

RtI in Colorado: Response to Instruction & Intervention

Definition, Purpose & Core Principles

Response to Intervention is an approach that promotes a well-integrated system connecting general, compensatory, gifted, and special education in providing high quality, standards-based instruction/intervention that is matched to students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. A continuum of intervention tiers with increasing levels of intensity and duration is central to RtI. Collaborative educational decisions are based on data derived from frequent monitoring of student performance and rate of learning.

The overarching purpose of RtI implementation is to improve educational outcomes for ALL students.

Core Principles:

- 1) ALL children can learn and achieve high standards as a result of effective teaching.**
- 2) All students must have access to a rigorous, standards-based curriculum and research-based instruction.**
- 3) Intervening at the earliest indication of need is necessary for student success (Pre K-12).**
- 4) A comprehensive system of tiered interventions is essential for addressing the full range of student needs.**
- 5) Student results are improved when ongoing academic and behavioral performance data are used to inform instructional decisions.**
- 6) Collaboration among educators, families and community members is the foundation to effective problem-solving and instructional decision-making.**
- 7) Ongoing and meaningful involvement of families increases student success.**
- 8) All members of the school community must continue to gain knowledge and develop expertise in order to build capacity and sustainability.**
- 9) Effective leadership at all levels is crucial for the implementation of RtI.**

The definition above was written to reflect the “priority elements” identified by the Colorado RTI Task Force. The principles were adapted from those given in the document, Response to Intervention: Policy Consideration and Implementation, NASDSE, 2005, incorporating the recommendations of the Colorado RTI Task Force. They have been further revised by the Colorado RtI Implementation Team.