

New Component to the Basic Education Program (BEP)

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-1-302, any changes to the components of the Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula approved and recommended by the State Board must also be approved by the commissioners of education and finance and administration.

Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) is Tennessee's framework for teaching and learning that begins with high-quality, differentiated instruction throughout the day and emphasizes intervening with students when they first start to struggle to avoid prolonged academic difficulties. In the November 1, 2017 Annual Report, the BEP Review Committee recommended the allocation of state funding for RTI² positions within the BEP funding formula, an action that requires the addition of a new component to the formula.

Considering the State Board's 2013 adoption of updated Special Education Guidelines and Standards regarding evaluations for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), which require all districts and schools to use RTI² to determine the eligibility of students to receive special education services for SLDs, and considering since the implementation of RTI² the number of SLD referrals have been reduced by nearly 50 percent, and considering Tennessee's significant gains in student achievement in recent years confirming that the new statewide RTI² has had a positive impact on educational outcomes, it is now appropriate for Governor Haslam, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner McQueen, and the General Assembly to consider and add an academic interventionist component to the BEP. This action would assist school districts in the full implementation of the RTI² framework and continue the exceptional progress that has been made in Tennessee.

The State Board of Education recommends adoption of the addition of a new component to the BEP formula for an academic interventionist position and submits such recommendation to the commissioners of education and finance and administration.