

RtI: The Forgotten Tier

A Practical Guide for Building a Data-Driven Tier 1 Instructional Process

*An essential resource for teachers,
administrators, RtI teams, and Professional
Learning Communities who want to make
RtI work for all students.*

The great promise of RtI is the potential to reach and teach all students. That promise becomes a reality when the heart of an RtI system is a well-designed, Tier 1 program taught by well-prepared teachers who recognize the power of data to inform instruction. When all students receive good first instruction in such a system, the number of referrals for intervention goes down, proficient students maximize their learning, and gifted students grow intellectually.

Drawing on their experience with hundreds of educators, the authors offer a step-by-step process for constructing a strong Tier 1 curriculum, identifying the essentials of data-driven instruction, and analyzing instructional strategies that lead to good first instruction for all students. Real world examples and hands-on activities in every chapter help educators to:

- Realize the importance of a standards-based, logically sequenced Tier 1 curriculum to help students learn
- Understand the power of data to inform instruction before, during, and after teaching
- Recognize the relationship between cognitive preparation for teaching and student achievement
- Employ effective instructional practices
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of a school or district RtI system

Without strong Tier 1 instruction, RtI will become a system of never-ending interventions rather than excellent first instruction.

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