

## What are the Essential Components of RTI?

“Response to Intervention” refers to a process that emphasizes how well students respond to changes in instruction. The essential elements of an RTI approach are: providing scientific, research-based instruction and interventions in general education; monitoring and measuring student progress in response to the instruction and interventions; and using these measures of student progress to shape instruction and make educational decisions.

The core features of an RTI process as follows:

- High quality, research-based instruction and behavioral support in general education.
- Universal (school-wide or district-wide) screening of academics and behavior in order to determine which students need closer monitoring or additional interventions.
- Multiple tiers of increasingly intense scientific, research-based interventions that are matched to student need.
- Use of a collaborative approach by school staff for development, implementation, and monitoring of the intervention process.
- Continuous monitoring of student progress during the instruction and to determine the educational needs of the child.



A major concern for parents as well as teachers is how to help children who experience difficulty in school. All parents want to see their child excel, and it can be very frustrating when a child falls behind in learning to read, achieving as expected in math and/or getting along socially with peers and teachers.

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to struggling learners at increasing levels of intensity. RTI allows for early intervention by providing academic and behavioral supports rather than waiting for a child to fail before offering help.

Some new federal laws have directed schools to focus more on helping all children learn by addressing problems earlier, before the child is so far behind that a referral to special education services is warranted. These laws include the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004. Both laws underscore the importance of providing high quality, scientifically-based instruction and interventions, and hold schools accountable for the progress of all students in terms of meeting state grade level standards.

RTI is a process designed to help schools focus on these high quality interventions while carefully monitoring student progress. The information gained from an RTI process is used by school personnel and parents to adapt instruction and to determine the educational needs of the child.



## What Are the Potential Benefits of RTI?

Perhaps the most commonly cited benefit of an RTI approach is that it eliminates a “wait to fail” situation because students get help promptly within the general education setting.

Secondly, an RTI approach has the potential to reduce the number of students inappropriately referred for special education services while increasing the number of students who are successful within regular education. An RTI approach helps distinguish between those students whose achievement problems are due to a learning disability and those students whose achievement problems are due to other issues such as lack of prior instruction.

RTI techniques have been favored for reducing the likelihood that students from diverse racial, cultural or linguistic backgrounds are incorrectly identified as having a disability.

Finally, parents and school teams alike find that the student progress monitoring techniques utilized in an RTI approach provide more instructionally relevant information than traditional assessments.

### What Are Next Steps in Implementing RTI Approaches?

There are many issues that must be addressed in order to effectively implement RTI approaches. Strong leadership and effective collaboration are essential ingredients in implementing RTI.

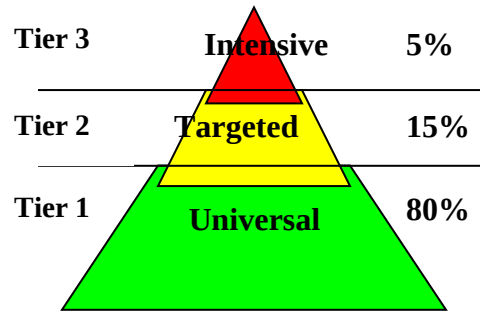
Schools must be prepared to offer a variety of proven instructional strategies; staff must be trained to measure student performance using methods that are sensitive to small increments of growth; parents must be kept informed of these new procedures and made partners in the process.

RTI is an educational approach that has the potential to help all students reach their full potential and to successfully meet the state grade level standards. Although schools are at different levels of implementation of this initiative, we are proud of the progress we have made. We are moving toward full implementation over the next several years.

### References and Web Resources

- [www.coventryschools.net/RTI](http://www.coventryschools.net/RTI)
- National Association of School Psychologists—  
[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org) NASP has a variety of resource materials and helpful fact sheets for parents.
- [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)
- [www.behaviordocor.org](http://www.behaviordocor.org)
- [www.RTINetwork.org](http://www.RTINetwork.org)

### 3 TIERED MODEL



- **Tier 1: Universal Interventions**

All students in Tier 1 receive high-quality, scientifically based instruction, differentiated to meet their needs, and are screened on a periodic basis to identify struggling learners who need additional support.

- **Tier 2: Targeted Group Interventions**

In Tier 2, groups of students not making adequate progress in the core curriculum are provided with increasingly intensive instruction matched to their needs on the basis of levels of performance and rates of progress.

- **Tier 3: Intensive Individual Interventions**

At this level, students receive individualized, intensive interventions that target the students' skill deficits for the remediation of existing problems and the prevention of more severe problems.

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## RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)

