

The School District of Philadelphia | RtII District Leadership Team

in collaboration with the **Office of Family & Community Engagement**



Understanding Response to Instruction & Intervention (RtII) **RtII and English Language Learners**

The Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs oversees English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) and Bilingual programs in the School District of Philadelphia. Our major goal is to accelerate the academic and social progress of our ELLs by supporting and monitoring schools and being more responsive and supportive to families. We want to ensure that all students who are English Language Learners (ELLs), including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic achievement, and meet the same academic standards as all children are expected to meet.

The Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs supports the District's RtII model in several ways. Since English Language Learners are included in Tier I core instruction, we provide training on effective instructional practices for English Language Learners to teachers across the district. We also provide support for teachers in identifying students that are in need of Tier II and Tier III interventions and in choosing interventions that are proven to be successful with students who are learning English. In addition, we provide the district's RtII Champions with training and advice on monitoring progress and creating instructional plans for students.

Each learning network has been assigned a Multilingual Manager who is available to teachers when they need assistance. There is also a curriculum specialist who serves on the RtII leadership team.

Questions that parents of English Language Learners may have about RtII

What are the key features of RtII for English Language Learners?

The foundation of the RtII model is high quality core instruction. For English Language Learners, this includes daily ESOL and content area instruction that is planned according to their language proficiency levels. All teachers include instructional strategies and supports that will facilitate the learning of social and academic language that students will need to be successful in the classroom.



How is my child identified for interventions?

Since ESOL is a core subject in Pennsylvania, it falls into Tier I or core instruction. Teachers are trained in designing content and language objectives that help students meet the challenge of learning content in a new language. Before assigning additional interventions or supports, teachers consider the student's cultural background and language proficiency level. They will determine if a student is making adequate growth in English proficiency when compared with other English Language Learners, and whether or not the student is successful with core ESOL and content area instruction that includes support and ample opportunities to develop social and academic language.

If a student is falling behind in one area, ESOL teachers and Multilingual Managers may recommend a change in the type or amount of ESOL instruction or provide support to the classroom teacher in helping the student succeed. They also work with teams of teachers to decide when it is appropriate to include a student in Tier II interventions.

What happens if my child falls behind in an area when compared with other students at the same language proficiency?

If your child is not making progress that is comparable to other students, the ESOL teacher and the classroom teachers will work together to gather more information about why your child is struggling. Classroom grades, benchmark assessments, work samples, and diagnostic assessments can be reviewed. They will also consider language and cultural factors that may be creating challenges for your child. The teachers will then work together to choose an appropriate intervention for your child. It is important to note that Tier II interventions should be in addition to instruction that the students are already receiving, and should not interfere with your child's ESOL instruction.

How can I help my child to succeed in school?

Maintain the use of your native language at home. It will help your child learn English if they can listen, speak, read, and write in your native language. Reading with your child and talking about what you are reading will help him or her become a more active reader.

Most importantly, please ask questions about your child's education and provide advice about your child to the teacher. Your child's teacher will appreciate knowing more about your child and sharing information with you about what happens in the classroom!

Who can I contact for support?

The school district can support you by providing interpreters for telephone or in person visits or translations of written materials. Your child's ESOL teacher can answer questions about classroom or ESOL instruction or language proficiency assessments. You can also contact your learning network's multilingual manager if necessary.