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| Intervention & Referral Services |
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| **Frequently asked questions . . .**We have added this link for the use and convenience for district staff, interested members of the community, parents and students.**Why does the district have INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES?**New Jersey Administrative Code requires all school districts to have this service. The code is quoted below: 6A:16-8.1 Establishment of intervention and referral services(a) District boards of education shall establish and implement a coordinated system in each school building for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties and to assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students learning, behavior or health needs. District boards of education shall choose the appropriate multidisciplinary team approach for planning and delivering the services required under this subchapter.**What is the purpose of I&RS?*** Identify learning, behavior and health difficulties of students
* Collect thorough information on the identified learning, behavior and health difficulties
* Develop and implement action plans which provide for appropriate school or community interventions or referrals to school and community resources, based on the collected data and desired outcomes for the identified learning, behavior and health difficulties
* Provide support, guidance, and professional development to school staff who identify learning, behavior and health difficulties
* Provide support, guidance, and professional development to school staff who participate in each building's system for planning and providing intervention and referral services
* Actively involve parents or guardians in the development and implementation of intervention and referral services action plan

**How is I&RS similar to the Child Study Team?*** Both teams support teachers and students
* Both are comprised of professionally trained staff
* Both are regulated by statutes

**How is I&RS different from the Child Study Team?*** I&RS teams write Action Plans, based on teacher referrals and specific observable information. These plans are reviewed annually, at a minimum
* CST use test results to place students into different programs, such as resource centers, in-class support, self-contained, or alternative educational placements. Child Study Teams write Individualized Education Plans, or IEP's which are reviewed annually, at a minimum.
* Typically, an I&RS Team is comprised of the principal, guidance counselor, and teachers. Other specialized members, such as a reading specialist, occupational/physical/speech therapists, school psychologist, learning disabilities teacher consultant or the nurse may also participate
* Typically a Child Study Team is comprised of a school psychologist, a learning disabilities teacher consultant, and a social worker. Therapists, teachers, the nurse and counselors may also participate.

**What if I receive a letter indicating that the I&RS team will meet to discuss one of my students or my child?*** Your input as a parent is important to allow for the most effective and informed process to help the child
* If you disagree with the process, you may contact the principal or the District I&RS Director, but there are no due process rights with regard to Intervention and Referral Services; the school is permitted to conduct the meeting with or without parental support

**What typically happens at an I&RS meeting?*** Teams meet with teachers, parents and other staff who have made referrals and requested assistance from the team
* Information is collected prior to the meeting to help identify the primary strengths and weaknesses of the student in question
* A specific problem is identified, goals for the intervention period are selected and brainstorming of possible strategies are identified and selected by the teacher
* New Action Plans are created for new referrals; Strategies for the classroom and sometimes the parent or student are identified and actively monitored for successful implementation
* Students previously referred are discussed; collected data is analyzed and progress is reviewed. Recommendations are made for changes, if any, to existing Action Plans.
* Decisions to continue, modify or conclude any aspect of the intervention are made
* Child Study Team recommendations are discussed, if collected data on the interventions attempted supports it

**What types of issues are typically discussed?*** Academic concerns/lack of progress
* Health issues
* Behavior Issues
* Social & Emotional issues

**What if I need more information?**Any of these district employees will be able to give you more information:* Your child’s teacher
* Your child’s guidance counselor
* Building Principal
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