

EDUCATION NEWS

Crisis Point: The State of Literacy in America

By The Room 241 Team • March 5, 2018

The United States is facing a literacy crisis. Yes, crisis. It isn't new, but its impacts upon our kids, our economy, and our society are far-reaching and expanding. How bad is it? Take a look at some numbers.



There are the consequences for our children

- More than 30 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level. — *ProLiteracy*

- Children whose parents have low literacy levels have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out. — *National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)*

HECHINGER REPORT

Math Achievement:

U.S. Math Education is Broken

If the United States is going to remain economically competitive and a leader in new technologies, the capacity of its high school and college graduates to do math must improve. Two decades of international comparisons show that the longer American students are in school, the further they fall behind their counterparts in other developed nations. [William Schmidt, a Michigan State University professor](#) who studies how U.S. students match up against those in other countries, says most American eighth-graders cannot do relatively simple tasks – such as add fractions – that students in other countries master by fourth grade.

What is RTI²? How Can It Help Improve Literacy and Mathematics?

Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) is a general education program to support student academic growth by allowing them to receive additional, specialized instruction in specific areas of reading, writing and math needing improvement. The [Tennessee Department of Education](#) considers Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) as an important focus area for the success of the state's strategic plan, Tennessee Succeeds and the statewide Read to be Ready campaign, which hinges on refining RTI² to improve learning outcomes for all students. As a result, [Shelby County Schools](#) is dedicated to implementing this RTI² initiative to ensure students receive the instructional supports they need to meet the district goal toward making sure that students are college and career ready upon graduation.



Key Components of RTI²

- ◆ High quality curriculum and instruction in your child's general education classroom (Tier I)
- ◆ Universal Screening to determine performance and progress that will identify who needs help.
- ◆ Intervention to match your child's area of need in reading, writing and mathematics. (Tier II and Tier III)
- ◆ Progress Monitoring to determine your child's success.
- ◆ Parents receive monthly reports on their child's progress monitoring results, goals and best practices to help at home.
- ◆ To support your child, there is a district and school level RTI² Team available to answer questions, just contact your child's school.

What Support will RTI² Provide for Your Child?

Your child will receive quality core instruction, targeted group Interventions and/or intensive, Individual Interventions. Here's how it looks:

Tier I - Core Instruction

- All Students
- Preventive and proactive



Tier II - Targeted Group Interventions

- Aligned to reading, writing and/or math deficits
- High efficiency (Explicit Small Group Instruction)
- Rapid Response



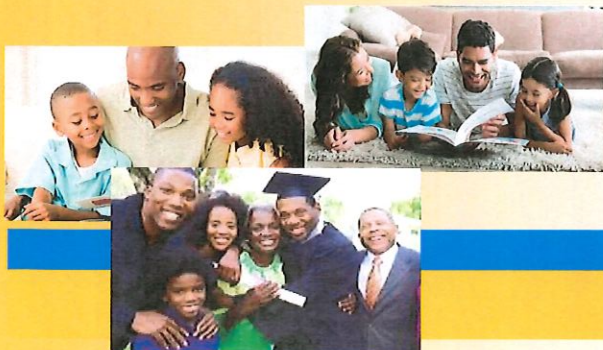
Tier III—Intensive, Individual Interventions

- Individual students
- Researched based/ Assessment-based
- High Intensity explicit face to face support
- Extended time and support during intervention



How Can I Help My Child and Support What They are Teaching

- ◇ Make reading an everyday habit at home, schedule time. (Have Fun!)
- ◇ Communicate with your child's teacher.
- ◇ Monitor and assist with homework.
- ◇ Review information sent home from the school (progress monitoring data) and ask questions if you need help understanding the report.
- ◇ Celebrate and share in your child's success.
- ◇ Learn more about the curriculum and intervention services your child is receiving
- ◇ Attend parent/teacher conferences.
- ◇ Ask your child's teacher for specific ways you can work with your child at home to support what they are learning in RTI² and the classroom.



Parent Resources

- www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/rti/#families
- www.rti4success.org/essential-components-rti
- **Additional information from the Tennessee Department of Education**
 - www.tnspdg.com/literacy
 - www.edutoolbox.org/
 - www.tn.gov/education/topic/tdoe2-rti-family

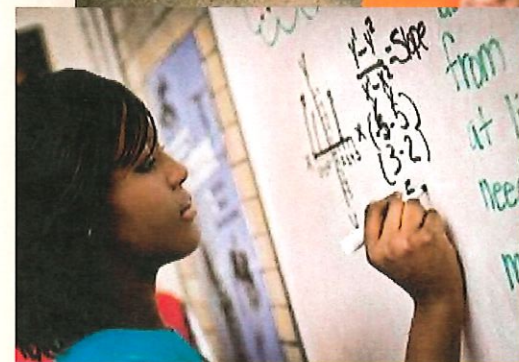
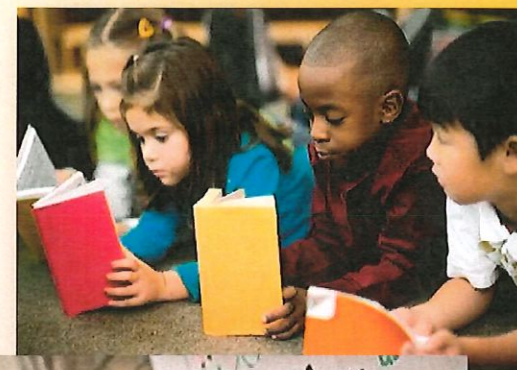


RTI² is On Target for Success!

For More information on RTI², contact your child's school

Shelby County Schools offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, creed, age, disability, national origin, or genetic

Response to Intervention? Helping your Child Succeed!



RTI² Can Support Your Child to Enhance their Reading, Writing and Mathematics Skills in K through 12 instruction.



Department of Curriculum and Instruction-RTI²