

Understanding the Basics of Response to Instruction (RtI)

Parents play a critical role in supporting their children at school. Research repeatedly shows that the more parents are involved in student learning, the higher the student achievement.

Schools are also committed to helping all children succeed and have a variety of tools and strategies to help children learn. One approach schools use to identify and support children who are struggling to learn is Response to Instruction (RtI).



RtI is a process of providing instruction and educational support to promote the success of all children. The RtI process typically has three tiers. Each tier provides different levels of support. Assessments and screenings are provided to take a snapshot of how children are doing on specific skills and helps determine if whether an intervention is successful or needs to be changed.

Tier 3

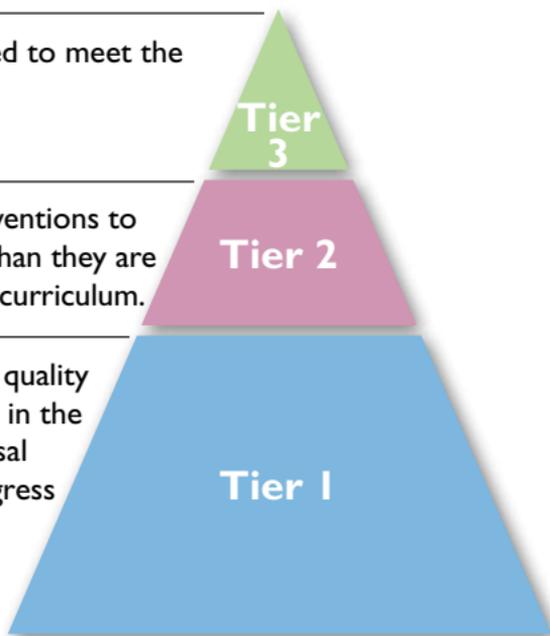
Interventions are developed to meet the individual student's needs.

Tier 2

The school provides interventions to students who need more than they are receiving from the general curriculum.

Tier 1

All students receive a high quality curriculum and instruction in the regular classroom. Universal screenings review the progress of all students and help identify students who many need more support.



Working together with the school and your child's teachers is important. Being proactive, being involved with your child's education is important to prevent issues from arising.



Questions Parents Can Ask the School

What curriculum is being taught in my child's classroom?

How can I support what my child is learning at school?

What tools are used for universal screening?

How will I find out the results of the screenings?

What are the "targeted interventions" that my child's school is using if he/she is struggling?

What are the formal guidelines or tools my child's school is using for progress monitoring?

How will I be informed of the progress my child is making?

What happens if an intervention is not working?

If at any time you believe your child has an educational disability and needs special education, you have the right to request an evaluation for special education. RtI cannot be used to delay or deny that evaluation. For more information about special education and your rights in the process please contact the Parent Information Center (PIC) at 1-800-947-7005 or the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education at 603-271-3741.



Some of the ways parents can support their children in school from home include:

- Make reading an everyday habit at home- discuss reading strategies, types of books they enjoy, what book the child is reading, be a model for reading habits.
- Communicate with your child's teacher, use email, notes, phone calls. Attend the open house, parent teacher conference, other school meetings or events. Let the teacher know that you're interested in being available.
- Monitor and assist your child with their homework assignments daily. Let your children know that school is important to you and you're there to help them.
- Ask for regular progress monitoring reports and updates from the teacher. Learn more about the curriculums and interventions being used in your child's schools- ask the teacher, search on the web.
- Share your child's successes. Everybody likes recognition. Ask questions about the assignment, post a paper on the refrigerator, talk about it during dinner, work toward a reward.

