

A Parent's Guide to Response to Intervention (RTI)

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Response to Intervention
Improving Achievement for **All** Students

What is RTI?

RTI is a multi-step process that emphasizes how students respond to instruction and provides support to those struggling to learn. In the early grades, the primary goal of RTI is to intervene early and prevent students from falling behind in reading, writing and mathematics. For older students, RTI offers support, or intervention, in reading, writing and mathematics to help them cope with the demands of content learning. The RTI process includes problem solving teams at the school level who examine student performance data and make recommendations for improving student achievement.

What does RTI look like in West Virginia schools?

Universal screening means that all students are checked to determine which students are above, at or below grade level standards in reading, writing, and mathematics. Students who fall below grade level are provided additional instructional support or intervention. Their progress toward individually determined goals is monitored carefully through a *progress monitoring* process. Progress monitoring data is examined frequently to see how students are responding to the intervention so important instructional decisions can be made by teachers, other school staff and parents.

What are the key components of the RTI process?

The RTI process includes the delivery of *high-quality research-based instruction*. A three-tier model of instruction provides differing levels of support.

- **Tier 1** is for ALL students and includes high quality curriculum and instruction in the general classroom. Tier 1 is provided by general education teachers across all levels, kindergarten through grade 12.
- **Tier 2** is provided to students who need more support than they are receiving from the general curriculum and instruction. In Tier 2 students are provided additional instruction using scientific, research-based interventions focused on the specific targeted skills that need to improve. Tier 2 may be provided by general educators, specialists or special educators.
- **Tier 3** is provided to students with the greatest needs. In Tier 3 the student is provided intense, individualized scientific, research-based intervention.

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What is the relationship between RTI and special education?

As a result of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEA 2004), a process based on a student's response to scientific, research-based intervention is used in West Virginia in determining whether a student has a learning disability. For some students, the three levels of support provided within general education are not enough and special education services may be needed.

When students participate in the RTI process, parents are to be notified about the following:

- *The state's policies regarding the amount and nature of student performance data that would be collected and the general education services provided (i.e., three-tier instruction model and progress monitoring data);*
- *Strategies for increasing the student's rate of learning (i.e., research-based interventions); and,*
- *The parent's right to request an evaluation at any time throughout the RTI process. If a referral is made, procedures for evaluating and determining eligibility are followed as with any referral to special education.*

How Can Parents Be Involved in the RTI Process?

Parents are important members of any child's educational team! Being informed about your school's RTI process and procedures is the first step to becoming an informed, active parent participant in your child's education. Consider asking the following questions:

- ✓ What does the RTI model look like in our school? Who are the interventionists? When is intervention provided? How do you know my child needs intervention?
- ✓ Who are the members of our school's problem solving teams?
- ✓ Is information available about RTI, such as an RTI Handbook? What assessments are used for universal screening and progress monitoring? How often are children screened or monitored for progress?
- ✓ Will I receive regular reports about my child's progress? Who will provide these reports and when will I receive them?
- ✓ What interventions are used in reading, writing and mathematics?
- ✓ How will I know if my child needs Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention?
- ✓ At what point in the RTI process will parents be informed of their rights under the IDEA 2004, including the right to request an evaluation for special education eligibility?

In addition to asking questions and receiving information from your child's school, the West Virginia Department of Education has a number of resources available at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/RtIOSP.html>