



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

Response to Intervention Introduction Letter
Grades K-5

August 2025

Dear K-5 Families,

Rockford Public Schools is committed to ensuring all students learn at high levels. An important part of our commitment is implementing a comprehensive Response to Intervention (RtI) process to help students develop and increase their literacy skills.

RtI is a structured, multi-tiered approach to help identify and support struggling students by providing high-quality direct instruction and intervention. This approach includes implementation of priority reading standards for content, identification of concepts and skills for student proficiency, and the utilization of assessment data to analyze student progress. RtI is a process to respond in a timely, targeted, and systematic way when students demonstrate the need for intervention. The RtI process includes the following steps:

❖ **Step 1: Universal Screening and Assessment**

Universal screening for all students will be conducted three times per year (fall, winter, spring) in grades K-5. Common grade level reading assessments will be administered frequently within our CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) units. These assessments will monitor student progress and identify student proficiency in comparison to grade level expectations.

❖ **Step 2: Analyzing Assessment Data**

Collaborative teams including your child's classroom teacher, principal, instructional coach, reading interventionist, resource room teacher, speech and language pathologist, and school psychologist will meet to analyze performance on multiple assessments. This information will determine specific instructional interventions for grade level content and/or prerequisite reading skills.

❖ **Step 3: Instruction and Intervention**

The RtI process uses a multi-tiered system of reading instruction and intervention. Each tier has instructional support structures or interventions that help teachers implement research-based curriculum, instructional practices and interventions to improve student achievement.

- **Tier I Instruction** for all students with grade level reading instruction.
- **Flex Time Intervention** for targeted student needs in the classroom with reteaching or extension of grade level content from priority reading standards.
- **Tier III Intervention** for students needing direct, intensive literacy intervention for skills well below current grade level benchmarks.

Additionally, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Reading Law in 2016 to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level. In accordance with this law, the Rockford RtI process will be providing the required assessments, the identification process for students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention, and the instruction to meet individual student needs. The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students who are not meeting proficiency targets in reading.

If your child is in grades K-3 and not meeting benchmark through universal screening, classroom assessments, and flex time interventions, we will be contacting you with further information regarding Tier III interventions. Communication will include information about additional services provided for identified students with an Individualized Reading Plan (IRP) and strategies for you to help your child at home (a Read-At-Home Plan) if applicable.

Rockford Public Schools focuses on literacy throughout the school day, but we still need your support. Family engagement plays a vital role in a child's success as a reader. We look forward to building a partnership with you to develop successful and lifelong readers. If you have further questions regarding the RtI process, please contact your building principal and/or your child's classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Michael Ramm

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Rockford Public Schools

Mindy Duba

Director of Special Services
Rockford Public Schools

Sharon Wells

Director of Literacy
Rockford Public Schools

