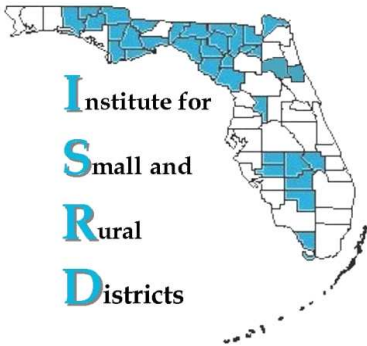


Principal Newsletter

Volume 1

Fall 2009



Institute for
Small and
Rural
Districts

CONTACT ISRSD

352.333.2831

Renee Speisman

Project Director
speismrf@gm.sbac.edu

Kim Dotts-Hoehle

Program Specialist
kimdh@gm.sbac.edu

FEATURED SUCCESS STORY

LEVY COUNTY PBS MODEL SCHOOLS

as submitted by Mr. Bob Hastings, Superintendent and
Dr. Rosalind Hall, Director of ESE and Student Services



It is with great pride that we share with you that not 1 but 2 Levy County PBS Model Schools were selected this year for recognition!

Florida's Positive Behavior Support: Response to Intervention for Behavior Project at USF has been recognizing PBS Model Schools since 2005; examining the implementation fidelity. A PBS Model School is one that has met specific criteria and has demonstrated effective and innovative ways of supporting PBS in their school. Specific characteristics of PBS Model Schools are their consistent methods of: a) utilizing their data to better serve the students and staff, b) teaching PBS to new students through the school year, c) using creative and engaging reward systems, d) extending PBS throughout the campus and partnering with the community, and e) including PBS into daily activities across all available teaching opportunities. A school can earn one of three levels: Bronze, Silver, or Gold status.

We are delighted to announce that **Williston Elementary** and **Williston Middle School** have each earned the Silver Award. Each school will receive a banner from the USF PBS Project and will also be highlighted on the FLPBS website as well as the Project newsletter. Congratulations to the administration, faculty and staff at these two schools for a job well done!

**Now Playing
at the
ISRSD Lending
Library**

**Response to
Intervention -
A Practical Guide
for Every Teacher**

A Multimedia Kit
For Professional
Development

*Produced by
Council for Exceptional
Children*

PRACTICAL POINTERS

Behavior Issues Still a Top Concern

Positive Behavior Support provides a positive and effective alternative to the traditional methods of discipline. PBS methods are research-based and proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in the school, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance. Many ISRSD schools are currently implementing PBS methods and have experienced an increase in academic performance, an increase in school safety, a decrease in problem behavior, and have established a positive school culture. PBS works in conjunction with RTI. Visit the Florida PBS web site at <http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/>.



CASE IN POINT

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Case: Damien J v. School District of Philadelphia, 49 IDELR 161 (E.D. Pa. 2008)

Concern: *Qualified ESE Teachers*

A Pennsylvania district did not violate the IDEA by restraining a 12 year-old boy during behavioral outbursts, however, it denied the student FAPE when it failed to implement his IEP. The U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, concluded that the district failed to assign a qualified teacher to the special education class which led to a denial of FAPE.

The court pointed out that the teacher did not have a degree in education, was not certified or licensed to teach in any state, and had no prior experience teaching students with disabilities. The district assigned her to teach students who had significant emotional and behavioral needs. The court noted that the district provided minimal training to the teacher. "It was left to (the teacher) to structure the classroom and establish a behavior management system," U.S. District Judge Juan R. Sanchez wrote. Not only was the teacher unqualified to teach children with emotional disturbances, the court observed, but she had no training on IEP implementation. The court ordered the district to provide compensatory education.

Good Reads

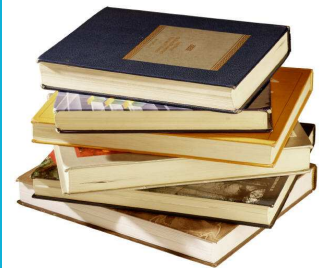
Pyramid Response to Intervention - RtI, Professional Learning Communities, and How to Respond When Kids Don't Learn

by
Buffum, Mattos
and Weber

Working With Challenging Parents of Students With Special Needs

by
Jean Cheng Gorman

To request check out of these and other resources visit the ISRDLending Library at
www.nefec.org/isrd/library.asp



RtI RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

Rating Chart—The National Center on Response to Intervention has developed and provided a chart that rates various tools that are available for measuring general outcomes. You can access the chart at www.rti4success.org/chart/progressmonitoring/progressmonitoringtoolschart.htm

Feature Article—From Learning Point Associates, "Implementing Response to Intervention (RTI): Considerations for Practitioners" which can be found at:
www.learningpt.org/greatlakeswest/newsletters/0407RTIfeature.pdf

Question and Answer Paper—The National Research Center on Learning Disabilities, "Helping Educators Discuss Responsiveness to Intervention with Parents and Students" can be viewed and printed at www.nrcld.org/resource_kit/general/Q&AEducators2007.pdf

QUOTE

"A leader is a person you would follow to a place you would not go yourself."

Joel Barker,
Future Edge, 1992