



An innovative licensure model for special education

LEAH WASBURN-MOSES, PH.D.

WASBURLH@MIAMIOH.EDU

PRESENTATION TO ARKANSAS JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEES, DECEMBER 12, 2016

Need

Special Education is the single greatest teacher shortage area in the State of Arkansas

Current alternative pathways to licensure do not include special education, exacerbating the shortage (APPEL, ATC, ABCTE, Non-Traditional Masters programs)

Legislative Task Force Report on Best Practices for Special Education (2016) urges "Explore various options to increase the number of special education teachers" (Recommendation C-4)



Solution

First FREE teacher education model in U.S.

Specifically designed for special education

Grounded in research

Meets professional standards

Ready to be implemented in your area



Advantages

100% practice based preparation

Fills shortages with quality candidates already committed to community

High entry and exit standards

Candidates contribute to solving local challenges

Flexibility to meet state and district needs



Details

Who? Candidates with Bachelor's degree and experience in schools

What? Year-long school-based apprenticeship

How?

1. Candidates self-select or are recruited by local district (must meet entry guidelines)
2. Administrators assign candidates to a pre-existing teacher team
3. Candidates plan, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions, directed by the team
4. Candidates create and defend a portfolio documenting their impact on student learning



Next Steps

Consider funding program administration through GREAT Teachers and Principals Act

Identify state-level collaborator

- detailed program design to fit state's needs
- program administration and evaluation

Apply to Board of Education for approval as a Non-Traditional Route

Recruit using local contacts

