

Descriptor Term: INSTRUCTIONAL INTERVENTIONS

Descriptor Code: IEI

Rescinds: IEI

Board Approved: 2/1/2016

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The Gulfport School District will require an instructional model designed to meet the behavioral and academic needs of every student by addressing student learning with quality classroom instruction and opportunities for intervention. The model will consist of three (3) tiers of instruction:

- Tier 1: Quality classroom instruction based on approved Mississippi learning standards,
- Tier 2: Focused supplemental instruction, and
- Tier 3: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students

If strategies at Tiers 1 and 2 are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier 3. Each school must have a TST implemented in accordance with the process developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. As the instructional leader(s) of the school, the principal or designee will be the chairperson of the TST. The designee may not be an individual whose primary responsibility is special education. Interventions will be:

- a. designed to address the deficit areas;
- b. research based;
- c. implemented as designed by the TST; and
- d. supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions.

Teachers should use progress monitoring information to:

- a. determine if students are making adequate progress,
- b. identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and
- c. modify instruction early enough to ensure each student gains essential skills.

Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments, and large-scale assessments.

After a referral is made, the TST must develop and begin implementation of an intervention(s) within two weeks. No later than eight weeks after implementation of the intervention(s) the TST must conduct a documented review of the interventions to determine success of the intervention(s). No later than 16 weeks after implementation of the intervention(s), a second review must be conducted to determine whether the intervention(s) is successful. If the intervention(s) is determined to be unsuccessful, then the student will be referred for a comprehensive assessment.

In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013, each public school student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through:

- a. performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the MDE, or
- b. locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 3, or
- c. statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3,

must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. A student who was promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention. The intensive intervention must include effective instructional strategies and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.

A dyslexia screener must be administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year and the fall of their first grade year. The screening must include the following components:

- a. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
- b. Sound symbol recognition;
- c. Alphabet knowledge;
- d. Decoding skills;
- e. Encoding skills; and
- f. Rapid naming (quickly naming objects, pictures, colors, or symbols (letters or digits) aloud).

All students in Kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 shall be administered a state-approved screener within the first 30 days of school and repeated at mid-year and at the end of the school year to identify any deficiencies in reading.

In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tier 1 and Tier 2, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in Response to Intervention guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur:

- a. Grades 1-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
- b. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades;
- c. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year;
- d. A student scores at the lowest level on any part of the Grade 3 or Grade 7 statewide accountability assessment; or
- e. A student is promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.

Referrals to the TST must be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student meets any of the criteria stated in a-d in the above paragraph. Students, who meet criteria e, *may* be referred upon recommendation by the student's teacher.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-177-1, et seq., (Act) MS HB 1031 (2012)