: Future School of Fort Smith

Private Schools: Subiaco Academy, Immaculate Conception, Trinity Jr. High, Union Christian Academy

## Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Kelli Butcher (interim)	Community Health Nurse Specialist	RN
Meggi Augustoksy	Community Health Promotion Specialist	MPH, RRT

## Goal:

### This program provides:

- Assistance with grant writing for school grants and community coalition grants
- Linkage for school-based tobacco prevention and other health efforts with local community coalitions
- Serves as an advocate for school health needs to community coalitions
- Linkage of resources for schools, community coalitions and others in the community to promote healthy communities
- Provides technical assistance on public health practices to schools and community
- Provides technical assistance and collaborates with school nurses to identify appropriate resources and continuing education offerings that will help meet the requirements for nursing licensure
- Works with State School Nurse Consultant to disseminate information as needed
- Technical assistance with school districts on all School Health issues
- Provides Technical Assistance in policy development for tobacco and school-based enforcement of tobacco related policies
- Provides Technical assistance with evidenced based curricula for tobacco, nutrition, teen dating, suicide prevention, teen pregnancy, and physical activity
- Provides training to school nurses and others
- Provides technical assistance to school districts with communicable disease outbreaks
- Provides training and technical assistance on School Health Index
- Provides technical assistance to Coordinated School Health grantees
- Provides technical assistance to tobacco prevention grantees
- Provides technical assistance and guidance to schools for wellness initiatives
- Provides technical assistance to schools for implementation of best practices for nutrition and physical activity, Coordinated School Health and other public health issues
- Provides technical assistance to school wellness committees regarding state and federal mandates
- Provides technical assistance on nutrition and physical activity via evidenced based curricula

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Provides technical assistance to communities regarding school health issues and current public health policy
- Maintains current knowledge of research, resources, and best practices related to school health issues
- Informs schools and communities of available trainings and grant opportunities
- Addresses training needs related to school health issues and organizes and conducts trainings based on those needs
- Coordinates and provides trainings to school personnel, ADH colleagues, and community members
- Informs schools and communities of available trainings and grant opportunities
- Serves as an advocate for school and community health needs
- Establishes communication links with communities to keep them informed of public health policy
- Compiles and distributes necessary reports and other information
- Participates in data collection and evaluation of community and school health interventions
- Serves on committees and work groups and works on special projects
- Attends, participates in, and distributes updates from regional and state meetings to schools, ADH colleagues, and community members
- Attends CHAC meetings and reports outcomes to HHI Support Staff and Wellness Committees

## **Major Highlights of the Year:**

- Annual Back to School Nurse Workshop held in person, 129 participants. Cheria McDonald, BSN, RN, State School Nurse Consultant, presented on new laws and rules and regulations for school nurses.
- Vision Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Hearing Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Scoliosis Certification Training for all new school nurses
- BMI Certification Training for all new school nurses
- Assisted with multiple school based flu immunization clinics.

## **Other Highlights of the Year:**

- Tobacco prevention education, suicide prevention education, healthy relationship education, distress tolerance education, internet safety education, dental health education, nutrition education, opioid use prevention education, and teen pregnancy/STI prevention education for students are presented on request.
- Presented Youth Mental Health First Aid, instruction for parents, teachers, and other school staff in correct ways to address a youth that is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or crisis.
- Presented CPR for staff every other month and nurses as needed.
- Presented Stop the Bleed to nurses to educate on correct presentation of the information for their staff and students
- Facilitated Medicaid in the Schools workshop on training and billing for personal care done in the school setting.
- Hosted What's Poverty got to do With It: Students and Families in Crisis in partnership with Arkansas Children's Hospital and DESE
- Assisted districts with Wellness Committee planning and requirements

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Science

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

## Participating Districts:

Alma, Clarksville, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

## Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Amber Cobb	Science Specialist	BS, MED
Curtis Varnell	Science Specialist	BS, MED, PHD

## Goals:

To support schools as they align standards to curriculum to assessment

- to align classroom assessment with statewide science exams
- to promote instructional strategies that support all three dimensions of the state standards
- to mentor and coach teachers in the classroom
- to educate about current scientific and educational research
- to provide assistance in choosing standards-based instructional resources
- to support schools as they design and implement common assessment and the RTI process

## Program Summary:

The science program at the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative is based on the identified needs of teachers in the GFESC school districts. These include supporting the growth of teachers' content knowledge and pedagogy, facilitating collaboration among districts, assisting with data-driven decision making particularly with the RTI process, researching and developing supplemental teaching resources, and supporting Grasping Phenomenal Science, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's science initiative. The specialist is continuing to build relationships within districts in order to best support schools in the region. The GFESC Science Specialist is responsible for assisting local districts and teachers in improving the quality of science education throughout the region. The science specialist will provide training in inquiry-based science, model teaching, curriculum development and alignment, and techniques to prepare for science teaching.

## Major Highlights of the Year:

- Collaborated with multiple school districts this year to provide ongoing professional development and curriculum support for science teachers in the districts.
- Outreach to area (4) boys/girls clubs to do science activities during the summer
- Summer school education programs: Alma and Logan County Libraries
- Young Astronaut program funded through an AAEA grant- 5 districts - Westside, Clarksville, Waldron, Magazine, Paris St. Josephs, Montessori, County Line - 800 plus students and teachers



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Dr. Seuss Science- 7 districts- over 1,500 students
- Continuing education grant for 12 teachers to participate in the NSTA regional science conference; many for the first time
- Starlab science- four participating school districts and over 2,000 students
- Ongoing program of working with regional private, educational, and governmental agencies to promote science education. These include the Arkansas Game and Fish, Janet Huckabee River Valley Nature Center, Arkansas State parks at Magazine Mountain, Petit Jean Mountain, the Arkansas Military and Aeronautics museum, ATU, U/A FS, and the University of the Ozarks.
- Content and pedagogy coaching support to teachers in qualifying school districts

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

**Program: Teacher Center (Professional Development; Curriculum Development Assistance; Resources)**

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

**Participating Districts:**

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

**Private Schools:**

St. Joseph's, Harvest Time Academy, Subiaco Academy

**Charter Schools:**

Future School of Fort Smith

**Participating Universities:**

University of Arkansas Fort Smith

University of the Ozarks

Arkansas Tech University

Grand Canyon University

REACH University

**Personnel:**

Name	Position	Degree
Angela Miller	Teacher Center Coordinator	MED +
Cristin Price	Administrative Assistant	HSD

**Goal:**

To provide teachers, administrators, and support staff with professional growth opportunities in order to expand knowledge, enhance skills, and develop new strategies and techniques is the major focus. Professional Development and the Teacher Learning Center are the primary responsibilities of this program.

**Program Summary:**

This office has the responsibility of surveying, organizing, and providing K-12 professional development that supports school improvement for our twenty-one member districts. During the 2023-2024 school year, Guy Fenter ESC offered professional development opportunities that aligned with district needs and state initiatives. A comprehensive list of professional development workshops is provided at the end of this report.

The Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education continue to work together to support districts in the state initiatives and mandates, particularly those related to the Arkansas State Standards implementation process, the ATLAS assessment and other assessment systems, Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS) and Leader Excellence And Development System

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

(LEADS 2.0). These initiatives continue to be the driving forces for increasing student achievement. All GFESC districts have been involved in various professional development opportunities provided at the state and local levels. With the support of the Arkansas legislature, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, other education cooperatives, and the local districts, K-12 educators now have the resources to align their curriculum to the Arkansas content standards and to increase student achievement to meet these standards.

## Major Highlights of the Year:

These opportunities include, but are not limited to, trainings such as:

- **Collaborative Meetings:** GFESC continued to host K-12 Administrators, Curriculum Leaders and Federal Programs Coordinators. Curriculum and Federal Programs and K-12 Administrators leaders met monthly for DESE updates and GFESC served as a liaison between DESE and districts. Topics for these groups were on an “as needed basis” due to the ongoing topics.
- **Dyslexia Intervention** Support Services and Quarterly Contact Meetings
- **Novice Teacher and Mentoring Training Programs:** Become a Teacher Event, EdRising Event, John Wink Consultant, Ambassador Academy, and numerous on-site visits and virtual sessions were provided to ensure support for novice teachers and mentors, especially as it relates to classroom management, special education, content, and virtual instruction.
- **Math:** AR Math QuEST Cohort 1 & 2, Coaching Ambitious Teaching, Illustrative Mathematics, Priority Standards for Success in Math grades 3-12, Math Instructional Routines, Desmos, Understanding Centers, Eureka Math, and on-site visits to schools to provide targeted assistance and support with mathematical practices, curriculum design and curriculum alignment. GFESC worked with districts to create a crosswalk document to support districts’ implementation of the new standards.
- **Literacy:** R.I.S.E. Academy and other R.I.S.E. related training such as the Science of Reading Stand-alone training days were held on-site at GFESC during the 2023-2024 school year. GFESC is hosting sessions such as Critical Reading, Keys to Early Writing, Key Vocabulary & Comprehension Routines, Speech to Print, Small Group Instruction, and numerous other training sessions in 2023-2024. Workshops/trainings were held at both GFESC and on-site in districts on requested topics such as PLC data, RTI process, model lessons, etc. Specialists made site visits to schools to provide targeted assistance in the areas of reading and writing, dyslexia awareness, and the science of reading.
- **Science:** Grasping Phenomenal Science, This is Arkansas, Science Assessment, NASCAR, NASA, AR Game and Fish, NOAA Fish Hatcheries partnered with GFESC and area districts to provide virtual field trips, STEM challenges, etc. for teachers and students. Science Specialists provided training for integrating literacy in the content area for science teachers, unit planning, lesson writing and examination of the Arkansas State Standards with embedding Next Generation Science Standards both on-site and virtually as requested. Specialists worked both on-site and virtually with schools.
- **Gifted and Talented:** Specialist worked both on-site and virtually with school districts. GFESC hosted Battle of the Books & Rubik’s Cube Competitions, Debate, Quiz Bowl and Chess Tournaments, regular GT Coordinator meetings, brought in Guest Speakers from the TheatreSquared, NOAA, University of Arkansas Drone Program, the FBI, etc. for the benefit of the GT students in the GFESC region. The GT Specialist also continued to provide support to new GT Coordinators and TA for all districts in need.
- **Specific Groups:** The Library Media Group, Computer Science Group, LEA’s, etc. and all meet regularly to bring district leaders together to discuss common professional development needs, share concerns and suggestions and to collaborate in a way that benefits all districts in the Guy Fenter ESC

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

region. These groups were led and supported by content specialists in their specific areas, held both on-site and virtually. Specialists worked with Computer Science, Special Education Services, Social Studies/Arkansas History, Career and Technical Education, Health and Wellness etc. Additionally Curriculum and Federal Program Leaders met monthly for collaborative discussions and information updates, as well as listening to guest speakers of interest. These sessions were led by the Teacher Center Coordinator and an area Federal Programs Coordinator/Director.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Program: Technology

**Funding Source:** Arkansas Department of Education

**Competitive Grant:** No

**Restricted:** Yes

### Participating Districts:

Alma, Booneville, Cedarville, Charleston, Clarksville, County Line, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Hackett, Lamar, Lavaca, Magazine, Mansfield, Mountainburg, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Ozark, Paris, Scranton, Van Buren, Waldron, Westside

### Personnel:

Name	Position	Degree
Matt Pipkins	Technology Coordinator	BSE, MSIT

### Goal:

The goal of the Technology Program is to provide technology information and support throughout our member district area. The Technology Coordinator administers and supports the computer network, a computer training lab, Device Carts, over 150 PC's, servers, and other devices at GFESC. It is a further goal of the Technology Department to provide training and support for member district staff and internal GFESC staff.

### Program Summary:

The Technology Coordinator is a resource for districts to utilize as needed. The Technology Coordinator supplies pertinent information on new technologies, statewide initiatives, and training opportunities. Support for the GFESC LAN including file server administration, desktop support and staff development training for Co-op staff is provided. In addition to the LAN the Technology Coordinator oversees phone systems, Wi-Fi, and cellular data service including Mifis. Duties also include supporting the Co-op website. Another primary role of the Technology Coordinator is to support the hundreds of workshops held at the cooperative during the year. This includes supporting workshop presenters, loading specific software required for workshops, providing necessary hardware for participants, and resolving technical issues as they arise.

### Major Highlights of the Year:

- Supported GFESC staff with on site meetings and PD offerings
- Member of DESE's Cyber Response Task Force.
- Provided assistance to districts affected by Cyber Attacks.
- Assisted in providing training, support and vendor demos for Technology Coordinators.
- Hosted three on-site training sessions for District Technology Coordinators
- Hosted two Virtual (Zoom) collaborative meetings for District Technology Coordinators
- Maintained groups for area school administrators to increase communication with the cooperative and between the member schools.
- Improved labs and conference facilities for participants attending sessions.
- Provided assistance to districts in the following areas: VoIP, Networking, and Cyber Security.
- Attended State Technology Coordinator Meetings to keep informed about emerging Technology for the K-12 environment.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

- Assisted in the evaluation and purchase of new equipment for our employees.
- Presented at the Arkansas Conference of Technology November 2023

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Special Projects and Programs**

Detailed below are special projects or programs in which state funding provided services regionally or statewide, give the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative an opportunity to participate.

### **Program Name: Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP)**

**Number Trained: 33 ArPEP Year 2 Candidates**

**Number Trained: 37 ArPEP Year 1 Candidates**

#### **Description:**

The Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway (ArPEP) is an affordable two-year, work-based training, alternative education route to obtaining an Arkansas standard teaching license for college graduates or career changers holding at least a bachelor's degree. ArPEP's goal is to prepare learner-ready teachers to meet the growing demand of the teacher pipeline in Arkansas. The primary objective of ArPEP is to train future educators on how to build classroom communities, design effective lesson plans, implement evidence-based instructional strategies, and use assessments to facilitate student learning.

The ArPEP facilitator will prepare educators who understand what accomplished beginning teaching looks like in a classroom, and more importantly, demonstrate how effective teachers design lessons, provide instruction, build classroom communities, and utilize assessments to facilitate student learning.

### **Program Name: Communities of Practice Grant (CoP)**

#### **Description:**

Building Communities of Practice (CoP) is focused around Identifying Learning Loss and Accelerating Learning using High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM). DESE, in partnership with a national partner, will bring together groups of Arkansas system leaders (district and school teams). The Community of Practice will explore the leadership practices necessary to implement math and/or literacy instruction and learning supports that meet the moment, while staying focused on long-term recovery and acceleration goals.

The CoP includes a series of sessions that includes research and evidence-based strategies to address and plan for acceleration of learning using HQIM.

Grantee will select vendors from those approved by Rivet Education to contract with for professional services to engage in content coaching, with emphasis on HQIM. GFESC collaborated with the vendor TNTP as a partner in this grant.

### **Program Name: Praxis Study Sessions**

#### **Description:**

The GFESC Mentoring Specialist offers Saturday Praxis Study Sessions for any pre-service, paraprofessional, or veteran teacher needing to pass an initial Praxis exam or an exam to add an endorsement to a standard teaching license. Participants are given the option to study using Mometrix, 240tutoring, or Study.com resources. The participants are given the opportunity to submit their passing Praxis exam scores for reimbursement from a grant provided through DESE. GFESC has hosted more than 50 participants in the Saturday Praxis Study sessions. Summer 2024 will offer 2 sessions this summer as well.

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## **Program Name: Special Education Novice Teacher Training**

### **Description:**

The GFESC Behavior Support Specialist and local district LEA's provide targeted professional development for any teacher that is new to special education, or may need a refresher to special education instruction. This training includes topics such as Essential Behavior Concepts, Antecedent and Targeted Behavior Intervention, Zoning plans, Due Process from pre-referral to evaluation programming/placement, IEPs, Notice of Action, Exciting Data Review, Re-evaluation, Annual Review Process, ESY, and Transition. GFESC has provided support for more than 91 novice special educators through the Special Education Novice Teacher Training program.

## **Program Name: Electronic Fingerprinting**

### **Description:**

Arkansas State, FBI and Child Maltreatment Central registry background checks are required for student teaching internship, first time licensure and all licensure renewals, first employment or change of employment in public schools, charter schools or education service cooperatives. The Arkansas Department of Education deemed that the Arkansas Education Cooperatives would perform all fingerprints needed.

- GFESC has one Live Scan unit in the main office for scheduled appointments (every 15-30 minutes). We also have a portable Live Scan that we take into the districts to do onsite prints.
- Currently, we have three employees trained to conduct fingerprints. This employee must work fingerprinting into their already full-time position. (i.e. Mentoring Program & Teacher Center Administrative Assistant).
- GFESC performed a total of **786** electronic fingerprints from **July 1, 2023 - June 15, 2024**.



# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

## Guy Fenter ESC Impact on Student Performance 2023-2024

In accordance with Act 802 (2023), the following data have been collected from GFESC Districts regarding the impact of the cooperative on student growth

Program	Impact
Migrant Program	<p>For the 2023-2024 school year, the Migrant Education Program has made progress and exceeded the state goals in all 3 target areas (ELA and Math, School Readiness, and High School Graduation/Out of School Youth Services). In 2021-2022, 19% of migratory students were proficient in ELA on the state assessment and 22% were proficient in math. In 2023-2024, those percentages increased with 23% being proficient in ELA and 24% in math.</p> <p>For the migratory students that were served in summer school, 94% of them showed a gain of at least 3% between pre and post-testing on relatable ELA and Math assessments.</p> <p>In 2021-2022, 61% of migratory preschool students received literacy services and 10% received math services. In 2023-2024, 66% of preschool students received literacy services and 18% received math services. Also, 72% of preschool migratory students received health and/or advocacy services and resources. This number increased by 8% from the 2021-2022 performance period. In 2021-2022, 77.4% of migratory students graduated from High school. In 2023-2024, 79.2% of migrant students graduated with a High School Diploma. This data reflects the achievement of our program in reaching all Measurable Program Outcomes for the 2023-2024 school year.</p>
CTE	<p>CTE Consortium scores include graduation rates of 98.3% with 62.5% of concentrators earning an industry recognized credentials. All performance scores exceeded state and federal targets. No improvement plans were required.</p> <div data-bbox="467 1304 1500 1661"> <p>The image contains two charts. The left chart is the '2023 CTE SUMMARY REPORT' for the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative. It features six donut charts showing participation and completion rates for State and Consortium levels across three categories: Participants, Concentrators, and Completers. The right chart is a horizontal bar graph titled 'PERFORMANCE SCORES RELATIVE TO TARGETS' for CTE Concentrators. It compares scores for various metrics: 150 4-year Graduation Rate (98.30% vs 97.23% target), 150 5-year Graduation Rate (98.56% vs 97.67% target), 252 Reading/Language Arts (88.53% vs 85.92% target), 252 Math (82.37% vs 80.69% target), 252 Science (88.99% vs 86.97% target), 351 Post-secondary Diploma (84.15% vs 82.78% target), 451 Non-traditional Credential (81.58% vs 79.34% target), and 551 Program Goals (83.02% vs 79.29% target). A legend indicates blue bars for Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Performance, yellow for State CTE Performance, and grey for State Target.</p> </div>
Virtual Arkansas	<p>Virtual Arkansas Students had an 89% Pass Rate. 30,334 credits were earned. 8,132 college concurrent credit hours were earned. 2,353 students were enrolled in computer science courses. 2,006 students were enrolled in advanced placement courses.</p>
Early	<p>The Guy Fenter Early Childhood Special Education Program has made progress in</p>

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

<p>Childhood/Special Education</p>	<p>each of the three early childhood outcome areas, including social-emotional, knowledge and skills, and appropriate behaviors, as indicated on the annual performance report. Each state target for the outcome area was exceeded, indicating substantial progress from the time the student entered the program through age six or exit from the program. The GFESC Early Childhood Program has grown from a child count of 150 in 1999, to serving 692 in 2023. The Early Childhood/Special Education has satellite offices to serve families and schools throughout the River Valley region with the home base in Branch.</p>
<p>Foster Grandparent</p>	<p>For the 2024 school year, Seventy-seven foster grandparents tutored and mentored 334 students from preschool to middle school, Seventy-eight percent of our students in grades K-12 assigned to a foster grandparent showed improvement in their delayed areas, 53,440 volunteer service areas were served, and Forty-eight hours of annual in-service training were provided to each foster grandparent enrolled in the program. The foster grandparents volunteers work directly with both school-age and preschool-age children within the GFESC service area for the performance measure of tutoring, specifically in the area of school readiness, and the performance measure of mentoring, with a focus on K-12 success within this area. The children served are offered support in areas such as literacy, mathematics, life-skills, and general mentoring as recognized and assigned by local district personnel.</p>
<p>Literacy, Math, &amp; Science</p>	<p>Literacy specialists assisted the state department in providing support to K-3 literacy teachers in schools with “D” and “F” ratings. GFESC had 18 “D” rated schools and 2 “F” rated schools K-12. Specialists were assigned and focused on seven (7) elementary schools. In the Fall of 2023, two (2) of the seven (7) schools moved off of the support status, and one (1) additional elementary school was added. In 2023-2024, six (6) of the GFESC schools were supported by Literacy Specialists. GFESC Literacy specialists acted as literacy coaches to provide the following support: 1) support teachers to implement HQIM; 2) facilitate instructional coach cycles (observations, feedback, next steps); 3) provide practice and models as needed to support the coaching cycles; and 4) provide direct, hands-on support for literacy instruction (help with student assessments, data analysis, supports materials management, etc). Over 2,200 hours of on-site coaching and professional development support to assigned schools ranked as a “D/F” status.</p> <p>GFESC Math Specialists supported five (5) focus schools, as well as other schools in the region in the implementation of HQIM, AR Math QuEST, and coaching throughout the year.</p> <p>GFESC Science Specialists provided support with a focus on “D” schools that requested support. However, many schools across the area scored below 60% proficiency in science, even with letter grades higher than a “D”. Science Specialists focused on twelve (12) total schools that were implementing HQIM and assisted other schools when available.</p>

# GUY FENTER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE

Mentoring/Novice	In 2022-2023, 471 teachers were identified as year 1, 2, or 3 novice teachers. In 2023-2024, 463 teachers were identified as novice teachers. This is a decrease of 8 novice teachers over one year who were supported by the GFESC Mentoring Specialist. The decrease of 8 novice teachers in the GFESC region was due to the novice teachers accepting positions in another part of Arkansas. These novice teachers did remain in the education profession. The GFESC Novice Program retention rate of teachers in the profession is 98%.
Dyslexia	<p>Total Number of Students Receiving Dyslexia Intervention Services in grades K-12 during the 2022-23 school year: <b>3,153</b></p> <p>The GFESC Dyslexia Specialists have coordinated several cohorts for Sunday System 1 and Sunday System 2 training. Dyslexia Specialists have hosted training for Level 2 Screeners and School Based ID. All twenty-one (21) districts have participated in Dyslexia training through GFESC.</p>
Data Tracking for Boardroom to Classroom work	<p>In 2023-2024, all Superintendents, Principals, Federal Programs, and Curriculum Coordinators monthly meetings have included a K-2 Data Component with an emphasis in Literacy and Math achievement.</p> <p><a href="#">K-2 Beginning of Year Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">K-2 Mid-Year Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">K-2 End of Year Data</a></p>

## GFESC Performance Data Spring 2023

Spring 2023	Reading % in Need of Support	Reading % Close	Reading % Ready	Reading % Exceeding	Math % in Need of Support	Math % Close	Math % Ready	Math % Exceeding
<b>GFESC Schools</b>	36.20%	25.70%	23.30%	14.70%	29.80%	31.60%	26.60%	12%
<b>State Average</b>	36%	25%	23%	16%	32%	29%	26%	14%

**Professional Development  
Summary Report  
2023-2024  
[HERE](#)**