

MEMO TO: Title I Authorized Representatives/Coordinators/Teachers

FROM: Laurie Matzke, Director, Title I  
John Porter, Regional Coordinator, Special Education

DATE: August 2007

RE: Response to Intervention (RTI)

In North Dakota, and throughout the nation, we are seeing extraordinary interest in Response to Intervention (RTI). The Department of Public Instruction has had numerous inquiries on RTI initiatives. For this reason, the department's Title I office and Special Education office have generated guidance to help address questions and concerns with this issue.

A few years ago, a North Dakota RTI State Leadership Team was created to develop guidance and resources for school personnel. A website was created, which can be accessed at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/personnel/](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/personnel/). To access Title I specific information on RTI, log on to [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/response.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/response.shtm).

The State Title I office recently wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) asking for increased flexibility in interpreting Title I regulations to allow Title I teachers to work more collaboratively with classroom teachers in assisting struggling students. This flexibility would help schools coordinate Title I services with RTI and other initiatives within the classroom setting. To date, we have not received a response from the USDE. In addition, staff within the department participated in Senator Dorgan's Summer 2007 Task Force which generated recommendations for the federal reauthorization of the NCLB Act. Language was provided to Senator Dorgan's staff to try and get similar language from the Special Education reauthorization into our newly reauthorized law regarding early intervening services. Specifically, we are asking for additional flexibility to allow Title I teachers to intervene early on and provide services to struggling students not yet identified for Title I, similar to what the reauthorized IDEA law put into effect for Special Education.

There are numerous professional development opportunities available on the topic of RTI. The following list contains those in-services that we are aware of happening this fall: (go to their websites for more information)

- September 21, 2007 – North Dakota Association of School Psychologists (NDASP) [www.ndasp.org/](http://www.ndasp.org/)
- September 25 – 26, 2007 – North Dakota Council of Administrators of Special Education (NDCASE) [www.casecec.org/](http://www.casecec.org/)
- September 26 – 27, 2007 – North Dakota Curriculum Initiative (NDCI) <http://ndcurriculuminitiative.org/>
- October 5, 2007 – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Special Education/Title I [www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/general/events.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/speced/general/events.shtm)
- October 18, 2007 – North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL) <http://ndcel.org/>
- October 19, 2007 – North Dakota Education Association (NDEA) <http://nd.nea.org/>

If you have any questions pertaining to Title I and RTI, contact Laurie Matzke at [lmatzke@nd.gov](mailto:lmatzke@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2284.

If you have questions pertaining to RTI and Special Education, contact John Porter at [jmporter@nd.gov](mailto:jmporter@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2714.

CC: Special Education Directors