



The Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) Process

A Parent and Teacher Guide on Understanding
the I&RS Process

Overview



The NJ State Board of Education established that the main mission of schools is to enhance student achievement in a learning environment that is safe and disciplined.

Overview



This mission is made more complex due to the diverse needs of the students who are enrolled in the districts

Many types of at-risk behaviors manifest themselves throughout the day. These may include alcohol, drug abuse, violence, child abuse and neglect, suicide attempts, low self-esteem, eating disorders, poor socialization skills, chronic medical conditions and physical disabilities, as well as weak readiness skills for school and many other behaviors

Overview



To help with these difficulties, the NJ Department of Education (NJ DOE) provided a school program of intervention and referral services (I&RS)

In April 2001, the State BOE adopted rules and standards for delivery of the I&RS program in Districts

(N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7, Intervention and Referral Services)

Purpose



District BOE are required to:

“...establish and implement a coordinated system in each school building for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties...” [N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)]; and which are designed to:

“...assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students’ learning, behavior, or health needs.” [N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(a)]

Purpose



The I&RS shall be provided to aid pupils in the general education program and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-18.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 et seq., may be provided to pupils who have been determined to be in need of special education programs and services. The I&RS provided for pupils who have been determined to be in need of special education programs and services shall be coordinated with the pupil's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, as appropriate.

Function of the I&RS Team



Some of the provisions outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2(a) to be utilized in the school building are as follows:

- *Identify learning, behavior and health difficulties
- *Collect thorough information/data on identified learning, behavior and health difficulties
- *Develop and implement an action plan to provide appropriate school/community interventions based on collected data and outcomes for the identified learning, behavior and health difficulties
- *Provide professional development, support and guidance to staff who identify difficulties and who participate in planning and providing intervention services
- *Actively involve parents/guardians in the development and implementation of the I&RS plans

Function of the I&RS Team



- *Maintain records of all requests for assistance as well as all I&RS action plans**
- *Coordinate the delivery of resources to achieve outcomes of I&RS action plan**
- *Coordinate community resources and services to achieve outcomes of I&RS action plan**
- *Review and assess the effectiveness of the I&RS action plan for each outcome identified as in need of assistance and modify each action if need be, to achieve appropriate outcomes**
- *Annually review the I&RS action plans – at a minimum, to make continued recommendations or discontinue services**

Responsibility of I&RS



The I&RS is a general education initiative rather than a special education program. It is primarily intended to be used to assist general education staff to help expand their skills and abilities to successfully accommodate the needs of general education students who are at risk for school failure

Responsibility of I&RS – Cont.



The I&RS has a separate and very distinct mission from pre-referral intervention and special education functions

The I&RS team is one of several resources utilized by schools to intervene with student problems prior to a referral to the Child Study Team

Overview of I&RS Process



Request for Assistance

(Appropriate documentation included)



I&RS Meeting Scheduled



Problem Solving Process

Problem Identified

Action plan goals created

Identify who implements action plan goals

Follow up date planned

Overview of I&RS Process – Cont.



Follow up meeting



Intervention Successful?

Yes



Continue/expand
interventions
Monitor Periodically

No



Conduct observations
Collect additional data
Develop new
interventions

If appropriate
Refer to CST

Participants in the I&RS Process



Core I&RS Team:

- Principal

- Regular teaching staff member

- Educational services staff member who referred pupil

- Other staff members as may be required to assist or study the issue

Parent/Guardian – alerted that a request for assistance has been made. Shall be offered an opportunity to participate in development and implementation of I&RS action plan

- *Notice may be waived by law when protecting abused students and the confidentiality of persons seeking drug or alcohol rehabilitation

Additional Ad Hoc School Staff – *expertise as needed

- * Matching appropriate expertise to the identified educational issues of academics, behavior and school health

Invitation to an I&RS Meeting



Your participation as the child's teacher or parent is important to allow for the most effective and informed process to help the child

If invited to attend, you should contact the building principal or I&RS point person to inform them of your intent to attend

If you disagree with the process, you may contact the principal or I&RS Coordinator

There are no due process rights with regards to I&RS

The District is allowed to hold a meeting with or without parental support

Issues Discussed at the I&RS Meeting



Academic Failure/Lack of Progress

Health Issues/Concerns

Behavior Issues/Concerns

Social Issues/Concerns

Emotional Issues/Concerns

Teacher Strategies Already Implemented and Possible
Strategies to Implement to Address Target Concerns

Summary



The diverse learning, behavior and health concerns students present in the classroom can be very overwhelming to educators

The I&RS team looks to assist and support our educators, the students and parents, so that our young students of today can achieve their full potential

The I&RS team views student difficulties holistically to make short term gains that lead to long term changes

References



Policy: 2417 Pupil Intervention and Referral Services (M), Tewksbury Board of Education, 18 June 2008.

Resource manual for Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS), Vermeire, Gary L., NJ Department of Education, Trenton, NJ, 2002.