

# Intervention and Referral Services

Elaine Gallo, MA, LPC  
Director of Guidance/School Counseling  
504 Compliance Officer  
South Plainfield School District



# What is I&RS?

- Interdisciplinary committee of professional staff members.
- This committee was created to provide teachers with strategies for helping « at risk » students.
- The areas of concern may include: academic, behavioral, medical or social/emotional issues, having a negative impact on student's education.
- I&RS regularly monitors the progress of students and recommends changes in strategies if necessary.

# How Are Students Identified for I&RS?

- Any staff member can refer students to the I&RS Committee;
- Parents can request that their child be reviewed by the committee. They can make this request to the school counselor, teacher, nurse or an administrator;
- Self-referral forms can be completed by students who feel the need for help.

# What Does I&RS Do For A Student ?

- Once the student is identified, the I&RS team will review the referral and contact other appropriate people involved with the student. It may be decided to meet with the student as well.
- The I&RS team will develop strategies to help teachers to assist with this student.
- The team will review the students progress regularly and change helping strategies as necessary. If after several strategies have been in place, the student's academic performance and/or behavior merit a formal evaluation, the I&RS team may refer the student to the Child Study Team.

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# I&RS Team Members

- Building Administrator or designee
- School Counselor
- School Nurse
- Child Study Team member or
- Special Education Teacher
- Classroom Teacher
- Support Services: basic skills, reading, ELL, speech, OT/PT etc.
- Parent (parents are notified and invited to all meetings, however do not have to be present in order to move forth with the meeting.)

# I&RS Best Practice Model

- NJDOE best practices model is a 30-40 minute model following this format:
  - Review of collected information and summary: 3-4 minutes
  - Develop a measurable behavioral objective: 2-3 minutes
  - Brainstorm possible interventions: 6-8 minutes
  - Clarify and refine suggestions: 6-7 minutes
  - Select interventions: 6-8 minutes

# Best practice model (con't)

- Develop the action plan: 7-10 minutes
- Best practice model is for the case coordinator to meet with and interview the parent/guardian and the person requesting assistance, (usually the teacher), prior to the team meeting.
- While parents must be actively involved in the I&RS process, they do not need to be present at the action planning meeting.
- Case Coordinator will coordinate all relevant information prior to the meeting and will present case to the team.

# In Conclusion

- The function of the I&RS Team is to:
  - ❖ Identify learning, behavior, social/emotional and health difficulties of students;
  - ❖ Collect thorough information on the identified presenting issues;
  - ❖ Develop and implement action plans which provide for appropriate interventions;
  - ❖ Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff who participate in the education process.



# Conclusion (con't)

- ❖ I&RS action plans;
- ❖ Coordinate services of community-based social and health provider agencies and other community resources for achieving desired outcomes;
- ❖ Maintain all records or requests for assistance, action plans and all related student information;
- ❖ Review and assess effectiveness of each intervention including an annual review of progress.