

## RTI: CONSIDERATIONS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

### CHALLENGE

- **Media:** Rodney T. Irwin is the principal at Mayflower Elementary School. He recently attended a meeting where Mr. Altman, the principal of Rosa Parks Elementary, described the positive impact of RTI at his school. Mr. Altman shared graphs that demonstrated an increase in student performance on the reading section of the annual standardized achievement test since implementing RTI two years ago. In addition, he reported that teachers have noticed a positive impact on students' reading skills in their classrooms. As a result of the success at Rosa Parks and at schools across the country, the state and local education agencies are encouraging elementary schools to adopt the RTI approach. They would like schools to implement RTI in order to provide early intervening services for struggling readers and to identify students with learning disabilities in the early elementary grades. Consequently, Mr. Irwin recognizes the possibility of improving student outcomes in reading at his school and is considering what to do next. (movie)

### INITIAL THOUGHTS

- What information does Mr. Irwin need to consider before proceeding?
- How can Mr. Irwin build support for adopting the RTI approach at Mayflower Elementary?
- What should schools consider when deciding whether or not to adopt the RTI approach?
- What are some factors that should be addressed when implementing the RTI approach?
- How can schools assess whether or not the RTI approach is effective?

### PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Module Objectives (box)
  - After completing the entire Perspectives and Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should be able to:
    - Understand the stages of adopting and infusing the RTI approach into a school
    - Be able to identify factors that contribute to the effective implementation of RTI
    - Recognize that implementing the RTI approach in a school requires a collaborative effort
    - Understand the importance of collecting and utilizing fidelity data to continually improve a school's implementation of the RTI approach

#### ▶ Page 1: Stages of Implementing Change

- Five Stages of the Change Process (bulleted list and map)
- **Media:** Pearl Sims describes the nuances of the change process (audio)

#### ▶ Page 2: Overview of RTI

- Becoming Informed
- *Link:* Early Intervening

- *Link*: Identifying students who have learning disabilities
- *Link*: Tier 1: High-Quality Instruction
- *Link*: Tier 2: Intervention
- The Three Tiers of RTI (bulleted list and table)

### ▶ **Page 3: Benefits of RTI**

- Benefits of RTI (table)
- **Media**: Brian Miller shares his school's success with helping struggling readers (audio)
- *Link*: Four schools share the benefits they have experienced by implementing the components of RTI.
- Research Shows... (box with table)

### ▶ **Page 4: Be an Effective Leader**

- Building Support
- **Media**: Pearl Sims describes the various qualities of an effective leader.
- **Activity**: Complete a short survey to help determine whether your leadership style lends itself to collaboration with other school personnel (box with link)
  - *Link*: Survey

### ▶ **Page 5: Identify Key Individuals**

- **Media**: Pearl Sims describes the various qualities of an effective leader (audio)
- List of key individuals to be involved in RTI planning (table)
- FYI (box with bulleted list)
- List of qualities wanted in a representative for an RTI planning group
- **Activity**: Develop a list of key individuals from your school (box with numbered questions)

### ▶ **Page 6: Present a Case**

- **Media**: Slideshow presentation with information on RTI (movie)
- FYI (box)
- List of benefits and concerns (table)

### ▶ **Page 7: Evaluate School Readiness**

- Creating an Action Plan
- *Link*: Sample readiness survey
- Four School Indicators for Action Plan (bulleted list and map)
- Dividing the planning group to develop the readiness survey (table)
- School Readiness Survey
  - *Link*: School Processes
  - *Link*: Instruction and Intervention
  - *Link*: Assessment
- *Link*: Sample Action Plan

### ▶ **Page 8: Secure Funds**

- FYI (box)
- Suggestions for sources to fund RTI (bulleted list)
- **Media**: Larry Wexler of OSEP discusses funding for RTI (audio)
- **Media**: Kathy Strunk of the TN SIG discusses funding for RTI (audio)
- **Media**: Tiffany Brown of Long Beach Unified School District discusses funding for RTI (audio)
- **Media**: Brian Miller of Jefferson Elementary School discusses funding for RTI (audio)

- **Activity:** Identify two potential funding sources for your school (box)

### ▶ **Page 9: Gain a School-Wide Commitment**

- Research Shows... (box)
- Communication approaches (bulleted list)
- *Link:* Sample agenda for presentation to colleagues with more specific information regarding RTI from planning group's findings
- FYI (box)
- **Media:** Brian Miller shares his experience with gaining teacher commitments (audio)
- **Activity:** Develop a list of selling points that will persuade the teachers at your school to support implementing the RTI approach (box)

### ▶ **Page 10: Implement the Action Plan**

- Implementing the Action Plan
- **Media:** Brian Miller reiterates a principal's need to gradually build an infrastructure for RTI (audio)

### ▶ **Page 11: Potential School Resources**

- *Link:* "RTI coach" (definition)
- Potential Resources (table)
- FYI (box)

### ▶ **Page 12: Implementation Guidelines**

- *Link:* "fidelity" (definition)
- RTI Guidelines
  - o *Link:* General Procedures of RTI guidelines
  - o *Link:* Tier 1 of RTI guidelines
  - o *Link:* Tier 2 of RTI guidelines
  - o *Link:* Tier 3 of RTI guidelines
- **Activity:** Create a set of RTI guidelines that reflect those established by your state or district (box with link)
  - o *Link:* Guideline form

### ▶ **Page 13: Professional Development**

- Steps for Providing Professional Development (table)
  - o *Link:* Step 1: Assess staff members' professional development needs
  - o *Link:* Step 2: Determine the training goals
  - o *Link:* Step 3: Deliver the training
  - o *Link:* Step 4: Evaluate the success of the training
- *Link:* Checklist to help organize professional development activities
- School Readiness Survey
  - o *Link:* School Processes (school readiness survey)
  - o *Link:* Instruction and Intervention (school readiness survey)
  - o *Link:* Assessment (school readiness survey)
- *Link:* Professional Development Schedule
- Keep in Mind (box)

➤ **Page 14: Scheduling Considerations**

- **Media:** Thea Woodruff provides a good model of how one school schedules instructional and intervention time and how this collaborative effort promotes teacher support for RTI (audio)

➤ **Page 15: Classroom Support for Teachers**

- In-Class Supports
  - *Link:* “research-validated practices” (definition)
- Release Time

➤ **Page 16: Parent School Partnerships**

- Suggestions for communicating with parents (table)
- Parents’ Involvement in the RTI Approach
- Methods to Promote Parent-School Partnerships (table)
- *Link:* See how one school district joined with the community to encourage parents to engage in early literacy activities and to become school volunteers
- FYI (box)

➤ **Page 17: Data Management**

- Classroom Data Management
- *Link:* Commercial graphing software
- Various uses for school data (table)

➤ **Page 18: Fidelity of Implementation**

- Evaluating Implementation (description)
- FYI (box)
  - *Link:* Review a sample RTI manual
- Fidelity Variables (table)
- Fidelity at Mayflower Elementary
  - *Link:* Fidelity issues as a new teacher
  - *Link:* Fidelity issues providing high-quality Tier 1 instruction
  - *Link:* Fidelity issues in progress monitoring procedures

➤ **Page 19: Evaluation and Revision**

- Other sources of data to document (bulleted list)
- Mayflower Elementary’s Year 1 Outcome Data

➤ **Page 20: References, Additional Resources and Information**

- References
- Additional Resources and Information

➤ **Page 21: Credits**

- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Module Production Support Team
- Media Production Team

- Media
- Expert Interviews

## ASSESSMENT

- Please complete the items below (numbered questions)

## WRAP UP

- **Media:** Pearl Sims highlights two things to consider when implementing change at school (audio)
- **Media:** Brian Miller discusses the time-frame for fully implementing RTI at a school (audio)
- **Media:** Brandi Meade describes the role a principal played in the implementing the RTI approach at her school (audio)
- Think back to your initial responses to the following questions (box)