

Response to Intervention (RtI)

Quick Reference Guide for Parents



Response to Intervention (RtI)

Response to intervention is based on the concept of providing research-based instructional and behavioral strategies by highly qualified staff that is matched to student needs and monitored on a frequent basis. The information gathered by this approach is used to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

Coordinating Early Intervening Services (CEIS)

There is nothing in the federal regulations (IDEA) that prohibits children with disabilities who are receiving special education and related services under IDEA from receiving instruction using RtI strategies unless the use of such strategies is inconsistent with their individualized education programs (IEPs). However, children with disabilities who are currently identified as needing services may not receive RtI services that are funded with IDEA funds used for CEIS, because CEIS is for students who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment.

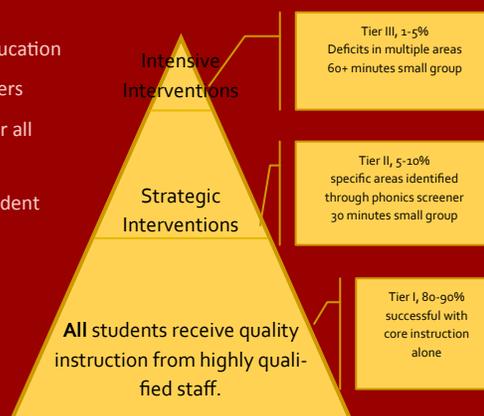
One major change in the law is the emphasis on early intervening services for children who are at risk for academic and/or behavioral problems. The idea is to intervene early with research-based strategies before a child fails and becomes so far behind that they require special education.

How is CEIS and RtI related?

The idea is to intervene early when a student shows signs of academic and/or behavioral struggles. Both are processes schools use to deliver these services.

What are the goals of CEIS and RtI?

- * Prevent unnecessary academic failure
- * Prevent unnecessary referral to special education
- * Increase parent involvement at all three tiers
- * Implement research-based intervention for all students
- * Use prevention rather than reaction to student difficulties



Parental Involvement

Tier I

Remember, Tier I is the general education classroom with good instruction and qualified staff. Parents are involved in the following ways:

- ◇ Frequent communication with the teacher
- ◇ Attend school functions, such as back to school night and parent-teacher conferences
- ◇ Ask your child about his/her school day
- ◇ Monitor and assist with homework assignments
- ◇ Support and reinforce the classroom teacher
- ◇ Meet with the teacher if your child starts to experience difficulties
- ◇ Praise your child for good work and discuss issues as they arise

Tier II

If your child is struggling academically or behaviorally, it might be necessary for the school to implement targeted academic and/or behavioral intervention. In many cases, this will be enough to get your child "back on track". Your involvement could include the following:

- ◇ Ask the school to notify you of team meetings concerning your child
- ◇ If necessary, attend team meetings concerning your child
- ◇ Request regular notification of progress on interventions
- ◇ Suggest interventions and strategies for your child, which may also be implemented and reinforced at home

Tier III

If your student is not responding at Tiers I and II, it may be necessary to provide support at Tier III. Your involvement would be similar at this level to include involvement listed above.

When a student is not successful with attempts of intervention support at Tier II and III, it may be necessary to make a referral for special education services. This is a very formal process, and parental involvement has been well defined. Activities in this process may include, but are not limited to the following:

- ◇ Your consent is required for the school to evaluate or implement special education services.
- ◇ The school must notify you if they propose to change or not change your child's eligibility, services, or placement.
- ◇ Actively participate in all Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings.

The special education [Parents Rights Handbook](#) will explain your involvement and rights in special education.

More information about Response to Intervention in South Dakota can be found on the [South Dakota Department of Education website](#) or you may contact the Department of Education by calling 605-773-3678.