

Response to Instruction and Intervention for Academics

Family Guide for RTI² – A

What is RTI²-A?

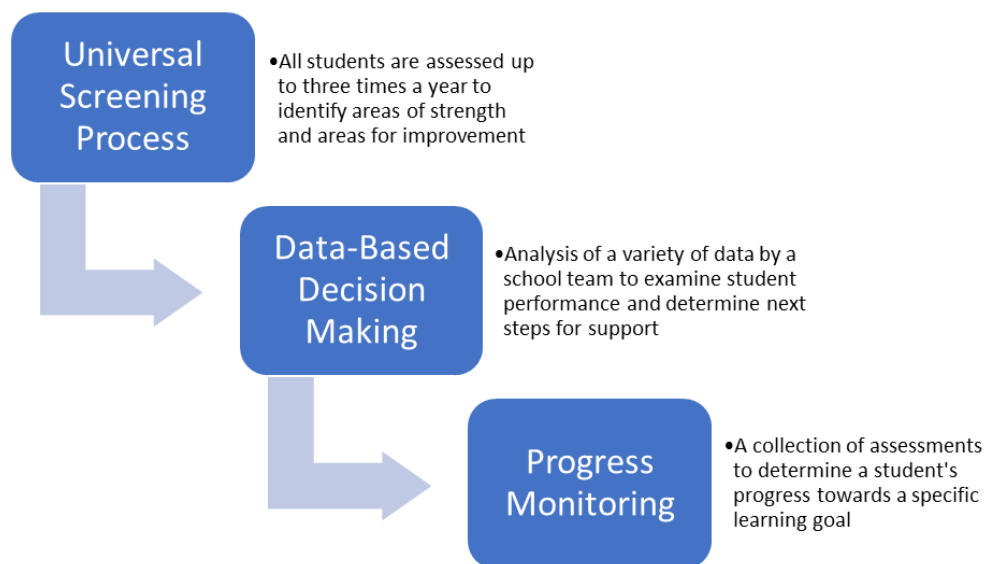
Response to Instruction and Intervention for Academics (RTI²-A) is Tennessee’s framework for teaching and learning. This multi-tiered system supports all children in receiving high-quality grade level instruction and provides the supports necessary for students to achieve academically.

Goals of RTI²-A

- Early Intervention and Prevention – Provides the opportunity to intervene early with support to prevent learning difficulties and achieve greater student outcomes
- Tailored Support – Identifies individual student needs that can be supported and monitored to ensure greater access and opportunity for success in the Tier I classroom
- Academic Success - Ensures all students have the opportunity to succeed academically through a suite of supports, allowing students to make progress at all levels

Identifying and Supporting Student Need

Schools collect and analyze a variety of data to create a comprehensive view of areas that students may need support.

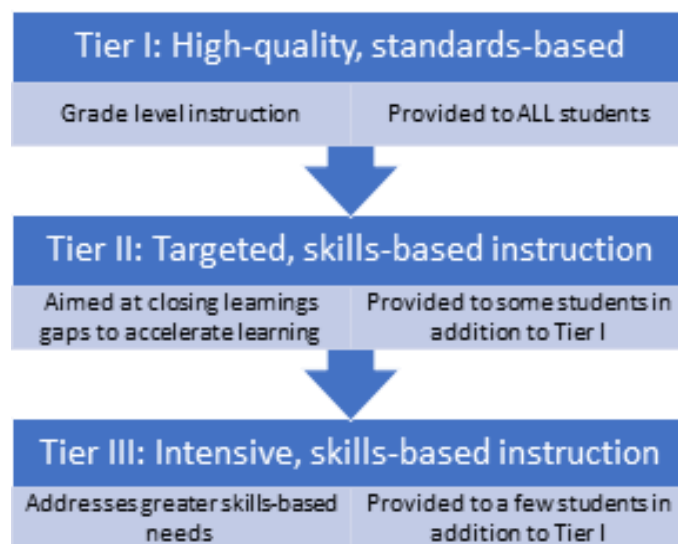


Components of RTI²-A

- High-Quality Tier I Instruction - Rigorous and engaging learning opportunities aligned to Tennessee State Standards that utilize high-quality instructional materials and are responsive to student strengths and needs for reading, math, and written expression
- Universal Screening- Brief, informative tools used to measure key skill areas that determine performance and progress at grade level and can identify students that may need additional support
- Data-Based Decision-Making - Analysis of data by the data-based decision-making team to check student progress and inform instructional decisions for students
- Intervention – Skills-based instruction provided to students, in addition to Tier I instruction, based upon identified need and designed to provide students with greater access and opportunity for success within Tier I
- Progress Monitoring - A continuous process of collecting a variety of data to provide feedback about a student's progress toward a specific learning goal

Understanding the Tiers of Support

RTI²-A is founded on high-quality core instruction for all students (i.e., Tier I), targeted learning acceleration supports for some students who are at risk of not meeting grade level standards (i.e., Tier II), and intensive skills-based intervention for a few students who are at risk for the greatest challenges with Tier I instruction (i.e., Tier III), placing RTI²-A within a suite of student supports that accelerate all students' learning and access to grade-level standards.



RTI² – A: Academics Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Can I waive my child's participation in tiered intervention?*

No, the RTI²-A Framework is the adopted methodology for delivery of instruction in the general education curriculum in all local education agencies in the state, effective July 1, 2014. See [State Board of Education \(SBE\) Academic and Instructional Requirements Rule 0520-01-03-.03\(6\)](#). As tiered intervention is part of the general education program, a parent cannot decline a student's participation. Just as a student's parent cannot refuse instruction in English language arts, mathematics, or any other component of the general education curriculum mandated by the State Board of Education, a student's parent cannot refuse instruction and intervention through the RTI² framework, including instruction and intervention in Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III. This framework includes the provision of instruction and intervention for all tiers in the areas of reading, mathematics, and/or writing.

- Reading: Basic reading skills, reading comprehension, reading fluency
- Mathematics: Calculation and problem-solving
- Written Expression: Basic writing skills (handwriting and spelling), as well as composition (organizing and expressing ideas clearly in writing)

2. *Can a student move between tiers?*

Yes. RTI²-A is designed to be responsive to student need. Based on analysis of a variety of data, the school-based data team determines the appropriate level of support for each student. This could mean increasing or decreasing the level of support provided to a student based on progress and performance.

3. *What if my child is not making progress in tiered intervention?*

If you have questions about the procedures or systems in place for providing and monitoring intervention, contact your child's classroom teacher or principal.

4. *Is RTI²-A Tier II or Tier III the same as Special Education?*

No, RTI²-A provides support to address learning gaps and is available for all students. Special Education services are individualized for students who meet eligibility criteria for specific disabilities.

5. *What if I suspect my child may have a disability?*

If you suspect your child has a disability, you have the right to request an evaluation for special education services.

- Request an evaluation in writing to your child's school.
- The school must respond to your request by agreeing to evaluate or, if refusing, provide you with written notice of the refusal.
- Parental Consent is needed to complete an evaluation for special education.

- The use of RTI²-A strategies may not be used to delay or deny the provision of a full and individual evaluation to a child suspected of having a disability.

6. *Can I request participation in tiered intervention if I am concerned about my child's general grade level performance?*

If your child is not participating in tiered intervention and you have concerns that your child may be at risk for academic difficulty, contact your child's teacher(s) or principal with your concern. The school data team will review all available student data to determine the best pathway of student support.

7. *How can I best support my child's learning?*

- Communicate with your child's teacher.
- Monitor and assist with homework assignments.
- Review information sent home and ask questions if you need help understanding the data.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Ask your child's teacher for specific ways to support your child at home.

8. *Where can I find additional resources regarding RTI²?*

Additional information can be found at [TDOE RTI² Resources](#)