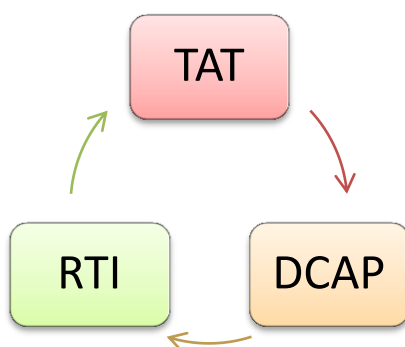


## **Supports for Students with Academic Challenges:**

Manchester-Essex Regional School District provides several pathways to support students struggling with academic challenges. In the mainstream classroom, differentiated instruction offers students multiple ways to demonstrate learning. Students who require additional assistance may be eligible for the following services and supports:

### **Supports for All Students:**



**Teacher Assistance Team (TAT):** The TAT develops accommodations, recommends general education support and interventions, and monitors progress for students who are struggling in school. Students may be referred by a parent, counselor, or teacher. Depending on the severity of student needs and challenges, the TAT may initiate referrals to special education and Section 504.

**District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP):** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires school districts to support the success of all learners through instructional strategies and curriculum accommodations for struggling students. The DCAP provides recommended accommodations that teachers may routinely use to support the needs of students in general education.

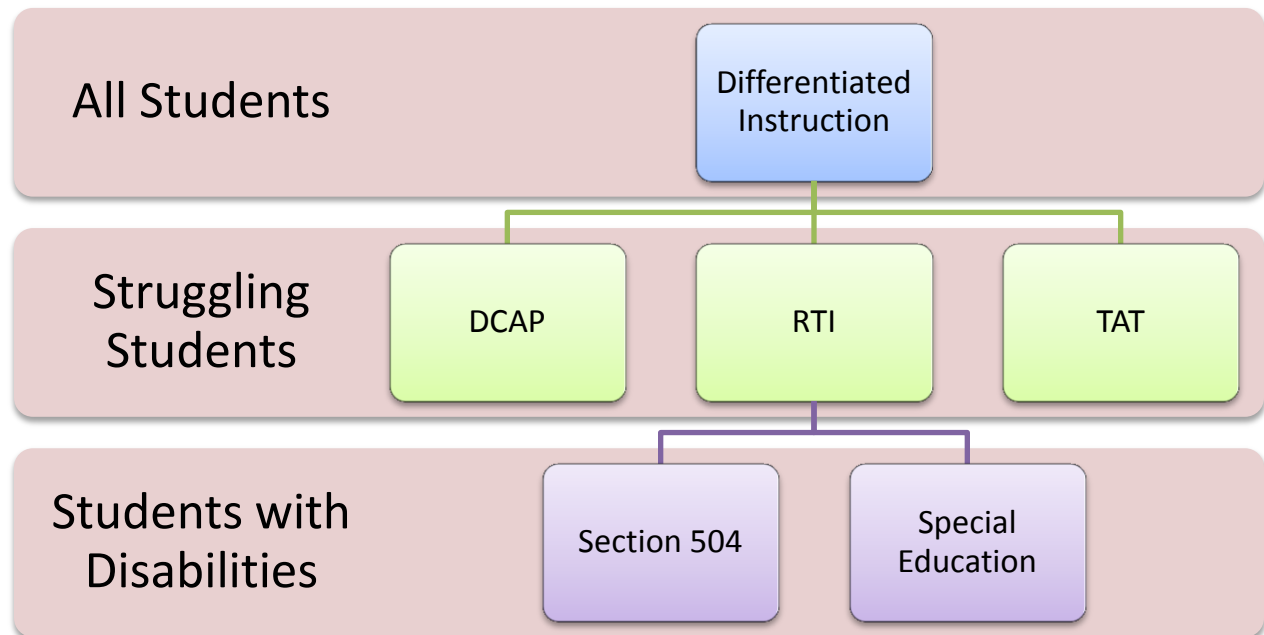
**Response to Intervention (RtI):** RTI addresses the needs of students who are not making expected progress in specific areas of instruction in the classroom. The RTI process is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions at increasing levels of intensity. The progress students make at each stage of intervention is closely monitored through benchmark assessments.

### **Supports for Students with Disabilities:**

**Section 504 Accommodation Plan:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination in educational settings. To qualify under Section 504, a student must have an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity within the educational setting. A Section 504 plan provides accommodations and modifications that enable the student to access the curriculum and school program.

**Special Education:** Special education offers specially designed instruction for students who require individualized services and support to meet their learning needs. In order to be eligible for special education, a student must present with a disability under DESE criteria, demonstrate a lack of effective progress, and require specially designed instruction as opposed to extra help

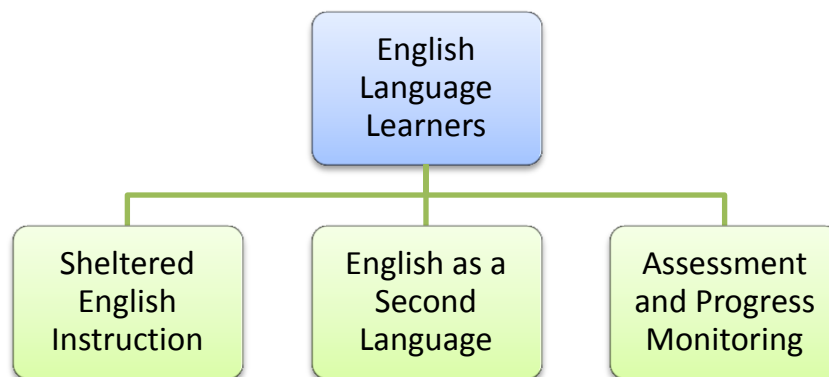
or tutoring. Teachers, parents, and programs such as TAT and RTI may refer students for a special education evaluation.



**Supports for English Language Learners:**

**Sheltered English Instruction (SEI):** Sheltered English Instruction is taught by an academic teacher in the mainstream classroom and emphasizes approaches, strategies, and methodology that promote academic English language development.

**English as a Second Language (ESL):** ESL small group classes provide intensive instruction to promote English language development and proficiency.



**For more information, contact Allison Brown Collins, Ed.D.,  
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