Response to Intervention

Intervention (RTI) was the focus of a statewide conference January 19, 2006. Dr. Dan Reschly, Education and Psychology Professor at Vanderbilt University and national expert on the policies and practices of RTI provided professional development to Delaware's curriculum directors, special education directors, school administrators, psychologists, educational diagnostians, teachers and reading specialists. 325 educators learned how Response to Intervention is a well-integrated system that connects general, remedial and special education through scientifically based practices, common measures and explicit decision-making procedures driven by child outcomes. RTI is the practice of providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student needs. Within the RTI model, teachers use explicit instruction using differentiated instruction and more intensive interventions in the general education setting before they refer children for potential learning disabilities, further assessment, and special education services.

Delaware Three-Tier RTI Model of School Supports

Tier I: Classroom/All Students - Core Class Instruction

Tier II: Students not responding to Tier I efforts - group and individual interventions, Specialized Research-based Interventions

Tier III: Students not responding to Tier I or II interventions - Sustained Intensive Individual Interventions Possible Special Education Identification for non-responders of Tier III interventions

~80% of Students

~15%

~5%

New Acquisitions

Upcoming Events

“Hyperlinks for further information are colored brown and underlined”

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with your suggestions for the Spring Spotlight
Response to Intervention continued...

The key components of RTI are systematic screening and progress monitoring, the use of multiple tiers of increasingly intense intervention, and a problem solving process to aid in decision-making. In an RTI approach, there is an emphasis on using interventions that have been found to be effective through scientific research and on linking assessment results to interventions that are specifically tailored to address individual needs.

The primary focus on intervention at tiers 1 and 2 will be on providing interventions/curricula for students who are struggling and who might have been referred and subsequently identified as having a learning disability. Tier three will involve more intensive interventions for students who are struggling and possibly special education services for the students not responding to tier two and tier three interventions.

Traditional approaches have assumed deficits in student performance reside within the child. Traditionally students have not received interventions until there is a discrepancy between IQ and achievement. RTI focuses on instruction first. Within the RTI model, students are identified early and provided with necessary instruction/intervention to support their learning and academic achievement. The multi-tiered approach addresses both students requiring little intervention and students requiring long term intervention. Fewer students will require long-term assistance because of the movement of students between tiers as they improve their performance. With more students receiving educational support in the multi-tiered system, fewer students will need LD services. The multi-tiered approach will inform instructional needs when special education services are necessary. This approach allows for exit from special education when appropriate based on on-going measurement of progress and response to intervention.

State regulations have been written to guide policy and practices around Response to Intervention for Delaware public schools. The IDEA Improvement Act of 2004 and subsequent federal regulations effective October 13, 2006 guides states to allow districts to use RTI in determining eligibility for learning disabilities. The Delaware proposed state regulations, to become effective in late spring 2007, will regulate districts to implement RTI.

Dr. Dan Reschly will be returning to Delaware in the spring to provide an additional two days of professional development on RTI. On-going state level and school-based professional development will be provided as part of the state-wide implementation of RTI.
It is hard to believe that there are only about four months left in the 2006-07 school year. This school year is flying by. We hope it has been a good year for everyone so far. The staff in the Sussex County Resource Center realizes how busy you are, so we want to remind you that you can call us to request materials to be sent to your school through the State Mail. You may access the online catalog from your school or home computer.

The web address is [http://lrc.doc.state.de.us](http://lrc.doc.state.de.us). When you are planning your lessons, search the catalog to find materials that will correlate to your curriculum. Then call us to have them sent to you or reserve them for use at a later date. We include a return label in the package to make it convenient for you to return the items when you are finished using them. The Center has many great materials to supplement your curriculum. We are here to serve you and hope that you will take advantage of the great resources we have to offer.

We would also like to remind you that when you visit the Sussex County Resource Center, you have access to the Delaware Teacher Center and Family & Workplace Connection services as well. Through this partnership we are able to provide evening hours four nights a week. The Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please call the Center at 302-855-1649 to find out more about the resources and services available.
Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with Cognitive disABILITIES (DFRC) is embarking on a new and exciting path. Although best known for its sponsorship of the Blue Gold All Star Football game, the Hand in Hand Program, Holidazzle, The Blue/Gold Walk-Run, the Sussex Auction and annual golf outings, DFRC is expanding to include awareness through education. Currently, many schools with student in grades 4 through 8 are participating in the popular day programs and classes that bring friends who are differently-abled into classrooms to share their life experiences with students.

This year, the awareness program is growing to include a school/community book reading. Petey by Ben Mikaelson is the first “DFRC Book Mark Selection”. The book celebrates a unique friendship between a teenage boy and an elderly man named Petey. Petey was born with cerebral palsy in the 1920's and had none of the interventions or care that are available today. In spite of his environment and limitations, Petey’s positive outlook on life communicates his spirit to those around him. It is an inspiring story that can be a springboard to numerous discussions. Over 800 students will read Petey and teachers in eight schools will use a DFRC-provided study guide as a tool for facilitating activities and discussions.

DFRC is sponsoring a visit by author Ben Mikaelson in late March. Mr. Mikaelson will speak with students in Wilmington and Newark and will meet with teachers and members of the community.

An invitation to meet the author is also extended to the public. Mr. Mikaelson will be at the Center for Disabilities Studies at 461 Wyoming Avenue, Newark on March 28 at noon. A light lunch will be served and the topic of Mr. Mikaelson’s talk will be “Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World”.

All are welcome to attend, but registration is limited so please respond promptly. Please use the form below to register before March 9. Click Here to Register

Petey can be ordered for the publisher’s price of $3.00/book by calling DFRC 302 454-2730
HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS NEW BOOKS

Book Examination Site
At the ERC

Peggy Dillner will be highlighting new books from the ERC’s Book Examination Site each month. Teachers may receive credit for hours or PIP through the Delaware Teacher Center. Here is the schedule and theme for the rest of the school year:

“Award Winners”
March 7th Kent County Library (Wed)
March 8th ERC, Newark (Thursday)

“Rhyme & Rhythm”
April 3rd - ERC, Newark (Wednesday)
April 4th - Kent County Library (Thur)

“Peggy’s Picks for Summer Reading”
May 2nd - Kent County Library (Wed)
May 3rd - ERC, Newark (Thursday)

All programs are from 4:30 – 5:30.
Click here for more details.

$600,000 Grant For Assistive Technology Reuse

The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) at the University of Delaware has received a three-year, $600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration to improve access to assistive devices by Delawareans with disabilities. UD President David P. Roselle made the announcement at a news conference Jan. 4.

DATI and its partners will use the grant to make reutilization of assistive technology an efficient, cost-effective and safe alternative for Delawareans who have disabilities and who are in need of such devices but cannot afford them. Assistive technology includes any device that helps people with disabilities complete various tasks, and includes everything from canes to special chairs to unique hardware and software for computers.

"The project is unique in that it not only provides a service to people with disabilities, but it also is fiscally and environmentally responsible," Beth Mineo Mollica, DATI director, said. "We are grateful to the Department of Education for providing funding to help us better serve the people of this state."

Click above to learn the latest at DATI