Intervention and Referral Services

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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. **
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.
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.