

Intervention & Referral Service (I&RS)

What is the Intervention & Referral Service (I&RS) Committee?

The Intervention & Referral Service Committee is a group of professionals who serve to assist teachers to determine what resources or modifications will most benefit students to help the students succeed while working towards mastery of the New Jersey State Learning Standards(NJSLS). Participants of the I&RS Committee may include, but not be limited to, the following individuals: Principal, Guidance Counselor, Instructional Support Specialists, Interventionists, Teachers, School Nurse, or others having knowledge of the students' strengths and improvement opportunities.

When does a teacher request an I&RS review?

Teachers routinely use varied strategies to address an individual student's classroom needs. The teacher may request the services of the I&RS Committee when a particular student continues to have academic or behavioral difficulties despite ongoing efforts.

What kinds of needs are reviewed by the I&RS Committee?

When a student experiences difficulties that affect academic performance or exhibits behavior that interferes with learning, the teacher may request a review by the I&RS Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to participate in a team/committee based approach to creating additional strategies and interventions that may serve the student well as the student works towards NJSLS mastery. This approach has proven to be beneficial in reviewing a variety of school resources that may provide additional tools for the student.

How are parents/guardians informed?

The teacher will discuss any concerns related to the students' school performance with the parents/guardians prior to requesting an I&RS review. If questions arise, the parents/guardians can reach out to the student's teacher or building principal.

What happens during the I&RS meeting with the teacher?

Once an I&RS referral is submitted, the teacher is invited to a future I&RS Committee meeting during the school day. During this meeting, the teacher and the team will discuss the students' strengths and improvement opportunities. The team will brainstorm a variety of strategies and potential interventions that may benefit the student. The I&RS Committee will select appropriate strategies to implement and identify the person responsible for implementing the strategies to ensure the interventions are implemented with fidelity. The I&RS Committee will create a plan that contains specific goals, strategies for implementation, and the individuals responsible

for each action. A timeline will be established for implementing the I&RS plan and assessing its effectiveness.

How is follow-up accomplished?

The I&RS plan is monitored by the classroom teacher and I&RS team. At a time specified within the plan, the teacher will reconvene with the I&RS Committee to report on its effectiveness and success. Parents/guardians may be invited to ongoing committee meetings/brainstorming sessions. If the student's needs are not being met by the initial plan, additional interventions may be suggested, and the plan may be modified to reflect these changes. The I&RS Committee recommends actions intended to resolve the difficulties identified. If the actions and resources used are not adequate and the concerns remain, the student's needs may warrant a referral to the Child Study Team. Parents/Guardians must participate in the decision as to whether a Child Study Team evaluation will be conducted.