

RtI - A Quick Overview & List of Useful Web Based Resources

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Response to Intervention "RtI" is a national movement designed to accomplish three important goals: 1) insure every single student in need of literacy support/intervention receives high quality - research based instruction, regardless of label, age, etc., as soon as the need is detected - usually in K-1, 2) provide educators the progress monitoring tools to insure teachers are making data-based decisions in terms of the interventions being utilized, adjusting interventions based on the data, and lastly 3) provide a more practical and scientifically defensible method of qualifying students as learning disabled and eligible for special education services based on their *response* to the interventions being provided. In other words, lack of adequate response to intervention after systematically providing research based interventions for a significant amount of time becomes qualifies a student for special education services. The interventions themselves become the "test" for eligibility. There are an array of resources both local, regional, and nationally available to support schools interested in exploring RtI, a list of some of the most useful links are listed below:

Web Based RtI Resources

√ CalSTAT - *Special Edge*, Winter 2006 Response to Intervention: Overview

This is a very readable introduction to RtI that provides an excellent beginning point - the "who/what/why/how" of RtI.

<http://www.calstat.org/specialEdgeOld.html>

√ International Reading Association - the IRA site has wide range of RtI related information, from overview and position papers to scholarly papers in their flagship journal, Reading Research Quarterly

http://www.reading.org/resources/issues/focus_rti.html

for more detailed articles from RRQ see:

<http://www.reading.org/publications/journals/rrq/v41/i1/>, all of the articles are good, the Fuchs & Fuchs and Gersten & Dimino are particularly helpful.

√ National Association of School Psychologists

<http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq325instruction.html>

√ RtI Partnership sponsored by Univ. of Calif. Riverside & Dr. Mike Vanderwood A fascinating project and many useful web links and such, see:

<http://www.rti.ucr.edu/>

√ National Association of State Directors of Special Education, a website loaded with practical tools, downloadable articles, ppts, and more, see: <http://www.nasdse.org/projects.cfm>

√ Northwest Regional Comprehensive Center, another good site for a wide array of RtI resources, tools and such. See: <http://www.nwrel.org/nwrcc/nclb/rti.php>

√ National Research Center on Learning Disabilities, another fine resource, be sure to check out the national symposium on RtI held in 2003, excellent articles and ppts available to download.

<http://www.nrcl.org/symposium2003/index.htm>

Some bottom lines for RtI:

- 1) It is NOT a program or simply way to qualify students as SpecEd. under new regs
- 2) It is a system or framework (heuristic) for providing comprehensive school/district wide interventions based on needs - not "disability detection".
- 3) It will not work unless the school/district is committed to:
 - √ Improving GenEd to include interventions for ALL & improved outcomes for ALL kinds of students, including ELLs, At Risk, and other diverse learners
 - √ Providing a sensitive assessment system that includes progress monitoring
 - √ Involves SpecEd as a part of the total, integrated, "seamless" system
 - √ Providing interventions to EVERY SINGLE STUDENT who needs them, based on assessed needs, NOT label or category (e.g. ELL, LD, ADHD)

Additional Resource to consider - the Sonoma County Office of Education has produced a CD ROM that is a comprehensive guide to school wide intervention including Reading, Math, ELL/ELD, Science, & Social Studies. It is designed as a tool to help schools and districts coordinate, organize, and otherwise improve their systemic approach to intervention. While not about RtI per se, it is absolutely the kind of resource that would support an RtI implementation. For more information watch the website, www.scoe.org - it will be released the end of Sept. While far from perfect, it is a decent attempt to pull together resources under one "roof" organized around; Who Needs Help? (screening), What Help Do They Need (diagnostics), How Do We Provide the Help (intervention delivery), Is the Help Helping? (progress monitoring). KF