



The South Orange Maplewood Board of Education remains committed to the implementation of Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS). 6A:16-8.1 requires school districts to establish and implement intervention and referral services in each school building in which general education students are served, a coordinated system for planning and delivering intervention and referral services designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties, and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior, or health needs.

Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS or Preschool Intervention and Referral - PIRT for general education students is intended as a primary way in which general education teachers or specialists can assist a student who is at risk for school problems within the general education environment. I&RS or PIRT process is not intended to replace traditional methods or resources for helping students to function effectively in school. Rather, they exist primarily to focus on particular student problems using available resources within the general education environment. I&RS or PIRT gives schools a structure to meet the academic, behavioral, health, enrichment, and social-emotional needs of all students.

NAMES & NUMBERS TO KNOW

SCHOOL I&RS COORDINATORS

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

Scott White, Director of Guidance (1030)
Terry Woolard, Assistant Principal (Grade 9) (X1016)
Melissa Butler, Assistant Principal (Grade 10) (X1129)
Dion Patterson, Assistant Principal (Grade 11) (X1224)
Cheryline Hewitt, Assistant Principal (Gr. 12) (X1022)
973-762-5600

MAPLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dara Gronau, Principal
973-378-7660

SOUTH ORANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

James Jennings, Assistant Principal
973-378-2772

CLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sandra Smith, Assistant Principal
973-378-7686

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Angel Rivera, Assistant Principal
973-378-7696

MARSHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Laura Swyberius, Assistant Principal
973-378-7698

MONTROSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Bonita Samuels, Principal
973-378-2086

SETH BOYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sheila Murphy, Assistant Principal
973-378-5209.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shane Zeigler, Assistant Principal
973-378-2801

TUSCAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brad Bertani, Assistant Principal
973-378-5221

APPLECORE LEARNING - PREK

Stacy Brutus, Director
973-7631700



2019-2020

PreK-12
Intervention
&
Referral
Services
(I&RS)

I&RS OVERVIEW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the I&RS Team?

The I&RS Team is a school based problem-solving group that assists teachers by designing and implementing strategies for children who are experiencing learning, behavior, health problems, or any other problem that is interfering with a student's academic achievement.

What will the I&RS Team do to help?

The members of the I&RS Team will gather all the information available on a child and will meet to discuss his/her areas of strengths and weaknesses and will then develop an Action Plan to address those areas in which he/she is experiencing difficulties in school.

Who can serve on the I&RS Team?

The I&RS Team in each school is represented by school staff who have different abilities and experience so that an Action Plan with the best strategies can be developed to help the child. The following people are members of the I&RS Team

- Principal or assistant principal
- A regular education teacher
- A special education teacher
- Referring teacher
- Parents/guardians are invited to participate
- Any person deemed necessary to assist the team (nurse, specialist, child study team member, school counselor/social worker, among others).

I&RS OVERVIEW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTD.

What is an Action Plan?

The Action Plan is a *clearly defined* set of suggestions that are considered to be helpful to the student and teacher. It is a thoughtful, planned approach to accommodate and enhance a child's functioning in school. The Action Plan defines specific goals designed to measure a child's progress.

What is the role of the parent/guardian?

The I&RS or PIRT Team invites parents and/guardians to participate in the meeting and requests information that will be helpful in developing the Action Plan to support the child in school.

What is the interrelationship between I&RS, Section 504 and Special Education Process?

I&RS is a *general education* model that addresses global learning, behavioral and health issues through a collaborative, problem-solving approach. An I&RS team develops an Action Plan with clearly defined goals for the team to monitor a student's progress.

Section 504 regulations define a physical or mental impairment as any physiological or psychological disorder or condition that limits a major life activity in a substantial way.

The evaluation conducted by the child study team is a diagnostic decision making process which identifies, evaluates and determines whether a student is eligible for special education and related services.

PHASES OF I&RS PROCESS

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The overall process begins when a staff member concludes that he or she needs assistance with a learning, behavior or health problem encountered in the general education program. Prior to referring a child to I&RS for academic, behavior and/or health problems, staff must document previously implemented interventions and outcomes.

1. Initial Referral & Information Collection

A staff member or parent requests assistance in supporting the student. The administrator determines the appropriateness of the request. Once a request for assistance has been approved, appropriate staff, parents and student complete surveys and related forms.

2. Initial Meeting/Action Plan Development

The problem-solving process takes place at the prescheduled team meeting with all stakeholders present. The team develops a written plan for implementing the consensus strategies identified in the problem solving phase of the process. The I&RS coordinator oversees the timely implementation of the components of the action plan, achievement of the objective(s) and the follow-up plan.

3. Support, Evaluate & Continue the Process

A follow up meeting will be scheduled after six weeks of implementation. The team reviews all relevant information, records and documentation of progress to determine the degree of successful implementation of the Action Plan and achievement of the outcomes identified in the plan.