

Strategy Guidance for use of funds under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



Strategy Number 4

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Response to Intervention

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Statement of need:

Response to Intervention (RtI) is an evidence-based process of using student-centered data to inform the evaluation of and improvement in core instruction for ALL students and inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of supplemental and intensive instruction for struggling learners and students with disabilities.

Response to Intervention assists schools in achieving the following outcomes:

1. Prevent school failure through early identification of at-risk students in early grades (K-2).
2. Identify struggling students early enough to close the gap between student current level of performance and state-approved grade-level benchmarks.
3. Identify intensive interventions for the lowest performing students.
4. Identify effective strategies to increase student engagement through the implementation of school-wide, small group, and individual student positive behavior supports.
5. Reduce disproportionate representation.
6. Increase achievement levels for students in low-performing schools.
7. Decrease rates of student drop out.
8. Increase graduation rates.
9. Reduce referral and placement rates in special education, particularly for minority, English language learner, and free/reduced lunch students.

Proposed areas for implementation:

Each school district will complete the development of its District RtI Implementation Plan by June 2009. These plans provide the framework for both professional development and the district infrastructure (policies, support, coaching) necessary to support implementation. This statewide effort requires the support of personnel at the district and school levels who have the skills necessary to facilitate the implementation of RtI. Each district needs a **District RtI Facilitator** and a **School-Based RtI Facilitator** to ensure successful implementation in every school.

The Florida Statewide Problem-solving/RtI Project is completing the second of a three-year effort to train a limited number of school-based teams and district leadership teams in RtI. Sixty of the 67 districts have sent a limited number of school-based teams to this training, and 66 of 67 districts have participated in the development of the District RtI Implementation Plan.

The **RtI Facilitators** are critical to the coordination of RtI scale-up activities at the district and school-based levels. The following FLDOE funded projects will provide technical assistance and support to the district and school-based facilitators to accelerate scale-up at the district level:

- Problem Solving/Response to Intervention (PS/RtI) – <http://www.floridarti.usf.edu/>
- Response to Intervention/Teaching Learning Connections (RtI-TLC) – <http://rtitlc.ucf.edu/>
- Florida's Positive Behavior (PBS) Project – <http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/>

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Funding Sources:

- Title I
- Title II-A
- IDEA
- SFSF