



Sumner County Schools RTI² FAQs for Families

WHAT IS RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION and INTERVENTION (RTI²)?

Parents want to see their child excel, and it can be frustrating if a child falls behind in reading and math. Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) is the practice of providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to a student's needs. It involves the frequent monitoring of progress in order to make decisions about changes in instruction or goals. It also involves applying student response data to inform important educational decisions.

What can I expect with RTI²?

- RTI² requires educators to focus on maximizing the learning of all students and to help struggling students improve skills in math and reading.
- Academic support will increase or decrease in intensity depending on the student's needs.
- Progress monitoring data will be collected by the student's intervention teacher. This data will be used to determine if a student's skills are improving in reading or math.
- RTI² is supported by federal and state guidelines.
- In some cases, students are on grade level and have the opportunity to participate in enrichment opportunities that extend learning beyond normal classroom expectations.

WHAT DOES RTI² LOOK LIKE?

The RTI² process has three tiers that build upon one another. Each tier provides more intensive levels of support:

- **Tier I includes high quality instruction for EVERY student in the general education classroom.** The school provides all students with access to high quality standards-based instruction in the general education classroom.
- **Tier II includes additional targeted instruction/interventions.** The school provides interventions to small groups of students who need more support with reading and math skills.
- **Tier III includes intensive interventions.** The school provides intensive interventions to meet the individual needs of students in reading and math.

A student's progress is monitored and results are used to make decisions about additional instruction and intervention.

WHAT DO I DO IF I BELIEVE MY CHILD IS STRUGGLING?

- Talk with your child's teacher.
- Learn more about the curriculum, assessments, and interventions being used in your child's school.
- Practice skills at home to give your child additional support and maximize your child's success.
- Request a conference and make a list of specific questions to ask during the conference.

RTI² includes:

- Universal Screener
- Research-Based Interventions
- Enrichment
- Progress monitoring

Myth #1: The outcome of RTI² is special education determination.

There are two overarching goals of RTI²: 1) to deliver evidence-based interventions and 2) to use students' responses to those interventions as a basis for determining instructional needs and intensity. Special education eligibility decisions can be a product of these efforts, but this is not the primary goal.

Myth #2: Tier III is for special education students while Tier II is general education students.

Tier III is the most intensive level of intervention provided in general education. When it becomes necessary to meet a student's needs beyond the resources available in general education, then special education services may be warranted. Students receiving Tier II intervention may have small gaps in reading and/or math skills while students receiving Tier III interventions are often more than one grade level behind in reading or math.

Myth #3: RTI² and the Common Core State Standards are the same initiative.

RTI² is NOT tied to Common Core legislation. RTI² was adopted by the state of Tennessee in 2013 and focuses on incorporating skill-based interventions to ensure the success of all students.