

Flagler County's RtI Initiative

as submitted by John Seaton, School Psychologist

Early on, Flagler County embraced the concept of RtI. In the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007, we participated in a series of trainings sponsored by the P.K. Yonge Center in Gainesville to help us better understand the concept of RtI and develop an implementation plan. We applied to be a pilot district with the RtI Project through USF, but unfortunately, we were not selected. After a brief period of disappointment, our district opted to seize the opportunity to develop our own RtI process and implement it in a way that we felt would work for our district. Consequently, our district RtI team spent the next two years building our infrastructure and preparing our elementary instructional teams to implement RtI district-wide.

In the spring of 2009, with most of the pieces in place, we focused on developing an RtI Procedures Manual that would provide the guidance needed for all our elementary schools to adopt RtI. After months of work by the district RtI team, the manual was completed. Our School Board approved the manual in early August, and it was unveiled district-wide a few days later.

Even though the statewide regulation does not require adoption of RtI for SLD determination until July 1, 2010, we have elected to implement it effective July 1, 2009 in all the elementary schools in our district. Our middle and high schools will continue to default to the discrepancy method for SLD determination for this school year, while we focus our efforts on training them to implement the process as of next July.

There is no doubt in our minds that we will make mistakes as we go, but we believe that we have created a system in our district that has been designed to keep those errors to an absolute minimum. Our manual will be a vital piece of that process. As a district, we are justifiably proud of our accomplishment, and encourage other districts to seize the opportunities presented by RtI. Our best wishes go out to them!