



Building Rtl Capacity in Texas: Challenges and Opportunities

6th Annual Research in Reading Seminar
Texas Reading First Higher Education Collaborative
Austin, TX
May 27, 2009



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The Building Rtl Capacity Project

- Develop and disseminate resources to facilitate Response to Intervention (Rtl) implementation in Texas schools
- Partner with Education Service Center (ESC) Rtl Liaisons to provide professional development and technical assistance to schools
- Develop resources and maintain a Web site <http://buildingrti.utexas.org/>
- Provide technical assistance to two Spotlight 3-Tier Reading/Math schools

Key Components of RtI

“RtI is the practice of

- (1) providing high-quality instruction/intervention matched to student needs and
- (2) using learning rate over time and level of performance to
- (3) make important education decisions. These three components of RtI are essential.”

From: National Association of State Directors of Special Education. (2005).
Response to intervention: Policy considerations and implementation.
Alexandria, VA: Author.

Key Components of Rtl (cont.)

Rtl is a framework built on these components:

- All students receive high-quality core content area instruction.
- All students are screened to identify those who are making adequate grade-level progress and those who are falling behind and at risk for learning difficulties.
- At-risk students are provided with immediate, research-based intervention instruction.
- At-risk students' progress is monitored frequently to ensure the intervention is meeting their needs.
- Professional development is designed to enhance educators' ability to respond to students' instructional needs.

Challenges Faced During Implementation



Implementation Challenges

- Time/Scheduling
- Classroom management
- Overcoming resistance (to change)
- Improving instructional effectiveness
- Leadership
- Funding

Time/Scheduling

- Addressing components of Rtl, such as time to test and progress monitor
- Scheduling: Small groups, interventions, collaborative planning meetings
- Instructional time: Every minute counts

It takes time for implementation to work. Don't give up!

Classroom Management

- Establishing routines
- Implementing small group instruction
- Using work stations/centers
- Transitioning to different activities

Overcoming Resistance

- Establishing “buy-in”
- Addressing resistance to change
- Converting negativity to “positivity”
- Communicating successes

Go with the goers!

Improving Instructional Effectiveness

- Using data to inform daily instruction
- Focusing on individual student needs
- Documenting student responses
- Providing professional development

Improving Instructional Effectiveness (cont.)

- Building teachers' knowledge and expertise
- Establishing the critical relationship between assessing students and delivering data-driven, tailor-made intervention to at-risk students
- Promoting an inquiry-based approach to intervention

Leadership

- Obtaining and maintaining “buy-in”
- Delegating leadership responsibilities to support implementation
- Using data to inform decisions
- Planning for sustainability

Funding

- Finding funding to implement RtI
- Reallocating resources: Be creative

Make Opportunities to Build Success



Make Opportunities to Build Success

- Build a committed team
- Make a plan; take “baby steps”
- Be consistent
- Communicate and Collaborate
- Maintain openness and flexibility

Secrets to Success

- Hold high expectations
- Accept no excuses
- Support life-long learners
- Communicate with stakeholders
- **BUILD CAPACITY!**

Building Rtl Capacity Web Site

<http://buildingRTI.utexas.org>

- Information about Rtl
- Access to presentations
- Tools and resources
- Parent information
- Implementation examples

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References

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