

A FAMILY GUIDE

Connecticut's Framework for RTI

Using Scientific Research-Based Interventions: Improving Education for All Students

Teachers, administrators, and families want all children to succeed. There are many ways to get children who are struggling to learn, the additional help they need to be successful. One way is with the use of “scientific research-based interventions” (SRBI).

This information sheet reviews what SRBI are and includes questions you might want to ask your child's school or program to learn more about how they are using SRBI as a framework to improve teaching and learning. Also included here are ways families can be part of the decision making process and what to do when you have concerns about your child's progress.

For more information about RTI, visit: The National Center for Response to Intervention at www.rti4success.org or the RTI Action Network at www.rtinetwork.org.

What questions can families ask to learn more about how SRBI works in their child's school or program?

- What is my child being taught in his/her classroom?
- How are lessons designed to meet my child's varying needs?
- What are the teaching strategies that my child's school is using if he/she is struggling in the classroom?
- How can I help my child with learning at home?
- How will I be told about my child's progress that tells me more than what grades he/she is receiving?
- What happens if my child continues to struggle and the teaching strategy is not working?

Families play a critical role in supporting what their children are learning in school. Research shows that the more parents are actively involved in student learning, the greater the student achievement. There are many ways families can support their child's learning at home. Here are a few:

- *Make reading an everyday habit;*
- *Talk with your child's teachers regularly;*
- *Check homework assignments and assist when necessary;*
- *Ask for regular progress reports;*
- *Celebrate your child's strengths, talents, interests, and successes;*
- *Learn more about what is being taught and how it is being taught at your child's school; and*
- *Participate in parent-teacher student conferences and other school functions for your child.*

What if I think my child needs special education?

SRBI do not replace the special education process. If at any time parents believe their child has a disability that is affecting his or her learning, they have a right to request an evaluation for special education. SRBI cannot be used to delay or deny this evaluation if the child is not making progress in learning and the lack of progress is not due to the lack of instruction. In addition to the information gathered through SRBI, other forms of evaluation must occur to determine if a child is eligible for special education and parent's written consent is required for the evaluation.

For more information about special education, your rights in this process, and how SRBI may be used to inform eligibility, please contact:

- Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC): 1-800-445-2722
- Connecticut Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC): 1-800-842-8678
- Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education (CSDE): 1-860-713-6910

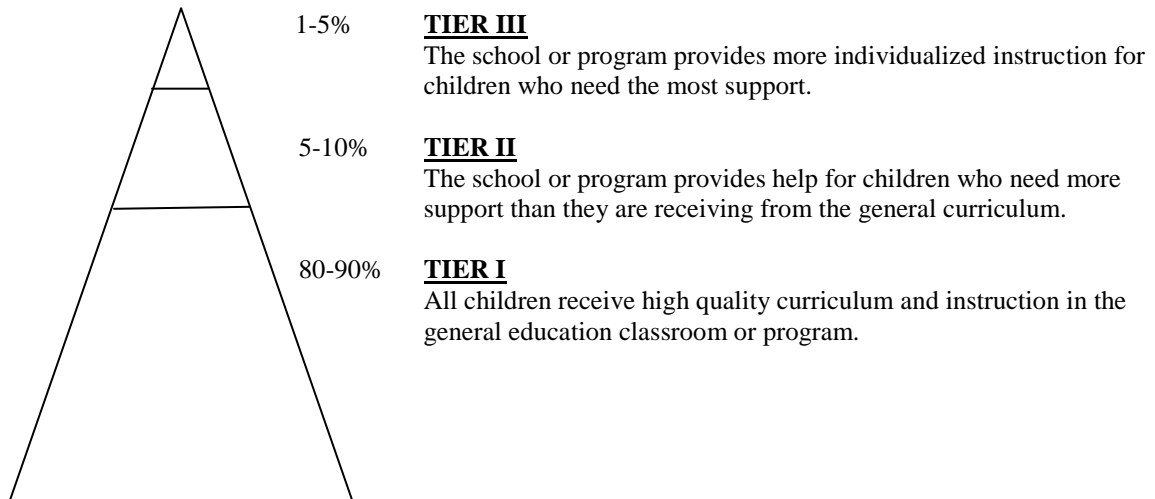
What are SRBI?

SRBI are a way to provide support and instruction to children who are struggling to learn. A child's progress is studied and findings are used to make decisions about teaching and other learning supports.

SRBI are most commonly used in addressing needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior. A "continuum of support" is developed by school districts and programs to meet the needs of the children they service.

What does the SRBI continuum of support look like?

The SRBI framework has three "tiers." Each tier provides differing kinds and degrees of support.



What are the key components of an SRBI framework?

The key components to SRBI is that all children receive high quality curriculum and instruction in the general education classroom or program (TIER I).

Another component of SRBI is that the school or program conducts "universal common assessments." **Universal common assessments review the progress of all children through the use of grade/age level assessments.** These assessments help schools identify children who may need more support or other types of instruction.

As a result, students may be identified as needing help in addition to the high quality instruction they are receiving in TIER I. **Additional teaching strategies or methods that have been proven to be effective in helping children learn are used (TIER II).** These teaching methods can happen in large or small groups, in or outside the classroom.

Another key component to SRBI is "progress monitoring." **Progress monitoring is a way for teachers to better understand a child's needs and demonstrate the growth children are making in a specific area.** It shows how well the teaching strategy is working. It includes observations and other types of assessment. Progress monitoring helps determine whether a strategy is successful or needs to be changed.

When progress monitoring shows that a child is not responding to the additional help, another approach or strategy may be tried. **However, when a higher level of support is needed, children are given the individualized instruction they need to be successful learners (TIER III).**

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