



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

September 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
Principals
Exceptional Children Coordinators, Charter Schools
RtI Coordinators

FROM: Mary N. Watson, Director *MNW*
Exceptional Children Division

RE: Responsiveness to Instruction Intent to Implement (RtI)

IDEA 2004 requires states to allow LEAs to implement Responsiveness to Instruction (RtI) as a method for determining Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) eligibility. For schools that have participated in RtI training and intend to fully implement RtI for SLD eligibility during the 2012-13 school year, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. LEAs should submit the attached Intent to Implement Responsiveness to Instruction Form to Lynne Loeser for **each** school planning full implementation of RtI for eligibility of SLD. The form includes a description of on-going training, implementation plans, and activities for expansion to other schools within the LEA. If a school has already submitted an Intent Form, there is no need for resubmission.
2. RtI Census information should be maintained for the 2012-13 school year by each school that submits a new Intent Form, documenting all students in the RtI process. The Census will be submitted to DPI in June 2013. A reminder of the due date will be sent in the spring, with directions and information. *The RtI Census is currently under revision. A webinar describing the data gathering process is scheduled for Wednesday September 19th from 3:15-4:15. Further information will be sent to schools through the listservs.*
3. RtI should be utilized for any student struggling in an academic or behavioral area. When the data gathered during the RtI process results in a referral to special education, this data should be used when making decisions for eligibility.
4. "Entitled" is no longer used as an eligibility classification. North Carolina still adheres to categorical eligibility, using one of the fourteen disability categories established by the state. All required evaluations in the suspected disability must be completed prior to eligibility determination, but only SLD may be determined through RtI. Please refer to *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities* (June 2010) for more details regarding required evaluation components for all areas of disabilities.

Questions should be addressed to Lynne Loeser at (919) 807-3596 or lynne.loeser@dpi.nc.gov

MNW/ll/ws

C: Ira Wolfe, Section Chief, Exceptional Children Division
Sherry Thomas, Section Chief, Exceptional Children Division

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Mary N. Watson, *Director* | mary.watson@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (919) 807-3969 | Fax (919) 807-3243

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER