

POLICY

SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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STUDENT INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (M)

2417 STUDENT INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (M)

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Children thrive when they are in learning environments that are inclusive, welcoming, rigorous and supportive. It is the responsibility of all adults in the District to use multiple sources of data to adapt their practices to create learning spaces that differentiate and target the unique learning needs of the child.

The Board of Education directs the establishment and implementation in each school building in which general education students are served, a coordinated system for planning delivering intervention and referral services designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties, and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing student's learning, behavior, or health needs in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 and 6A:16-8.2. The Board adopts this appropriate multidisciplinary team approach for planning and delivering the services required under N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.

The Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) process is designed for certificated staff members to collaborate with colleagues to identify students in need of additional support and design targeted plans that align quality, appropriate resources with expectations for consistent monitoring of student progress. The I&RS process is most impactful when its efforts center around improving core instruction and the responsibility of educators to adjust instructional practices to ensure students have what they need to thrive.

It is the role of the school leaders to hold the I&RS Team and all staff accountable to this vision for responsive and targeted intervention. If a child's experience is not improving with the planned teacher interventions, it is the leader's responsibility to support the teacher in making necessary adjustments to practice.

The Board of Education believes that it is essential to standardize the I&RS process across District schools so that families and their children receive a coherent and consistent experience across the District. The I&RS process shall be transparent and District families will play an active role in understanding all aspects of the process, from the data, resources, interventions and practices used to support their child. At the same time, the District maintains its commitment to ensuring that families maintain all rights to request evaluations through the Child Study Team at any time.

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Students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties shall be referred to the school's Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) Team. The intervention and referral services shall be provided to aid students in the general education program and may be provided for students who have been determined to need special education programs and services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1(a). The intervention and referral services provided for students who have been determined to need special education programs and services shall be coordinated with the student's Individualized Education Program Team, as appropriate.

The functions of the system of intervention and referral services in each school building which general education students are served shall be pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.2(a) and as outlined in Regulation 2417.

Records of all requests for assistance, all intervention and referral services action plans, and all related student information shall be maintained in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations and New Jersey administrative code pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.2(a)9.

The I&RS Team shall **regularly** review and assess the effectiveness of the provisions of each intervention and referral services action plan in achieving the outcomes identified in each action plan and modify each action plan to achieve the outcomes, as appropriate. **The I&RS process cannot be used to delay or deny referral to the Child Study Team. Notwithstanding anything in this Policy or its regulation, a parent/guardian may refer their child to the Child Study Team at any time per Policy, 2460 and in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.**

At a minimum, the I&RS Team shall annually **quarterly** review the intervention and referral services action plans and the actions taken as a result of the building's system of intervention and referral services, and make recommendations to the Principal for improving school programs and services, as appropriate.

At a minimum, on a quarterly basis the Principal or designee shall, in consultation with the I&RS Team, develop a report on the concerns and issues identified by the I&RS Team and the effectiveness of the services provided in achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral services action plans. These reports shall be provided to the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Special Services. The Superintendent or designee shall use these reports to identify gaps in referral, implementation and monitoring of supports and to bring the I&RS processes into alignment across the District schools. The Superintendent shall provide updates to the Board that summarize

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trends and patterns across schools as the District uses the data to inform changes to the process across the District.

The Board's goal with this policy is not only standardize the I&RS process across the District, but as the District better understands important data gathered as a requirement in this policy, the District can work to strengthen the intervention efforts for students so that all students receive the support and individualized resources they need to be successful.

The District shall develop regulations to implement this policy that increase awareness of the I&RS process among the entire school community and involve parents/guardians in the I&RS process. The regulations will include a timeframe for assessing the effectiveness of action plans as well as circumstances which may require a referral to the Child Study Team in accordance with Policy 2460.

At the end of the school year, the Principal shall, in consultation with the I&RS Team, develop a report on the concerns and issues identified by the I&RS Team and the effectiveness of the services provided in achieving the outcomes identified in the intervention and referral services action plans. This report shall be provided to the Superintendent of Schools.

N.J.A.C. 6A:14; 6A:16-8.1; 6A:16-8.2

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Second Reading: ~~October 18, 2021~~
Adopted:

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Second Reading: December 20, 2021
Adopted:

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