

ASPIRE Conference 2009 "Big Idea": Begin with Tier 1

Questions to Consider at Tier 1

The overall message of the Conference was to focus time and resources on fine-tuning Tier 1 curriculum and instruction. The past several years most school districts have been making a concerted effort to remediate skill deficits and close the gap for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. However, districts are finding that these students often make up way more than 25% of their population. Despite the expenditure of a significant amount of resources and numerous Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions, districts are not meeting the needs of at-risk students or unable to maintain the level of service required. Keynote speaker Christine Malecki, Ph.D., offered the sinking ship analogy to explain..."While districts are working with students needing more support, more students are dropping from Tier 1 and need more! Ohh- there are holes in our Tier 1!! There are holes in our curriculum and instruction for all!!! A more effective solution...First, fix the holes in Tier 1. THEN using the research based intervention to help students who need it will be so much more effective and efficient."

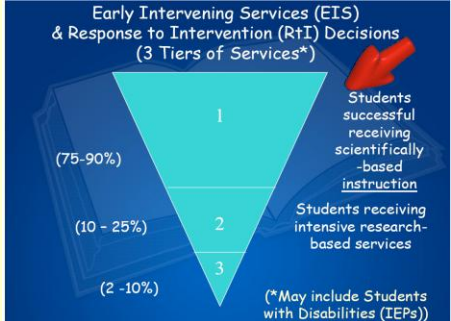


Keynote speaker, Linda Diamond from CORE-Consortium on Reading Excellence, Inc., recommended school districts evaluate Tier 1 instruction for rigor, quality, and adherence to research-based principles. Administrators and other school staff need to consider the following:

- Is the core, tier 1 program scientifically-validated?
- Are the teachers/staff adequately trained and supported?
- Do teachers have all necessary materials?
- Do teachers know how to differentiate within the Tier 1 Program and using the tier 1 provided supplemental materials?
- Is there adequate and protected instructional time?
- How are assessments used to inform instruction?
- Is there a data management system in place?
- Are you using both curriculum-specific and embedded tests as well as external progress monitoring measures?
- Select the program for students not for the adults!
- Assessment at least 3 times per year for benchmarking.

Flip that triangle upside down!

WEBSITES to Know:
Consortium on Reading Excellence
<http://www.corelearn.com/>
Doing What Works
<http://dww.ed.gov>
KU Center for Research on Learning
<http://www.kucrl.org/sim/>



Adapted from Linda Diamond