

What happens after I request an evaluation for special education?

The school (or district) must respond to your request for an evaluation within 30 calendar days with one of the following options:

- ◆ Obtain your written permission to conduct the evaluation. Prior to obtaining your written consent, the school team should discuss with you the evaluation procedures that they are proposing to conduct. The school has 60 calendar days from when consent is obtained, with some exceptions, to complete the evaluation.
- ◆ Provide a formal, written refusal with an explanation for the refusal to conduct the evaluation.

The school (or district) should also provide you with a copy and explanation of your procedural safeguards when they respond to your request.

What if my school tells me that they cannot initiate an evaluation until the RtI “process” is completed?

If an evaluation is initiated, the RtI data required for eligibility is collected during the 60-day evaluation period. RtI cannot be used to deny or delay an evaluation. Unless the school provides a written notice of refusal, the school must provide you with the opportunity to provide consent for the evaluation within 30 calendar days.

Where can I obtain more information about MTSS, RtI and evaluations for special education?

Florida’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports

<https://floridarti.usf.edu/>

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/index.shtml>

National Center on Response to Intervention

Parent Frequently Asked Questions about RtI

<http://www.rti4success.org>

National Center for Learning Disabilities

A Parent’s Guide to Response to Intervention

RTI Action Network – Resources for Parents and Families

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/parents-a-families>

Parent Information for Students Receiving Intensive Interventions



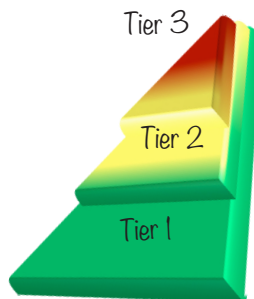
Introduction

Some students require additional support beyond what is provided for the majority of students. This brochure provides parents information about the provision of intensive interventions within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). If your child needs more intensive intervention support to experience success, a school-level team (including parents) uses data and problem-solving to plan interventions based on your child's individual needs. This team also collects Response to Intervention (RtI) data to track your child's progress. The goal of problem-solving and RtI is finding what works for your child.

What can I expect if my child needs intensive intervention?

If your child needs additional academic or behavior supports, you can expect the following:

1. To be included in the problem-solving and intervention-planning process;
2. To be made aware of the interventions being implemented (e.g., what it is and how often);
3. To be informed about the data and graphs that will be used to monitor your child's progress; and
4. To receive progress monitoring reports showing your child's progress and RtI.



What is problem-solving?

Problem-solving is a way of asking questions about data. Teams use the problem-solving process and student data (RtI) to ask the following key questions that guide decisions:

- ♦ What is the gap between my child's current performance and expectations?
- ♦ Why is the gap occurring?
- ♦ What will we do to close the gap?
- ♦ Is the intervention working?

How do I know if my child is making progress?

- ♦ Progress monitoring or RtI data will be shared with you on a regular basis.
- ♦ Progress monitoring data are usually shared in a graph format that shows how well your child is responding to instruction and intervention and if the gap between expectations and performance of peers is closing.

What happens if my child is not making sufficient progress?

- ♦ You will be invited to be a part of the team that explores why your child is struggling and what works best to help him.
- ♦ Using the problem-solving process and key questions, the team may adjust the intervention based on your child's response to the intervention.
- ♦ It is important to remember that your child will continue to receive instruction and targeted, small-group instruction while receiving intensive individualized instruction.



How does using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports help me know if my child may need special education?

- ♦ Your child's Response to Intervention will help determine the need for specialized instruction.
- ♦ If your child is not making enough progress after receiving effective intensive intervention or only making progress due to very intensive supports, this may indicate your child may be a student with a disability.
- ♦ In MTSS, just because your child receives additional supports does not mean that he is a student with a disability or needs special education.

What if I think my child needs an individual educational plan (IEP)?

Parents can request an evaluation for special education at any time. Communicate your request to the school counselor, exceptional student education (ESE) coordinator or administrator at your child's school, or contact the district ESE office. Document the date the request was made and the person to whom it was given.

In order to receive special education services, which are documented on an IEP, a student must meet the criteria for one of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) disability categories AND, because of the disability, need specially designed instruction. Not all students with a medical or psychological diagnosis need special education services. For information on IDEA disability categories and eligibility criteria, visit the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services' website at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/ease-eligibility/>.