Response to Intervention
Adoption Survey 2010
Executive Summary

In April 2010, Spectrum K12 School Solutions and leading education organizations including the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) conducted a web-based survey of K-12 district administrators to gauge the extent to which Response to Intervention (RTI) has been adopted and implemented. Where relevant, results from this survey have been compared to previous survey results (2007, 2008 and 2009) to identify adoption trends.

The survey was designed to determine:

1. How widely Response to Intervention (RTI) has been adopted in U.S. school districts and barriers to implementation.
2. The effectiveness of RTI implementation.
3. Funding for RTI.

The report that follows analyzes data from the 1,101 respondents, 761 of whom completed the entire survey in the period from March 18 through April 16, 2010. The margin of error for this survey is plus or minus 3.5% at the 95% confidence interval.

Key Findings

1. RTI Adoption

   a) RTI adoption and implementation levels have continued to rapidly rise (baseline figures from the 2007-2009 surveys) with 61.2% of respondents indicating they are currently either in full implementation or in the process of district wide implementation, up from 54% in 2009, 32% in 2008 and 24% in 2007. 47.9% indicated they have a formal RTI district implementation plan (e.g. NASDSE Blueprint).
1. RTI Adoption
   b) 55% of respondents report RTI implementation is being led through a unified effort between general education and special education.

Who initiated RTI implementation in your district?

- Director Special Education: 36%
- Superintendent: 11%
- Director Curriculum and Instruction: 10%
- Assistant Superintendent: 9%
- Director RTI/Intervention: 7%
- Director Title 1: 3%
- Director Testing and Assessment: 1%
- Other (please specify): 24%
Key Findings Continued

1. RTI Adoption
   c) RTI is being increasingly implemented across all grade levels and domain areas with the most significant increases in middle and secondary schools.

Areas RTI is currently implemented - Elementary Schools

- Reading: 90% (2010), 81% (2009)
- Math: 59% (2010), 49% (2009)
- Behavior: 48% (2010), 44% (2009)

Areas RTI is currently implemented - Middle Schools

- Reading: 67% (2010), 39% (2009)
- Math: 48% (2010), 26% (2009)
- Behavior: 42% (2010), 25% (2009)

Areas RTI is currently implemented - Secondary Schools

- Reading: 43% (2010), 19% (2009)
- Math: 34% (2010), 14% (2009)
- Behavior: 31% (2010), 18% (2009)

Areas RTI is currently implemented - Pre-K

- Reading: 52% (2010)
- Math: 28% (2010)
- Behavior: 31% (2010)
**Key Findings Continued**

1. RTI Adoption
   
   d) Across all grade levels, Reading remains the predominant domain area for which RTI has been implemented followed by Math and then Behavior except in Pre-K where Behavior is more common than Math.

   ![Bar chart showing RTI adoption by domain and grade level](chart_image)

   **Obstacles**

   e) The most frequently cited obstacles to implementing RTI include (1) Insufficient teacher training, (2) Lack of intervention resources, (3) Lack of resources for instruction and/or progress monitoring and (4) Lack of data, knowledge, skills to implement tracking and charting.

   ![Bar chart showing obstacles to RTI](chart_image)

2. RTI Effectiveness
   
   In respondent districts that had sufficient data to determine the impact of RTI, 76% indicated RTI has led to an improvement in Adequate Yearly Progress vs. 24% that indicated it has not. 87% indicated RTI has reduced the number of special education referrals.

3. RTI Funding
   
   RTI funding is coming from a variety of sources including General Funds, Title 1 and IDEA Early Intervening Services. ARRA Stimulus Funds have had an impact with 43% of respondents citing these funds as a source of RTI funding.
1. What stage is your district in with RTI implementation?

- Full implementation: 19%
- In process of district wide: 43%
- Piloting: 16%
- Planning: 14%
- Investigation: 7%
- Not considering: 2%

2. When do you anticipate RTI will be fully implemented and in daily use district wide if not currently?

- 2010-2011 school year: 26%
- 2011-2012 school year: 28%
- Don’t know: 40%
- Other (please specify): 6%

3. Does your district have a formal RTI district implementation plan?

- Yes (48%)
- No (52%)
4 To what degree is RTI incorporated into your district curriculum?

- Fully incorporated: 15%
- Partially incorporated: 69%
- Not incorporated: 16%

5 To what degree is RTI incorporated into district policy plans?

- Fully incorporated: 20%
- Partially incorporated: 60%
- Not incorporated: 20%

6 Is your district using RTI for:

- All students: 49%
- Identification of students for early intervening services and supports: 60%
- Identification of students for special education services: 41%
- Identification of students for specialized services and supports in addition to special education: 35%
7 What percentage of your district staff has been trained on RTI?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of district staff trained on RTI.

8 What percentage of schools in your district have school-based leadership teams responsible for the implementation of RTI at the school level?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of schools with school-based leadership teams.

9 Is the school-based leadership team responsible for:

- Evaluation and/or modification of Tier 1 interventions: 37% Sometimes, 38% Always
- Developing and evaluating Tier 2 interventions: 41% Sometimes, 40% Always
- Developing and evaluating Tier 3 interventions: 36% Sometimes, 38% Always
10. What percentage of schools in your district have school-wide RTI implementation plans (e.g. NASDSE Blueprint)?

11. Who is leading RTI implementation in your district?

12. Who initiated RTI implementation in your district?
13 For which grades and areas have you implemented RTI? (Check all that apply)

14 For which grades and areas do you plan to implement RTI? (Check all that apply)

15 Please indicate the academic implementation level(s) for the following RTI components in your district.
Please indicate the behavior implementation level(s) for the following RTI components in your district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Fully Implemented</th>
<th>Partially Implemented</th>
<th>Implementing in 2010-11</th>
<th>Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common screening assessment</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research-based behavioral interventions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments to monitor progress</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data used to guide decisions</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software to monitor progress</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving approach used</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTI process for behavior</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How significant an obstacle have the following been to implementing RTI?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obstacle</th>
<th>Somewhat an obstacle</th>
<th>Significant obstacle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient teacher training</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of intervention resources</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources for instruction and/or progress monitoring</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of data, knowledge, skills to implement tracking and charting</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support or direction from the state</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources for benchmarking/assessment and data analysis tools</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support from district leadership or staff</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Education Agency licensure/certification provisions</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate how effective the following solutions have been in mediating or eliminating RTI implementation obstacles?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Somewhat effective</th>
<th>Very effective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Monitoring Tool</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Achievement Management Software/data based decision making</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19. Please specify any other professional development areas that have been used in mediating or eliminating RTI implementation obstacles.

- Use of data to guide decisions for instruction and intervention: 48% somewhat effective, 40% very effective
- Interventions that address academic concerns: 52% somewhat effective, 35% very effective
- Progress monitoring: 51% somewhat effective, 35% very effective
- Establishment and use of collaborative teams: 48% somewhat effective, 37% very effective
- Initial training in RTI: 58% somewhat effective, 25% very effective
- Interventions that address behavior concerns: 47% somewhat effective, 19% very effective
- Identifying funding sources for RTI: 37% somewhat effective, 13% very effective

20. What is the maximum number of tiers you are using or planning to use in your RTI process?

- Four: 78%
- Three: 16%
- Two: 3%
- Other/not applicable: 3%

21. What students are served by your highest/most intensive tier of intervention? (Check all that apply.)

- Special education only: 68%
- English language learners: 37%
- Students who have not had an opportunity for instruction: 36%
- Other (please specify): 35%
22. Does your district have an evaluation plan in place to measure the impact of RTI? If so, in what areas?

- Student performance:
  - Plan to use: 38%
  - Use now: 42%
- Referral rates:
  - Plan to use: 42%
  - Use now: 33%
- School level of implementation:
  - Plan to use: 48%
  - Use now: 25%
- Student academic variables:
  - Plan to use: 45%
  - Use now: 24%
- Student behavior variables:
  - Plan to use: 49%
  - Use now: 15%
- Funding:
  - Plan to use: 33%
  - Use now: 8%

23. Has your RTI implementation led to an improvement in adequate yearly progress (AYP)?

- Yes: 16%
- No: 5%
- Insufficient data: 80%

24. To what extent has RTI reduced the number of referrals to special education?

- Reduced by more than 50%: 9%
- Reduced from 25% to 49%: 14%
- Reduced from 10% to 24%: 11%
- Reduced by less than 10%: 5%
- Has not reduced: 6%
- Insufficient data at this time: 55%
25 Has RTI been the focus of any of the following legal proceedings or official complaints in your district?

- Complaint: 7%
- Mediation: 2%
- Due process hearings: 2%
- None of the above: 91%

26 How is your district funding Response to Intervention? Check all that apply.

- General Funds: 57%
- Title 1: 52%
- IDEA Early Intervening Services: 31%
- ARRA Stimulus Funds: 43%
- Other (please specify): 20%

27 Was your district required by your state Department of Education to allocate the 15% of IDEA flow through funds for Early Intervening Services due to disproportionality?

- Yes (20%)
- No (80%)
28. If you are using IDEA Early Intervening Services funds, at what level are you participating?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%-14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%-9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%-5%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29. How does your district’s expenditures for RTI compare to its overall expenditures for special education? RTI expenditures are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Comparison</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 10% of special education expenditure</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5% and 10% of special education expenditure</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5% of special education expenditure</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30. Is your State Education Agency providing leadership and expanding support for local districts implementing RTI?

- Yes (49%)
- No (21%)
- Don’t know (30%)
31. What is your job title/function?

- Superintendent: 1%
- Title 1 Director: 2%
- Testing and Assessment Director: 3%
- Assistant superintendent: 4%
- Curriculum Director: 6%
- Special Education Leadership Team: 9%
- Special education director: 22%
- Other (please specify): 53%

32. Which of these best describes the type of community in which your district operates?

- Rural: 51%
- Suburban: 34%
- Urban: 15%
- West: 9%
- Midwest: 26%
- South: 52%
- Northeast: 13%