

Eastampton Township School District



Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS)

New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:16-8.1 requires all school districts to establish and implement a coordinated system in each school building, in which general education students are served, for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services (I&RS) that are designed to:

- 1) Assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties; and
- 2) Assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior or health needs.

The Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) is an adult-centered, multi-disciplinary team that is composed of building administrators, school counselors, classroom teachers, and support staff. They welcome requests for assistance from school staff or parents that are experiencing educational difficulties with their student(s), in which traditional attempts to ameliorate the situation have not been met with success.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of needs are reviewed by the I&RS Team?

When a child experiences difficulties that affect his or her academic progress, or has exhibited behavior that interferes with learning, the teacher may request support from I&RS. Student difficulties may include problems responding to written or verbal information, a pattern of inconsistent work completion, excessive absence and/or tardiness, and consistent challenges maintaining positive relationships with peers.

How does I&RS help both teachers and students?

I&RS supports the teachers and students by developing an intervention plan that may provide alternative strategies, programs, and/or assessments. The interventions are designed to support the student in achieving success within the regular education program.

When is an appropriate time to request an I&RS review?

A classroom teacher routinely differentiates instruction to address a child's needs in the classroom. A classroom teacher may request services of the I&RS Team when a particular child continues to have difficulties despite these efforts. The referrer must complete a 30 day Tier 1 intervention program and then a Request for Assistance form to ignite the process.

How does the I&RS Team differ from the Child Study Team?

I&RS recommends actions intended to help resolve the challenge identified to prevent referral to the Child Study Team. If the actions taken and resources used are not adequate and the problem still remains, the child's needs may suggest referral to the Child Study Team.

Steps in the I&RS Process

- 1.) If a teacher notices an academic, behavioral, or social difficulty, he/she will begin a 30 day Tier 1 Intervention program and notify parents/ guardians.
- 2.) After 30 days, a Request for Assistance (RFA) is submitted to the Team Leader.
- 3.) Once the RFA has been submitted, the nurse, main office, and counselor will complete their portion to gather relevant information about the whole child.
- 4.) A letter will be mailed home to parents/ guardians, notifying them of the I&RS process. A questionnaire will be mailed home to gather background information.
- 5.) At the first I&RS meeting, the I&RS team discusses the referral, and delineates clear, concise and measurable objectives that must be met for the student. Time-frames and the persons who are responsible for supervising the achievement of each objective are to be noted at this meeting. Also, a Case Manager will be assigned.
- 6.) After the 1st meeting, the Team Leader, Case Manager, or referring teacher will call the parent/ guardian to discuss the interventions and finalize the action plan.
- 7.) Over an 8 week period, interventionists, counselors, and teachers will collect useful data and share information consistently with the Case Manager.
- 8.) At the follow-up meeting, the I&RS Team will reconvene according to the time-frame specified within the action plan. Success of the plan will be decided as per Step 9 (intervention deemed successful) or Step 10 (intervention deemed not satisfactory).
- 9.) If intervention is successful, the student will continue to be included on the caseload of the Case Manager, whose responsibility it will be to continue to monitor student progress for the time deemed necessary by the committee. Cases shall be monitored for the academic year on a monthly basis. If continued success is demonstrated, the case may be closed and the file archived. The parent/ guardian will be notified of this decision.
- 10.) If intervention response is deemed not satisfactory by the I&RS committee, the decision will be made to either continue or revise the intervention, refer the child to outside agencies, or refer to the Child Study Team to be considered for evaluations for Special Education and/or related services. The parent/ guardian will be notified of this decision.

*For additional information about the E.C.S. I&RS process, please reach out to:
Nicole McGann, Curriculum Supervisor, at 609-267-9172 ext. 124 or nmcgann@etsdnj.us.*