



Intervention and Referral Services at Quinton Township School

What is I&RS?

Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) is an interdisciplinary team of professionals within the school environment who come together throughout the school year to formulate coordinated services and team delivery systems to address the full range of student learning, behavior, social, and health problems in the general education program as well as for students determined to be in need of special education programs and services. According to N.J.A.C 6A:16-8.1.,8.2 the goal of the committee is to see measurable student improvement in the identified targeted areas. Source: <https://www.nj.gov/education/njtss/resources/irs/>

At Quinton Township School, staff members/teachers advise parents when they are making a student referral to the I&RS Committee, which is formally submitted to the I&RS Coordinator. The I&RS Committee will then meet and develop an Action Plan containing goals, interventions, and a timeline for the plan's duration. The I&RS Case Manager will work closely with the I&RS Committee and parents throughout the duration of the student's I&RS action plan, communicating all updates and potential referrals for additional supports, as required.

How does I&RS help?

When a student experiences difficulties that affect his or her academic progress, or has exhibited behavior that interferes with learning (such problems responding to written or verbal information, organizing, focusing, and/or completing work) the I&RS team will develop an intervention plan that provides alternative strategies, programs, and/or assessments. The interventions are designed to support the student in achieving success within the regular education program.

What happens during an I&RS meeting?

Following a staff member's submission of an I&RS request to the I&RS coordinator, the staff member is invited to discuss the challenge with the I&RS Committee; initial I&RS meetings are typically held prior to the student's arrival on a designated school day. At that time, the staff member describes the student and the challenges. The teacher will identify both successful and unsuccessful strategies used, as well as current efforts. Alternative means of intervention and new approaches are suggested. A plan of action is developed, specifying the goals, strategies to be used, and the individuals responsible for each action. A timeline - typically eight weeks - is established for implementing the plan and assessing its effectiveness. The necessary classroom teacher(s), as well as members of the I&RS team (which may include a general education teacher, special education teacher, reading specialist, school psychologist, school counselor, superintendent, and principal) are present at the meeting.

How are parents notified during this process?

The referring teacher/staff member discusses his/her concerns with the child's parents prior to making an I&RS referral. Following the I&RS meeting, the case manager - one of the I&RS team members - will brief parents about the meeting. Parents will also receive a copy of the plan developed during the meeting. After the meeting, the intervention plan is monitored by the necessary classroom teacher(d) and the I&RS Committee. At a time specified within the plan, the referring teacher/staff member meets with the I&RS Committee to report successes or setbacks. If the student's needs are not being met by the initial plan, additional interventions may be suggested and modifications are made to the plan. Parents will receive updates regarding the status of their child's I&RS plan via the case manager.

How is I&RS different than special education?

If the actions taken and resources used are not adequate, the student's needs may suggest a referral to the Child Study Team or the 504 Coordinator is necessary.