Building RtI Capacity in Texas: Challenges and Opportunities

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Texas Reading First Higher Education Collaborative
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The Building RtI Capacity Project

• Develop and disseminate resources to facilitate Response to Intervention (RtI) implementation in Texas schools
• Partner with Education Service Center (ESC) RtI 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.”

Key Components of RtI (cont.)

RtI 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 RtI, 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 RtI Capacity Web Site

http://buildingRTI.utexas.org

• Information about RtI
• Access to presentations
• Tools and resources
• Parent information
• Implementation examples
Contact Information

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References

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004), P.L. 108–446.
