

## Questions and Answers

### Response to Intervention (RtI) Middle School Demonstration Project



#### NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

##### Questions:

- 1. Are State-approved nonpublic special education schools (for students with autism) eligible?**

No, New York State public middle schools (grades 5-8) and charter schools are eligible to apply for the project.

- 2. Is a middle school that is split between two buildings (grades 5-6 in the elementary building and grades 7-8 in the Jr./Sr. high school building) eligible to apply for the project?**

Yes, the middle school and junior/senior high school would each need to submit an application of interest for participation in the project.

- 3. Does the project include a math and behavior piece along with English Language Arts?**

The main focus of the project will center on literacy. While the basic process of an RtI model can be universally applied across different contexts, the assessments and interventions will differ in terms of area of need (e.g., reading, writing, mathematics, and behavior).

- 4. Grades 5-7 are in my middle school, but grade 8 is in the high school. Will this matter?**

If you wish to include all four grades (5-8), the middle school and the high school would each need to submit an application of interest for participation in the project. You may also choose to apply for the project for just your middle school.

- 5. What if your school has a disproportionate number of Tier 3 students? Would that disqualify your school?**

No. Any New York State public middle or junior high schools (grades 5-8), at any level of academic need or demographic distribution, and at any level of RtI implementation, are eligible to participate in the project.

- 6. Will middle schools that are only grades 7-8 be considered, or do you really need to have grades 5-8?**

Middle schools that are only grades 7-8 are eligible to participate in the project.

**7. If we are in priority school status, would we qualify?**

Yes. Any New York State public middle or junior high school (grades 5-8), at any level of academic need or demographic distribution, and at any level of Rtl implementation, is eligible to participate in the project

**8. Are charter schools eligible to apply?**

Yes.

**9. Will the Rtl support occur for students with emotional and mental health needs in addition to math and English Language Arts (ELA)?**

The main focus of the project will center on literacy. While the basic process of an Rtl model can be universally applied across different contexts, the assessments and interventions will differ in terms of area of need (e.g., reading, writing, mathematics, and behavior).

**10. Will a school be disqualified if they have a large number of students who do not take the NYS ELA Assessment?**

No.

**11. We are moving toward a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model that includes Rtl. Would that impact our application?**

No.

**12. Is this a specific focus on ELA or will there be a focus on math and social/emotional behavior?**

The main focus of the project will center on literacy. While the basic process of an Rtl model can be universally applied across different contexts, the assessments and interventions will differ in terms of area of need (e.g., reading, writing, mathematics, and behavior).

**13. We have two middle schools in the district. Do we have to apply for each school?**

Yes. You would need to submit an application for each middle school.

**14. Will LAP or Focus schools/districts be given equal consideration?**

Yes. Any New York State public middle or junior high schools (grades 5-8), at any level of academic need or demographic distribution, and at any level of Rtl implementation, are eligible to participate in the project

- 15. Will you consider very small school districts? We have a one building (grades Pre-K – 12) school. Would we have a large enough population for you in grades 5-8?**

Yes, we will consider rural or very small schools for this project.

- 16. Can you comment on how you foresee the Rtl Middle School Demonstration Project working in conjunction with or separate from existing Academic Intervention Services (AIS) requirements?**

For a school/district currently providing academic support services to middle level students through an Rtl system in lieu of academic intervention services (AIS), participating in the demonstration project may provide valuable tools for assessing the current system as well as collecting and analyzing program and student achievement data. For schools/districts whose students receive academic supports through existing AIS programs, participation in the demonstration project will offer training/technical assistance about an additional student support option particularly successful with those who struggle academically despite traditional support and instruction.

- 17. Do you need a certain percentage of Tier 2 or Tier 3 students? For example, my high school is “high performing” but we want to support 20% of students who are performing below standards.**

No. Any New York State public middle or junior high schools (grades 5-8), at any level of academic need or demographic distribution, and at any level of Rtl implementation, are eligible to participate in the project.

- 18. Can students with disabilities participate in this project?**

Yes. Rtl is an integrated approach to service delivery through a multi-tiered system of supports. It utilizes a problem solving framework to identify and address academic and behavioral difficulties for all students using scientific, research-based instruction.

- 19. Can a K-8 building apply for the middle school project?**

Yes, a K-8 building can apply for this project, but the focus and technical assistance will be on the development and implementation of an Rtl framework for students in grades 5-8.

- 20. The application seeks “Teacher Turnover Rate” and student “Attendance” rates under “Background School Information” and asks that this information be identified through the NYS Report Card for 2015-2016. Unfortunately, that information does not appear to be available in that document. We certainly are willing to provide this information, but were wondering if there was another source from which we should pull this data.**

The NYSED is removing this requirement from the application because the information is not currently available on the NYS Report Cards for 2015-2016.

**21. Will on-site technical assistance be provided for ten days each year for three years?**

The project schools will receive a minimum of 8-10 days of on-site technical assistance for each year of the project.