

## KENTUCKY SCHOOL UPDATES

# EXTRA SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING: KENTUCKY'S SYSTEM OF INTERVENTIONS & EXTENDED SCHOOL SERVICES

## OVERVIEW

Kentucky's goal of college and/or career readiness for all students calls for special help for students with different or unique learning needs, addressed by Kentucky's System of Interventions (KSI) and Extended School Services (ESS). KSI focuses on specific strategies, teaching skills and meeting individual student needs while ESS provides the resources for additional time for instruction and interventions. Students needing extra supports may be falling behind, may need behavioral interventions or may need support to move more rapidly and to even higher learning levels.

## KENTUCKY SYSTEM OF INTERVENTIONS

Kentucky's System of Interventions is focused on closing achievement gaps, assuring student readiness to learn at all levels and assuring students have a smooth transitions from preschool to elementary, to middle school, to high school and then college or career through skill development and transfer of student information. Strategies to meet these goals include:

- accelerated learning for students who need to move more rapidly and at higher levels
- efforts to ensure highly effective teaching and learning, giving teachers the skills and knowledge necessary to meet these learning needs and
- Response to Intervention, a process focusing on individual student needs and strategies or interventions necessary to meet those needs with teachers and parents.

Response to Intervention is described by the level of student academic need and is categorized by three tiers: Tier 1 represents instruction and support for all students, Tier 2 represents additional support that should be received by up to 15% of all students, and Tier 3 the most intense set of interventions received by up to 5% of the total student population. Response to Intervention does not replace the special education identification and eligibility process, however it does help to more accurately identify students in need of special education services.

Families play a critical role in using this system to improve outcomes for students. There should be ongoing two-way communication with regular reports on student progress and strategies both school and home can use to support students.

For a helpful guide and a more detailed description of this system search [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov) for Kentucky System of Interventions or directly at:

<http://education.ky.gov/educational/int/ksi/Pages/default.aspx>

## EXTENDED SCHOOL SERVICES

### THE BASICS OF THE LAW



- Extended School Services (ESS) are designed to provide **additional instruction to help struggling learners** succeed in school. These services take place outside the regular school day with one exception. School districts may request permission through a waiver process from the Kentucky Board of Education to use ESS funds for programs during the school day.
- Each school is required to provide extended school services to meet student learning needs and receives state monies for this program.
- Extended School Services programs take many forms including after-school instruction, evening sessions, Saturday activities, daytime programs, or summer programs. Times may vary, depending on student needs. If a school has a daytime program waiver, ESS may be offered during the school day. Support services such as transportation should be provided as necessary.
- The Extended School Services program should focus on: enhancing the performance of students who are having difficulty in one (1) or more content areas; providing extended programming for students who have been retained or who are at risk of being retained in a class or grade or of failing to graduate on time or dropping out. ESS should also focus on closing the achievement gap of low-performing students so they reach performance levels of students their age.
- The instructional program for extended school services must include:
  - An assessment of the most important educational needs of each student and learning expectations for students by the end of the program
  - An educational program or plan for each student with timelines for the program goals
  - An ongoing method of assessing student progress toward meeting the learning goals
  - A schedule of services to be provided
  - Teaching techniques that provide support and continuity with the regular school program.
- Eligibility for these programs is determined by the district, based on students' needs for additional time to meet performance goals of the regular classroom. Districts should see that students with the greatest need are referred and served first.
- ESS cannot be used to discipline students.

### WHAT'S NEW

- ➔ State funding for Extended School Services has declined dramatically in recent years, and inflation has further eroded the buying power of the funding that is still available.

<b>State Budget Funding for Extended School Services (in Million of Dollars)</b>	
2007-08	31.9
2008-09	13.2
2009-10	13.2
2010-11	12.8
2011-12	12.6
2012-13	12.3
2013-14	12.3
<i>Source: State Budget Bills (Does not include reductions made by orders from the Governor)</i>	

## WHAT TO EXPECT

-  Expect schools and districts to be very careful in deciding which students receive ESS services and how the funds are used as they work to reach college/career readiness for all students.
-  Schools and districts will be using the Kentucky System of Interventions to design instructional programs to strategically meet the needs of each student in order to reach college and/or career readiness.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- ★ **Talk** with students and parents about how schools are working to help struggling students and close gaps as well as help stronger students move more rapidly and at higher levels of achievement in your district.
- ★ **Ask** your school council members how data is used to identify students for these programs, establish goals and follow up to see that student learning is improving.
- ★ If your school has a PTA/PTO/PTSA, **ask** how it can help support these strategies.
- ★ **Volunteer** to be a teacher's aide or tutor in an extended school services program.
- ★ **Write** to your elected officials with examples of successes and weaknesses in ESS. See chapter on parent involvement for information on contacting state legislators.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

**Kentucky Department of Education**, Extended School Services, Kentucky System of Interventions or Response to Intervention at 502-564-4970 or [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov) (Search for Extended School Services, Kentucky System of Intervention or Response to Intervention)

**Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence**, [admin@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:admin@prichardcommittee.org) or [www.prichardcommittee.org](http://www.prichardcommittee.org), (859) 233-9849 or 271 West Short Street, Suite 202, Lexington, KY 40507