

INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

HADDONFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS' I&RS



WHAT IS I&RS?

The Haddonfield Elementary School Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) Team serves to support the needs of students who are experiencing some level of difficulty within the regular education program. In collaboration with the teacher and parents, the team recommends intervention strategies that are designed to support the needs of the learner. A teacher will request the services of the I&RS Committee when a particular student continues to have difficulties despite differentiated instruction.

www.state.nj.us/education/students/IRS

HOW DOES I&RS HELP?

When a student experiences difficulties that affect his or her academic progress, or has exhibited behavior that interferes with learning (such problems responding to written or verbal information, organizing, focusing, and/or completing work) the I&RS team will develop an intervention plan that provides alternative strategies, programs, and/or assessments. The interventions are designed to support the student in achieving success within the regular education program.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN I&RS MEETING?

Following a teacher's submission of an I&RS request to the principal, the teacher is invited to discuss the challenge with the I&RS Committee at a meeting scheduled during the school day. At that time, the teacher describes the student and the challenges. The teacher will identify both successful and unsuccessful strategies used, as well as current efforts. Alternative means of intervention and new approaches are suggested. A plan of action is developed, specifying the goals, strategies to be used, and the individuals responsible for each action. A time line is established for implementing the plan and assessing its effectiveness. The Classroom Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Language Arts Specialist, School Nurse, School Guidance Counselor, School Psychologist, and Principal are present at these meetings.

HOW ARE PARENTS NOTIFIED DURING THIS PROCESS?

The teacher discusses his/her concerns with the child's parents prior to requesting an I&RS review. Following the meeting, the classroom teacher will brief parents about the meeting: parents will also receive a copy of the plan developed during the meeting. After the meeting, the action plan is monitored by the classroom teacher and the I&RS Committee. At a time specified within the plan, the teacher meets with the I&RS Committee to report successes or setbacks. If the student's needs are not being met by the initial plan, additional interventions may be suggested and modifications are made to the plan.

HOW IS I&RS DIFFERENT FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION?

If the actions taken and resources used are not adequate, the student's needs may suggest referral to the Child Study Team. Parents will participate in the decision as to whether a Child Study Team evaluation is necessary.

I & RS: How it Works

