



Understanding Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²)

A Toolkit for Families

Tennessee Department of Education | March 2024



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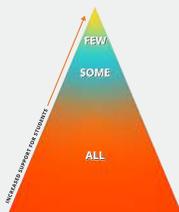
Introduction

Welcome to **Understanding Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²): A Toolkit for Families**. We are thrilled to partner with you to support your child’s education. In this toolkit, we have gathered resources to help you better understand the components of RTI².

Within this toolkit, you will discover helpful information including:



Understanding Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²)



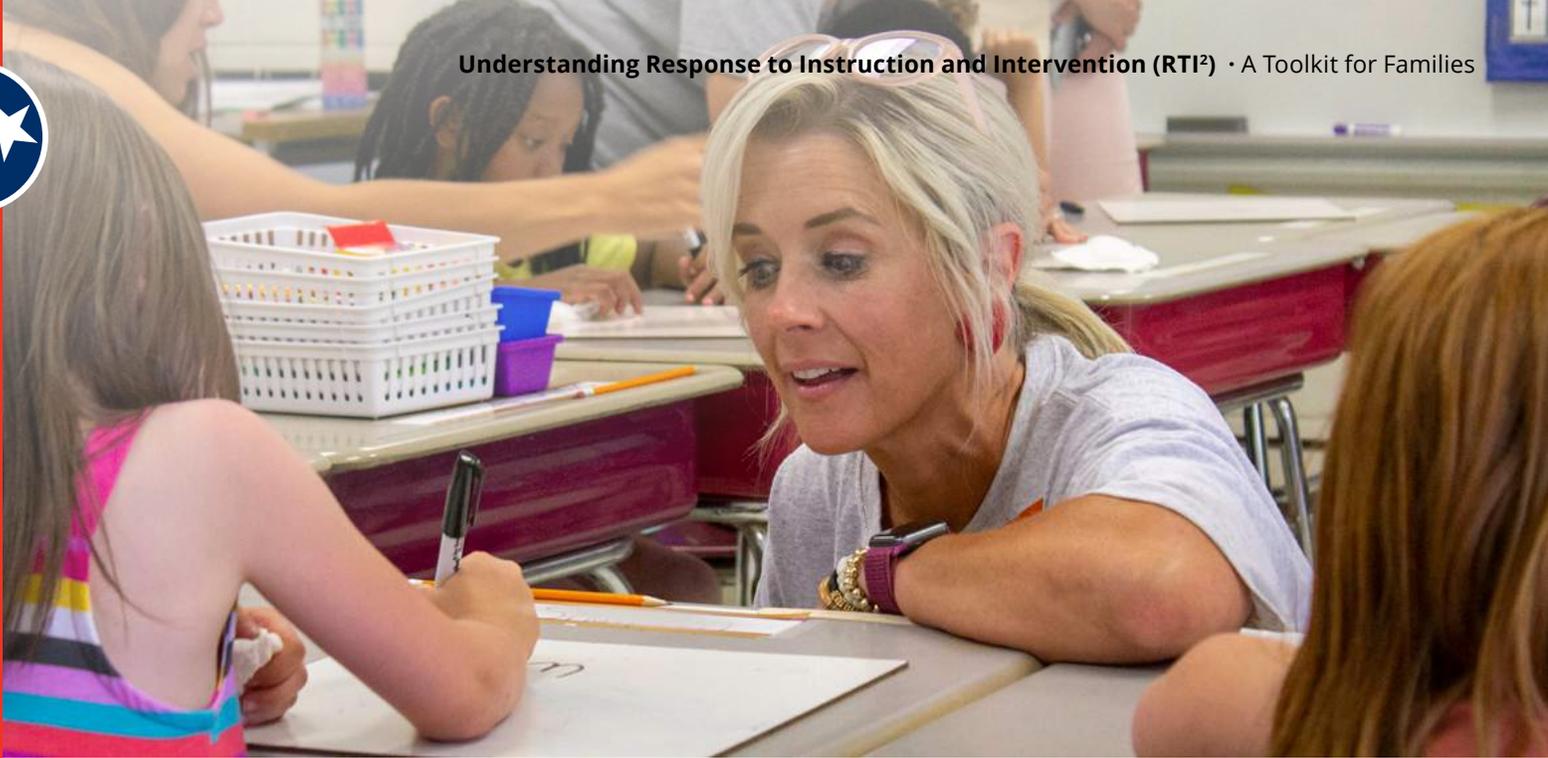
The Three Tiers of RTI²



Progress Monitoring

Please remember that you are not alone. Your child’s school, teachers, and our entire educational community are here to support you every step of the way. We encourage you to explore this toolkit, ask questions, and engage with your child’s teacher and school.

Thank you for being committed to your child’s education. Together we can create a bright future filled with endless possibilities.



Understanding Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²)



In Tennessee, we have an approach called Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²). RTI² considers how a child responds to their regular classroom instruction and the extra help they may receive. This extra help is called an intervention. An intervention is designed to strengthen a student's foundational knowledge so they can be more successful in Tier I regular classroom instruction.

RTI² Basics

- Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) has 3 tiers.
- Each tier provides additional targeted or intensive support to students, moving from Tier 1, which ALL students receive as regular classroom instruction, to Tier 2 which SOME students receive, to Tier 3 for the few students who may need intensive support.
- Any student needing additional support in reading, math, and/or writing will receive the extra help they need.

As part of RTI², schools also use skills assessments for progress monitoring to determine if the extra help is working well or if it needs to be changed.

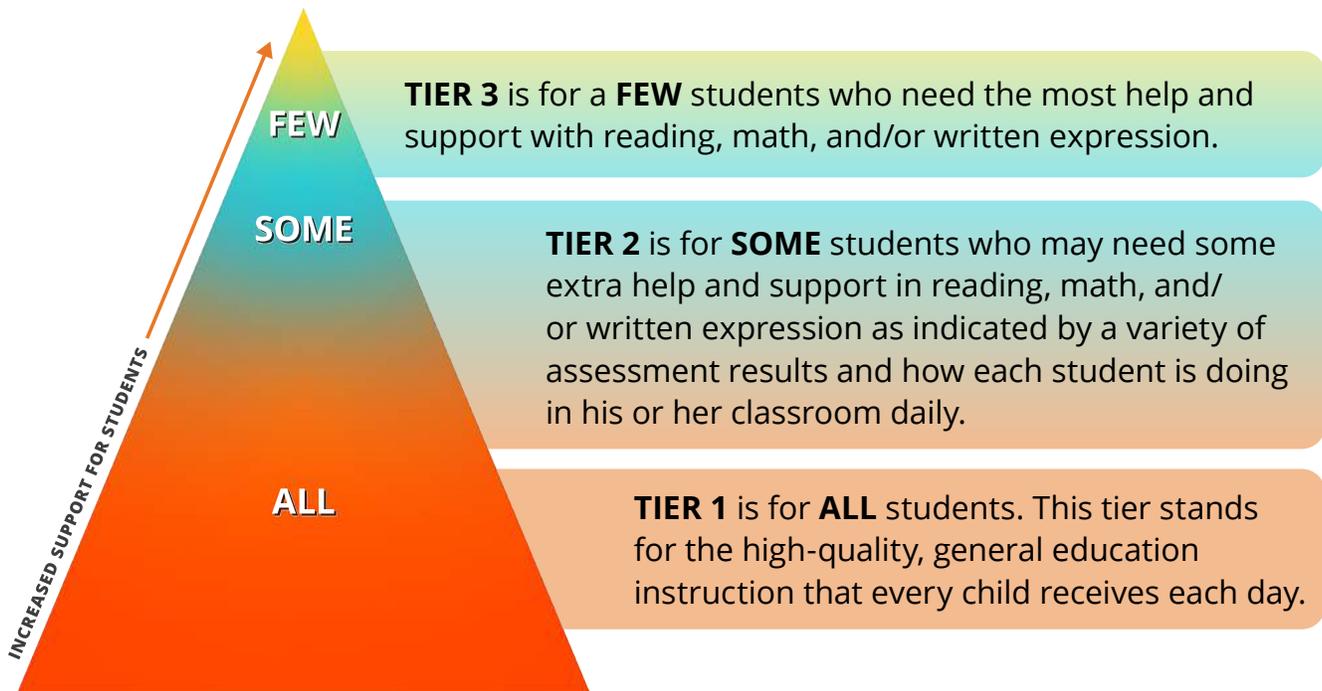
School teams meet often to discuss their plan to support each student with his or her individual needs.

RTI² is a general education instructional strategy that is available to all students. RTI² is not intended to delay or deny a student's need for special education. School teams must refer a student for a special education evaluation as soon as the student's need for specialized instruction becomes clear.



What are the Three Tiers of RTI²?

The RTI² approach has three tiers. Each tier provides additional targeted or intensive support for students based on need.



Contact your child's school if you have questions about RTI² placement, progress monitoring, or reports that come home.

Progress Monitoring

Progress monitoring is a key component of RTI² for teachers to keep an eye on a child's progress toward reading, math, and writing goals. This progress is regularly checked or screened to ensure a child is improving.

- Progress monitoring helps teachers and schools decide whether an intervention is successful or needs to be changed.
- Progress monitoring information is shared with parents regularly.





Glossary

This glossary contains terms found in the **Understanding Response to Instruction and Intervention: A Toolkit for Families** from the Tennessee Department of Education.

Intervention. A targeted and structured approach that schools use to provide additional support and assistance to students who are struggling academically or facing specific challenges. The primary goal of intervention is to help students accelerate their learning and succeed in school.

Progress Monitoring. Short and targeted assessments given to determine how much progress students are making over time, especially students participating in Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention support.

Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²). The practice of providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about changes in instruction and/or goals, and applying student response data to important educational decisions.

Screening. A quick test that provides an initial indicator of a student's levels of performance. Students take a universal reading screener to determine their strengths and needs in grade-appropriate literacy skills and to monitor their progress over time. More information about screening can be found in **Understanding Student Testing: A Toolkit for Families**.

Tier. In Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²), there are three tiers or levels. Each tier provides additional targeted or intensive support for students based on need.

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