

SENATE, No. 445

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pennacchio

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Response to Intervention initiative in DOE to support and encourage school districts in implementation of Response to Intervention framework.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning the implementation of a Response to
2 Intervention framework by school districts and supplementing
3 chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and
9 establish an initiative to support and encourage the use of a
10 Response to Intervention framework by school districts to promote
11 the achievement of all students. The initiative shall include
12 dissemination of information and guidance to school districts
13 regarding the development and effective implementation of a
14 Response to Intervention framework as a methodology to identify
15 struggling learners, maximize student achievement, and reduce
16 behavioral problems. The initiative shall also include dissemination
17 of information and guidance to school districts regarding the
18 effective use of a Response to Intervention framework as a
19 methodology to identify students with specific learning disabilities
20 in accordance with the “Individuals with Disabilities Education
21 Act,” 20 U.S.C. s.1400 et seq.

22 b. The commissioner shall ensure that a Response to
23 Intervention framework implemented by a school district includes,
24 at a minimum, the following elements:

25 (1) high quality research-based instruction in the general
26 education setting;

27 (2) universal screening procedures to identify students at risk for
28 poor learning outcomes or behavioral challenges;

29 (3) multiple levels of evidence-based interventions that are
30 progressively more intense, based on the student’s responsiveness;
31 and

32 (4) continuous monitoring of student progress.

33 c. The commissioner shall make available technical assistance
34 and training to assist school districts in the implementation of a
35 Response to Intervention framework.
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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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40 STATEMENT
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42 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop and
43 establish an initiative to support and encourage the use of a
44 Response to Intervention (RTI) framework by school districts to
45 promote the achievement of all students. The initiative must
46 include the dissemination of information and guidance to school
47 districts regarding the development and effective implementation of

1 an RTI framework as a methodology to identify struggling learners,
2 maximize student achievement, and reduce behavioral problems.
3 The initiative also must include the dissemination of information
4 and guidance to school districts regarding the effective use of an
5 RTI framework as a methodology to identify students with specific
6 learning disabilities in accordance with the federal “Individuals
7 with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. s.1400 et seq.
8 State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:14-
9 3.5(c)12.(ii), consistent with the IDEA, expressly permit school
10 districts to utilize a response to intervention methodology to
11 identify students with specific learning disabilities. The initiative
12 established under the bill would assist districts in the use of RTI for
13 this and other purposes.

14 In addition, the bill requires the commissioner to ensure that an
15 RTI framework developed and implemented by a school district
16 includes, at a minimum, certain elements that are commonly
17 recognized as core components of any RTI model. These elements
18 include: (1) high quality research-based instruction in the general
19 education setting; (2) universal screening procedures to identify
20 students at risk for poor learning outcomes or behavioral
21 challenges; (3) multiple levels of evidence-based interventions that
22 are progressively more intense, based on the student’s
23 responsiveness; and (4) continuous monitoring of student progress.

24 Finally, the bill requires the commissioner to make technical
25 assistance and training available to assist school districts in
26 implementing an RTI framework.