I&RS COORDINATORS SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Elementary Schools
Monica Mejia - Gregory ES
Florence Chirichiello - Hazel ES
Hannen Elbana - Kelly ES
Lisa Struncis - Mt. Pleasant ES
Rebecca Beutel - Redwood ES
Sarah McIntosh - St. Cloud ES
Rene Wells - Washington ES

Middle Schools
Stephanie Bryson - Edison MS
Pam Halstead-Stewart - Edison MS
Jeff Lafoon - Liberty MS
Taylor Tellawy- Liberty MS
Karen Peyragrosse - Roosevelt MS
Lauren Volpe - Roosevelt MS

West Orange High School
Aldo Casale
Anna D'Elia
Margaret Fahey
Madeline Fernandez-Perez
Kathryn Furey
Mary Kehoe
Guerlyne Millington
Louis Pallante
Rachel Rosen
Rosanna Santos

Frequently Asked I&RS Questions

What if I receive a letter indicating that the I&RS Team will meet to discuss my child?
Your participation as a parent is important to allow for the most effective and informed process to help your child. You are invited to attend the meeting and ideally should provide feedback in advance.

What if I disagree with the I&RS process?
You may contact the Principal, but the school is permitted to conduct the meeting without parental input. However, if you choose not to participate you will be advised of any plan developed by the team.

What typically happens at an I&RS meeting?
Teams meet with school staff or parents who have made referrals and requested assistance. Action Plans are created for new referrals and done so by incorporating suggestions from parents, teachers and other staff. Students previously referred are discussed; progress or lack of progress is noted.

What types of issues are typically discussed?
Any issue of that interferes with learning or a student's academic progress is discussed during the meeting. This can include academic, health, behavior, social or emotional issues.

WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
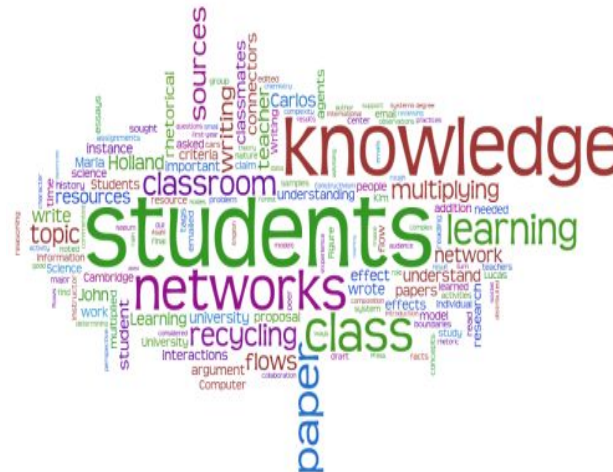
Intervention & Referral Services I&RS

The I&RS Process

- School Staff assists students through a variety of approaches
- School Staff or Parent Referral to I&RS Team Pre-Referral
- Review Available Data
- Meet with Parents and Teachers
- Recognize Specific Student Difficulties
- Identity Interventions and Define Level of Support using our Increasing Levels of Support Guidelines
- Review Data & Evaluate Effectiveness
- Effective → Continue as Needed
- Not Effective → Modify Intervention
- Reevaluate based on Increasing Levels of Support

Why Intervention & Referral Services?

I&RS is required by NJ Administrative Code 6A:16-8.1. District boards of education shall establish and implement a coordinated system in each school building for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students learning, behavior or health needs. District boards of education shall choose the appropriate multidisciplinary team approach for planning and delivering the services required under this subchapter.

How does I&RS work?

Interventions in the general education setting shall be provided to students exhibiting academic difficulties and shall be utilized, as appropriate, prior to referring a student for an evaluation of eligibility for special education and related services. [N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(b)] The staff of the general education program shall maintain written documentation, including data setting forth the type of interventions utilized, the frequency and duration or each intervention, and the effectiveness of each intervention.
[N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3(c)].

What does I&RS do?

I&RS teams write Action Plans, based on school staff or parent referrals and specific observable information. These plans may provide alternative strategies, programs and/or assessments. The interventions are designed to support the student in achieving success within the general education setting.

Who sits on the I&RS team?

Team members may vary depending on need but typically include a school counselor, teacher, administrator, school nurse, academic support teacher and a member of the Special Education Department.

What is a Section 504 Plan?

A section 504 Plan is a legal documents falling under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act. 504 Plans detail a program of instructional accommodations to assist students with special needs who are in a general education setting. Additional details can be found on the district website under the "School Counseling" page.

Questions?

Please contact the I&RS Coordinator at your child's school listed on the back of this brochure.