

PARENT FAQs

I received notification indicating that my child will be discussed by the I&RS team. What should I do?

Parental participation is important to allow for the most effective and informed process to assist your child. You are invited to attend the meeting and ideally should provide feedback in advance via the parent feedback form.

What if I disagree with the I&RS process?

The school is permitted to proceed with the meeting with or without parental input. If you are unable to attend or choose not to participate in the I&RS meeting, a team member will contact you on any decisions made.

Is this the same as a referral for Special Education?

No. The I&RS team recommends actions intended to solve challenges to prevent a referral to the Child Study Team. If the actions taken are not adequate and challenges still remain, a Child Study Team referral may occur. Parents will also participate in decisions related to Child Study Team referrals.

How is follow-up provided?

The I&RS team will convene at scheduled meeting to review a child's progress. If a child's needs are not being met by the initial plan, additional interventions may be suggested and modifications will be made to the plan. Parents will be notified of any changes.

Where can I get additional information on Intervention & Referral Services?

Please contact the I&RS Coordinator for your child's school. In addition, complete I&RS information can also be found on the NJ Department of Education website:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/students/irs>

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Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS)



2023 – 2024

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INTERVENTION & REFERRAL SERVICES (I&RS)

WHAT IS I&RS?

Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) is a NJ Department of Education mandated process [N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7] designed to support educators with assisting students in the *general education environment* experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties with the goal of student improvement.

The I&RS team consists of selected school representatives with varying expertise. The team utilizes a problem-solving approach to address student and staff needs and recommends a variety of resources to address those needs in a coordinated manner.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The I&RS process is on-going and systematic in that it identifies specific and observable needs of students through collected information. After a thorough review, the I&RS team provides direct assistance to school staff so that desired student outcomes are achieved.

WHO SERVES ON THE SCHOOL'S I&RS TEAM?

A multi-disciplinary team is at the core of the well-coordinated process so that the most appropriate strategies are developed to help your child. Team members convene throughout the school year and vary depending on need but typically include the requesting staff member, school counselor, teachers, administrator, intervention specialist, school nurse, and a member of the Child Study Team.

WHEN CAN ASSISTANCE BE REQUESTED?

A teacher routinely differentiates instruction to address a child's needs in the classroom. A teacher or parent request services of the I&RS team when a child continues to experience difficulties despite these efforts and prevents him or her from making progress in the academic environment.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE I&RS TEAM MEETS?

The I&RS team meets with school staff and parents who have made referrals and requested assistance. Successful and unsuccessful strategies tried are reviewed and new interventions and approaches are identified and agreed upon by the team and incorporated into a Student Action Plan. Timelines are established for implementing and assessing the plan and the next course of action is determined.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE STUDENT ACTION PLAN?

The Student Action Plan is a specific, solution-focused improvement plan developed to assist students resolve challenges and increase success.

HOW ARE PARENTS INVOLVED?

Once a referral is received, the parent is contacted and sent a parental feedback form. Parents are then invited to the meeting to discuss the identified concerns and assist in the development and implementation of the Student Action Plan.

THE I&RS PROCESS

Pre-Referral:
School Staff Identifies Concern &
Assists Student Through
a Variety of Strategies



Teacher Contacts Parent
With Concerns



School Staff or Parent Referral



Information/Data Collection



I&RS Team Reviews Data



I&RS Team Convenes
with Teachers, Parent, & Student



Identification of
Student Difficulties



Student Action Plan is Developed



Evaluate Effectiveness



Effective

Not Effective

Continue
as
Needed

Modify
Intervention



Consider Referral
for 504 Plan or
Child Study Team
Evaluation