

Tenafly Public Schools

Intervention & Referral Services

A brief overview

Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) is an educational, building-based, decision-making team. I&RS increases effective instructional programs through collaborative problem solving and enhances existing methods of operation within the school. It seeks creative ways to optimize the use of available general education resources.

New Jersey Administrative Code: 6A:16-8.1

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 student 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

What are I &RS procedures?

1. A staff member or parent states concern regarding a student's performance.
The referring staff member must complete an Initial Request for Assistance/Prior Interventions Checklist.
2. Additional data will be collected from staff, school nurse, attendance and discipline.
3. A meeting will be scheduled with the appropriate personnel and parents.

Who serves on the I&RS Team?

- I&RS Coordinator
- Presenting staff member/and or teacher
- Child Study Team member
- Guidance counselor
- Nurse (when needed)
- Administrator
- Support staff (as appropriate or needed)

What types of recommendations are made by the I&RS Team?

Recommendations may range from in-class accommodations (such as seat changes, extra time on assignments, bathroom or snack breaks, focusing cues, positive reinforcement strategies, study guides, etc.) to more intensive recommendations, such as a Section 504 Plan or referral to the Child Study Team for full evaluation.

What is a Section 504 Plan?

A Section 504 Plan is a legal document falling under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The 504 Plan is designed to plan a program of instructional services to assist students with special needs who are in a regular education setting. A 504 Plan is not an IEP, as is required for special education students.

Who is eligible for a Section 504 Plan?

Section 504 defines a person as disabled if he or she has a mental or physical impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities. This includes caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, speaking, learning and working. When a condition does not substantially limit a major life activity, the individual does not qualify for special accommodations under Section 504.