

Pre-Referral Intervention

In Pennsylvania, elementary-aged students who experience academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and/or communication difficulties may have access to instructional support in regular education. Pre-referral Intervention is not special education nor a direct service. Pre-Referral Intervention is an optional program within school districts.

PURPOSE

Pre-referral Intervention serves as one mechanism for screening students who may be eligible for special education based on the severity and degree of need. Pre-referral Intervention serves as a bridge between regular education and special education. Parents can also request a special education evaluation.

GOAL

To maximize individual student success in the regular classroom.

The TEAM:

1. is composed of:
 - the principal or designees,
 - the support teacher,
 - the student's teacher in all cases, and
 - other school personnel as needed.
2. provides the following services for teachers:
 - consultation,
 - technical assistance,
 - training to teachers and parents of identified students regarding successful interventions.

After completion of the classroom intervention (no longer than a 60 day period), Pre-referral Intervention:

1. analyzes the student's progress; and
2. decides either to refer the student for a multidisciplinary evaluation or to continue successful strategies in the classroom.

Pre-referral Intervention activities do not bar the right of a parent to request, at any time, a multi-disciplinary evaluation of the child.

This information is provided by the PARENT EDUCATION NETWORK (PEN); 2107 Industrial Highway; York, PA 17402; 800-522-5827; pen@parentednet.org. It is not intended to provide legal advice PEN is funded as a Parent Training & Information Center by the US Department of Education. No official endorsement of the content is implied.