

In RtI, students receive help based on what they need. The more problems they are having with school, the more help they get. This system is usually referred to as a multi-tiered (or multi-level) model like the one below. Each tier (or level) receives more instruction than the one before. How much help a student gets depends on how he responds to the instruction he has received previously. As shown in the picture below, Illinois' RtI system has three tiers.

Tier 1

Tier 1 is what all students receive automatically in the classroom from their teacher. This is also known as "core instruction". In Tier 1, teachers try to reach each child at their level. To do this, teachers use a variety of lessons and activities.

Tier 2

Tier 2 gives students who are struggling more help on top of what they are getting in their classrooms. This is done in smaller groups of students. Tier 2 usually includes extra practice and teaching for students.

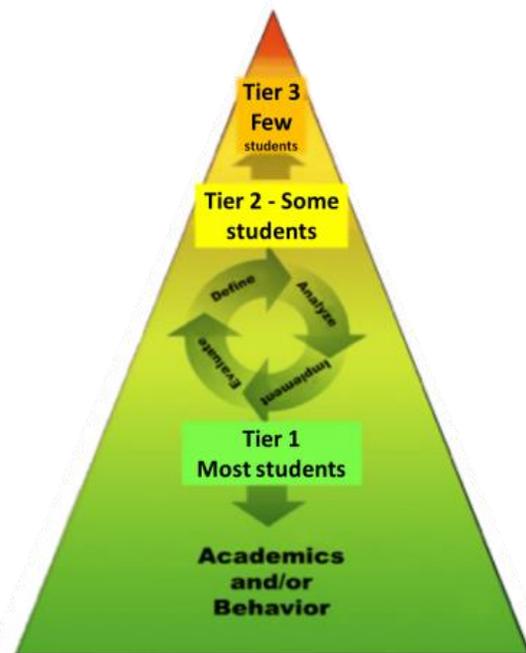
Tier 3

Tier 3 provides even more help and instruction than Tier 2 and the group of students is even smaller. This is the highest level of RtI. This help is given at a higher level of intensity than Tier 2 and is also *in addition to core instruction*. Tier 3 interventions are tailored specifically to meet the needs of each student.

Movement through the Tiers

Students may move back and forth through the tiers depending on how they respond to the help they are receiving. For example, a student can move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 and then back to Tier 1 within a relatively short period of time if they have responded well to the help they received in Tier 2.

It is important that students receive the types and levels of assistance they need WHEN they need them. So, children do not always move across the tiers in order. For example, a student who is struggling a lot may go straight to Tier 3 because he/she needs more help than what is given at Tier 2.



Family Matters is one of the Illinois Parent Training and Information Centers. Our mission is to build upon families' strengths, to empower parents and professionals to achieve the strongest possible outcomes for students with disabilities, and to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities. For more information, contact Family Matters at 866-436-7842 or on our website: <http://www.fmptc.org>. Stop in and visit us at 1901 S . 4th Street, Suite 209, Effingham, Illinois.

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