

# Did you know?

Did you know, our school can put supports in place if your son/daughter is having academic or behavior difficulty in school? Each school is required by New York State to have a Response to Intervention (RtI) policy in place for at least grades K-4.

The goal of RtI is to start helping students academically BEFORE they fall too far behind.

Even though our school has an RtI process in place it is our duty to inform all parents of their right to refer their child for an evaluation of special education services or program if they suspect their child may have a disability. If, at any time, you suspect your child may have a disability contact the Director of Special Programs, Sheila LaDouce, to submit a written request for an evaluation.

## Office of Special Programs

Sheila LaDouce

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## What is Response to Intervention (RtI)?

RtI is not a specific program or teaching method. It is a systematic way of measuring progress and providing more support to children who need it. RtI emphasizes:

- High quality, research based instruction for ALL students.
- Targeted intervention for students who need additional support.
- Using data to make instructional decisions.

## Why do some parents like RtI?

- Students continue to receive strong instruction in the general education classroom.
- Students can receive help before they fall too far behind.
- Data collected during the RtI process allows our school to increase levels of support, so if the first intervention does not work, your child's teacher can change the materials or strategies to something that meets your child's needs.
- Interventions are documented, so if your child is referred for special education services or programs, our school already knows which types of instruction have not been helpful for that child.

## **What are the benefits of RtI?**

- All students are assessed for their skills on a regular basis.
- It is proactive. Rather than taking a “wait and see” approach, students receive help as soon as there is evidence they are struggling.
- Additional supports are an add-on to, not instead of, the instruction students receive in the classroom.
- Students’ progress is monitored regularly to check for improvement or needs for adjustment to instruction.

## **How can I learn more about the RtI process at my child’s school?**

Here are some helpful questions you may want to ask your child’s teacher:

- What curriculum is being taught in my child’s class?
- What are the targeted interventions that you are using with students who struggle in the classroom?
- How will you determine if interventions are successful?
- How will you let me know when there are changes to my child’s intervention?
- What communication about RtI should I expect from the school?
- How can I be involved in supporting my child in the RtI process?

## **Union Springs Central School District**

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Union Springs, NY 13160

[www.unionspringscsd.org](http://www.unionspringscsd.org)

## **Helpful links**

A Parent’s Guide to Response to Intervention from the NY State Education Department:  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/RTI/rti-pamphlet.pdf>

The ABCs of RTI (Elementary Reading):  
[http://www.nysrti.org/docs/ABC\\_of\\_RTI.pdf](http://www.nysrti.org/docs/ABC_of_RTI.pdf)

Understanding Response to Intervention (NCLD):  
<http://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/rti/understanding-response-to-intervention>

What is RtI? (RtI Action Network):  
<http://www.rtinetwork.org/learn/what/whatisrti>

Special Education in New York State for Children Aged 3-21: A Parent’s Guide:  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/parentsguide.pdf>

**OR**

You can contact the Syracuse University Parent Assistance Center (SUPAC), your local Special Education Parent Technical Assistance Center. SUPAC provides parents of children with disabilities information, resources, and strategies on a variety of special education and disability-related topics.

Contact information

Phone: 315-443-4336  
Email: [supac@syr.edu](mailto:supac@syr.edu)  
Website: [www.supac.org](http://www.supac.org)