

SECTION I

LITERACY INITIATIVE UPDATE

During the (2007-2008, the District established universal, research-based instruction for all students in reading. In the context of our Response to Intervention (RTI) framework in the district, this represents Tier I of a three-tiered model for raising student achievement.

The Tier I implementation phase included instituting the structures of balanced literacy (a systematic phonemic awareness/phonics/word study block, explicit comprehension instruction in a Readers' Workshop block, exposure to rich and varied literature through an interactive read aloud block, identification of a dedicated time for writing, and a comprehensive assessment system) in all K-5 classrooms. This implementation was supported through literacy coaching and professional development workshops throughout the year.

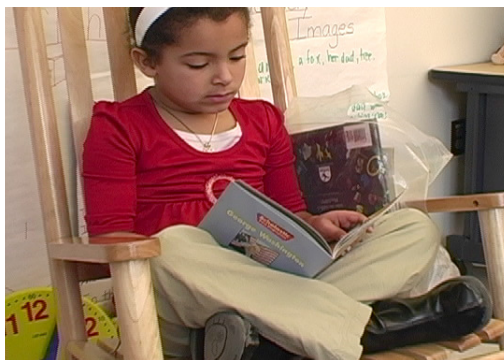
For the past year (2008-2009), the District outlined two new major goals to guide continued implementation of the Literacy Initiative:

- Implement Tier II of Response to Intervention (RTI) in all elementary schools
- Launch the Literacy Initiative at the secondary level

Goal 1: Implement Tier II of Response to Intervention (RTI) in Elementary Schools

In relation to this goal, the District has achieved the following successes this year throughout the District:

- Functional school-based RTI Teams in each elementary building.
- Intervention plans for watchlist students resulting from RTI Team meetings that indicate measureable, short-term targets and research-based intervention approaches.
- An RTI accountability system (online database) to log and monitor effectiveness of intervention plans.



A daily double dose of intervention for all general education watchlist students during which intervention plan components can be carried out.

An appropriate dosing of intervention for Tier III students (special education) in addition to universal instruction. Professional development around the structures and strategies most appropriate for intervention in Tiers I and II.

Goal 2: Launch the Literacy Initiative at the Secondary Level

In relation to this goal, the District has accomplished the following at the secondary level this year:

- Workshops that introduce secondary staff members to research-based literacy instruction.
- In-class modeling by Tufts partners presenting exemplars of explicit strategy instruction.
- Planning implementation of necessary resources and structures to support Tier I instruction (Readers' Workshop and Writers' Workshop) beginning in the fall.

Anticipated Goals for 2009-2010

Goals for the 2009-2010 school year include the following:

- Implementation of Writers' Workshop in all K-8 classrooms to complete roll-out of the balanced literacy model.
- Implementation of Foundations, a multisensory approach to phonemic awareness/phonics in K-2 classrooms.
- Refinement of RTI processes and intervention for Tiers I and II.
- Development of Tier III (special education) intervention approaches.

