

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144



Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900

Date: May 27, 2011

To: Superintendents, Principals, Participants in RTI Cohort I and II

From: Elaine McNulty Knight, RTI School Improvement Coach

Re: Elementary and Middle Schools: Opportunity to Apply to be an RTI Pilot Site

Dear Applicants:

The NH Department of Education is pleased to announce that New Hampshire has been accepted as one of nine states to receive "intensive technical assistance" from the National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI). The focus of the technical assistance will be to provide a framework for the successful implementation of RTI in NH and to formalize statewide efforts that will promote school-wide practices that ensure highest possible student achievement in both academic and behavioral pursuits within the RTI framework. This will also include the selection of 6 pilot sites to demonstrate the implementation of the RTI process in NH.

This is an opportunity for public elementary and middle schools to apply to be a NH RTI Pilot Site.

At a minimum, qualified applicants must meet the following criteria: School administrators must demonstrate commitment and buy-in for implementation of RTI in their school. The school must have an RTI Leadership Team in place that meets regularly. Team members must have attended at least two New Hampshire DOE sponsored RTI trainings. The applicant school must have key features of RTI in place or have a plan with timeline to implement the key features of RTI: commitment to strengthen core to meet the needs of most of the students(80%); use data to drive instruction; progress monitor all students; and have a multi-tiered model of instruction.

The project timeline is from September of 2011 through June of 2013. A two year commitment is required for participating schools. Schools will be required to collect student data on a regular basis and allow staffs release time to attend RTI webinars, trainings and other project professional development activities. Schools will serve as demonstration sites for other NH schools to visit.

Schools that participate in the project will receive training from national experts through webinars, online trainings or onsite. Regular onsite technical assistance will be provided. Schools will receive training and be required to participate in a online data management system developed by NCRTI and have access to the data management system. Schools will also have access to the National RTI Center Resources.

The desired result of the project for pilot sites is to increase overall student outcomes .School staff will increase their knowledge and skill in implementing an RTI framework in their school. Schools may realize secondary benefits such as a decrease in referrals to special education and increase in the percentage of all students who achieve reading proficiency on statewide assessments.