Vision: Every child in every district receives the instruction that they need and deserve...every day.

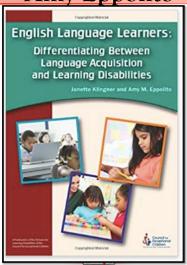
# English Learners with Learning Disabilities in an RTI System

Nicole Kaye, ORTIi Implementation Coach Sally Helton, ORTIi Implementation Coach



# What's your role? SPED Teacher School Psych Admin Classroom Teacher Did you attend the Using RTI for Initial SLD Eligibility Training?

# Thanks to Janette Klingner and Amy Eppolito



### Purpose

- Highlight key considerations for each step of the SLD eligibility evaluation process for English Learners in an RTI System:
  - Low skills
  - Slow progress
  - Instructional need
  - Exclusionary factors



## Keep in mind...

- This presentation is NOT intended as a comprehensive nor exhaustive resource on supporting EL students, but is intended as a initial guide and resource.
- This presentation builds on an earlier session ("Using RTI for Determining Initial SLD Eligibility") that contains an overview of the comprehensive evaluation process



# Numbers of Note 2% 10%-25% ELL students 5%-9.9% ELL students 0%-4.9% ELL students

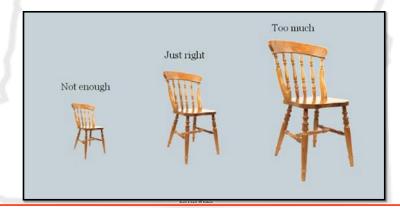
### **Key Ideas**

- There is NO ABSOLUTE in SLD Determination. It is always about pulling together information and looking at it in a continuum with a team.
- A key question throughout is the ability to separate cultural and linguistic differences from true disabilities.



# Finding the 'right' support!

It's critical that we identify students appropriately. RTI provides the process and framework to do this.





### Why is this an issue?



"At least they will get some help"

- If ELs are failing in general ed., there MAY be harm in placing them in special ed. IF:
  - Unwarranted services and supports
  - Inadequate teacher preparation to support ELs
  - Student lose access to language instruction
  - False impression of the child's intelligence and academic potential

# Identify the 'right' students

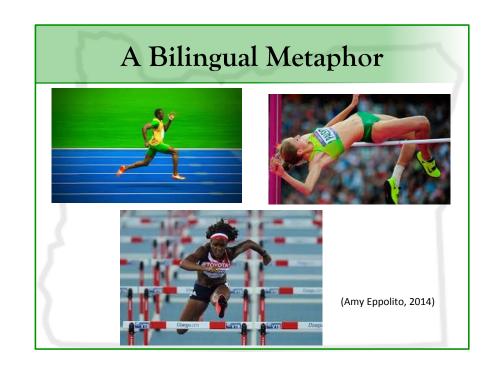
• Some ELLs truly *do* have LD and would benefit from the extra support they would receive in special education.



### Reasons EL Students Struggle

- Insufficient English language development support in their learning/teacher environment
- Other difficulties: (interrupted schooling, limited formal education, medical problems, low attendance, high transiency, etc.)
- Truly have a disability and deserve Special Education

• (Artiles & Ortiz, 2002)



Reach & Touch All Studen

# Level of Proficiency Years Conversational Proficiency Figure 3-1 Length of time required to achieve age-appropriate levels of conversational and academic language proficiency. Cummins, J. 1989. Empowering Minority Students.

### Getting to Know your EL Students

- Language (native)
- Level of native language proficiency
- Level of English language proficiency
- Length of time in school
- Length of time in country
- Family Context
- Acculturation

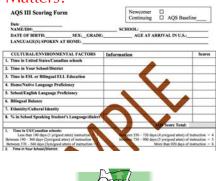




### Acculturation

Acculturation: the process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group.

### WHY THIS Matters?



### Remember, RTI support includes:

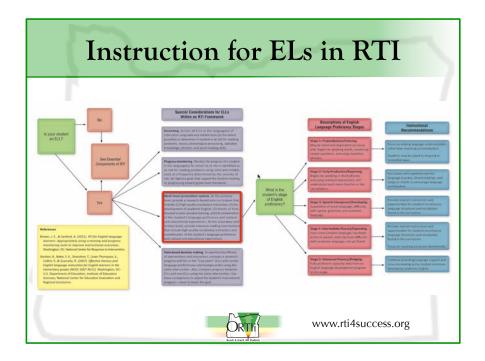
- Developing and following decision rules and supports *specifically* for ELs BEFORE a referral
  - SIOP in core
  - ELD instruction (in addition to core)
  - Universal screening (in language of instruction)
  - Evidence based interventions (at least 3 sessions)
  - Decision rules specific to ELs (for example, longer intervention session length)
  - Progress monitoring (in language of instruction and English)
  - Parents informed throughout process



### Through Each Tier

• The team, including the EL Specialist, compares the student's growth against peers.





### Multi-Level Prevention System

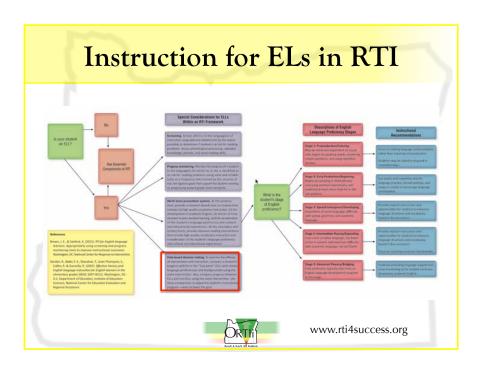
- At the Primary level, provide a research-based core curriculum that includes
  - 1.high quality vocabulary instruction
  - 2. The development of academic English
  - 3. Blocks of time devoted to peer-assisted learning
  - 4. Consideration of the student's language proficiency and cultural and education experiences



## Multi-Level Prevention System

- At the secondary and tertiary levels
- 1. Provide intensive reading interventions that include
  - high-quality vocabulary instruction and
  - consideration of the student's language proficiency and cultural and educational experiences.



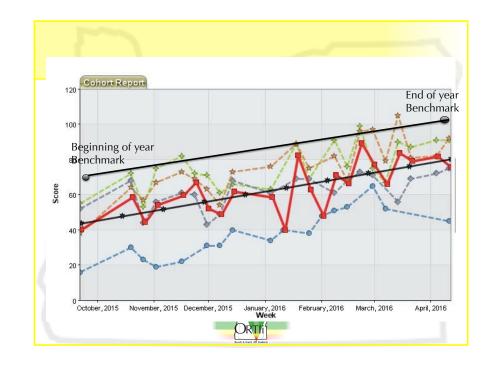


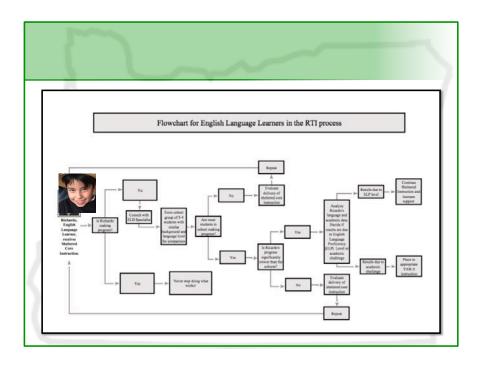
### **Data-Based Decision Making**

- To examine the efficacy of interventions and instruction
  - Compare a student's progress with his or her "true peers" (ELs with similar language proficiencies and backgrounds) using the same intervention
  - Compare progress between ELs and non-ELs using the same intervention
  - Use these comparisons to adjust the student's instructional program – Never to lower the goal!











# Ricardo, English Learner receives Sheltered Core Instruction

If Ricardo is not making progress

- Consult with ELD Specialist
- Form cohort group of 3 to 4 students with similar background and language level for comparison
  - If most of the students in the cohort are <u>not</u> making progress, evaluate and enhance delivery of the sheltered core instruction



# Ricardo, English Learner receives Sheltered Core Instruction

- If most of the students in the cohort are making progress but Ricardo isn't
  - Analyze Ricardo's language and academic data and decide if results are due to EL Proficiency (ELP) Level or academic Challenge

**ELP:** Continue sheltered instruction and increase support

Academic: Place in appropriate Intervention

### In RTI

We assess the instructional program prior to assessing the child.

If "true peers" are thriving in core, then it's likely the instruction is appropriate.

# Remember in RTI we focus on The ICE: • Instruction • Curriculum Environment

Throughout all Tiers!

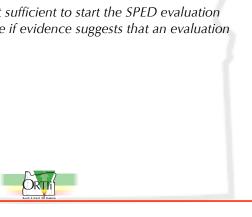


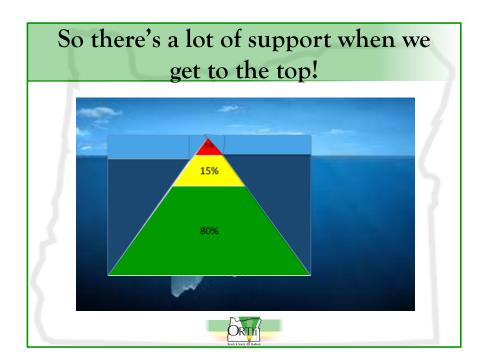


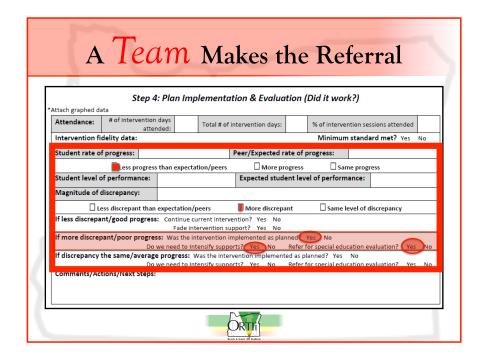
# If student is still struggling

- Team referral
- Parent referral\*

\*Parent referral alone is not sufficient to start the SPED evaluation process – team may decline if evidence suggests that an evaluation is not warranted





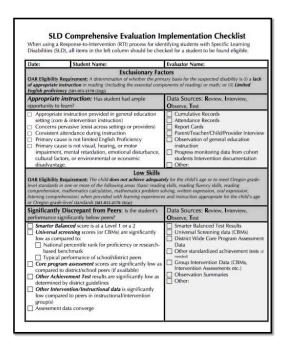


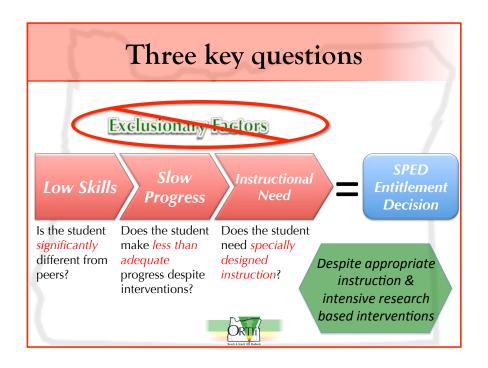
## Before you begin

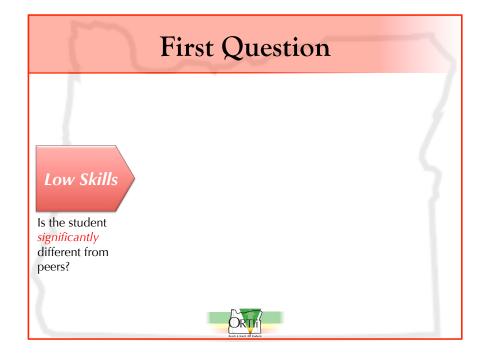
- Gather information
  - Parent input (make them comfortable, have translator, background information)
  - Acculturation data
  - Language Level
  - Assessment Data previously collected
  - Progress monitoring data



### Guidelines for Comprehensive Evaluation







# Low Skills: Is the student significantly different from peers?

OAR Eligibility Requirement: The child does not achieve adequate level standards in one or more of the following areas (basic reading comprehension, mathematics calculation, mathematics problem sc listening comprehension) when provided with learning experiences or Oregon grade-level standards [581-015-2170 (3)(a)]	g skills, reading fluency skills, reading olving, written expression, oral expression,
Significantly Discrepant from Peers performance significantly below peers?	Data Sources: Review, Interview, Observe, Test
□ Smarter Balanced score is at a Level 1 or a 2     □ Universal screening scores (or CBMs) are significantly low as compared to:     □ National percentile rank for proficiency or research-based benchmark     □ Typical performance of school/district peers     □ Core program assessment scores are significantly low as compared to district/school peers (if available)     □ Other Achievement Test results are significantly low as determined by district guidelines     □ Other Intervention/Instructional data is significantly low compared to peers in instructional/intervention group(s)  Assessment data converge	☐ Smarter Balanced Test Results ☐ Universal Screening data (CBMs) ☐ District Wide Core Program Assessment Data ☐ Other standardized achievement tests (if needed) ☐ Group Intervention Data (CBMs, Intervention Assessments etc.) ☐ Observation Summaries ☐ Other:

## **Evaluating Low Skills**

Low Skills

How far behind are they?

How do they compare to their peers? despite...

...being provided with appropriate learning experiences & instruction



### **HOW** do we Evaluate Low Skills?

Low Skills

Is the student *significantly* different from age and grade level *peers*?

Is the student significantly different from age and grade level standards?

Percentile Rank

(ex. 6<sup>th</sup> percentile)

Discrepancy Ratio

(ex. 50% of expected level of performance)

Or

Low Performance (ex. SBAC Level 1 or 2)

### WHAT data do we use?

Universal Screener



Curriculum Assessments

Individual Diagnostic Assessments Achievement Tests

Use multiple data sources Start with existing data

Percentile Rank

Discrepancy Ratio



### Determine Expected Performance

Data	Expected Performance
Universal Screener	Performance in Average range Benchmark/Standard
SBAC	At least Level 3
	Grade level performance & criteria set by district or school
Achievement Tests	Average Range (above 25 <sup>th</sup> percentile)



# Curriculum & Individual Diagnostic Assessment

- How far behind is the student?
  - -What are the skill deficits?
- Is the curriculum & instruction at the appropriate level for the student to learn?
  - What is the student's instructional level?
    - Mastery, instructional, frustration
- Helps rule out lack of appropriate instruction & useful for instructional planning



# Determining Significantly Low Performance

	Guidelines for Signficantly Low									
Data	How do they compare to their peers?	How far behind are they?								
Universal Screener	Significantly below average on National & Local Norms (15 <sup>th</sup> percentile or lower)	Discrepancy Ratio around 50% or less								
SBAC	Significantly below average	Level 1 or 2								
Curriculum & Individual Diagnostic Assessments		Significantly below peers								
Achievement Tests	15 <sup>th</sup> percentile or lower									

<sup>\*</sup>Disclaimer: These criteria are meant to provide general guidance but should not be used as rigid cutscores

# Distinguishing Low Skills with EL Students

 Evaluation teams must consider how language and cultural factors may be impacting a student's academic skill attainment.



Reading Component	Potential Challenges for ELs
Phonological Awareness	When the student's first language doesn't include some English phonemes:  • Student is not accustomed to hearing these sounds  • Can be quite difficult to distinguish between sounds  • Pronouncing new sounds can be difficult  • Phonological tasks in general become more challenging
Alphabetic Principle	Some orthographics are very different from English. Even when they are similar, differences can be confusing  • Letters might look the same but represent different sounds  • Unfamiliar English sounds & their various spellings make decoding difficult  • Not knowing the meaning of words limits the EL reader's ability to use context clues
Fluency	ELs typically have fewer opportunities to read aloud in English and receive feedback than their English speaking peers • ELs may read more slowly, with less understanding
Klingner & Eppolito 2	014

### SLD Evaluation Decision Making Form

### Low Skills?

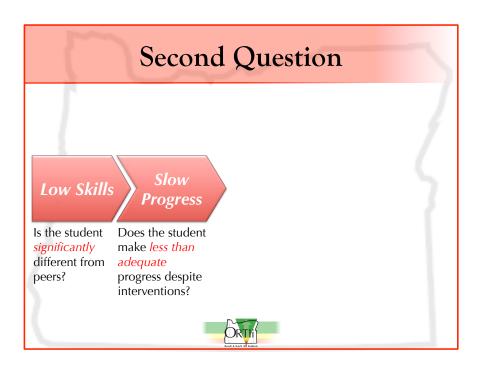
Questions	Evidence from Assessments/Score	Low?	Discrepant from Peers?			
Does the student exhibit LOW	CBM Screening assessments:	National Norms Y N	Y N > 2.0 discrepant 1.1- 1.9 discrepant < or = 1.0 Discrepant			
SKILLS?		Local Norms Y N	Y N			
Core: Intervention: Individual Di	Curriculum assessments: Core:	Y N	Y N			
	Intervention:	Y N	Y N			
	Individual Diagnostic Assessments:	Y N	Y N			
	SBAC:	Y N	Y N			
	Achievement Tests:	Y N	Y N			
	Other:	Y N	Y N			
		Pattern of Low Skills?	Y N			
Additional Information Needed?		rattern of LOW Skills?	I N			

Behaviors Associated with LD	Behaviors When Acquiring L2
Difficulty carrying out a series of directions, generally because of poor short-term memory or a lack of attention	Difficulty carrying out a series of directions because the directions were not well understood. IT can be harder to remember directions in a second language.
Difficulty with phonological awareness even though the student knows the sounds.	Difficulties distinguishing auditory between unfamiliar sounds not in one's first language, or that are in a different order than in the first language.
Slow to learn sound- symbols correspondence; may seem to know letters' sounds one day but not the next	Confusion with sound-symbol correspondence when it is different than in one's first language. Difficulty pronouncing sounds not in the first language.
Difficulty remembers sight words; may know word one day but not the next.	Difficulty remembering sight words when word meanings are not understood. "or when irregular patterns are used (ex: EA can have both the long e and short e sounds)".
Difficulty retelling a story in sequence. This may be because of poor short-term memory or retrieval skills.	Difficulty retelling a story in English without the expressive skills to do so. Yet the student might understand more than he or she can convey (receptive skills vs expressive skills).

Klingner et al (2008)

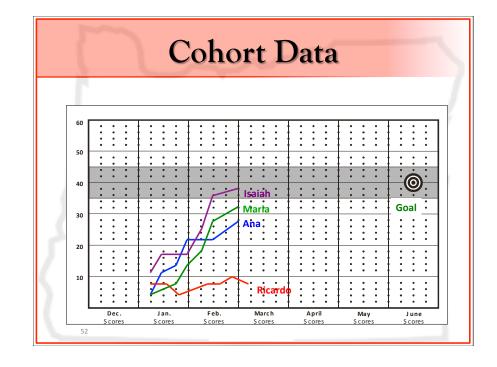
# Is there a pattern of low skills?

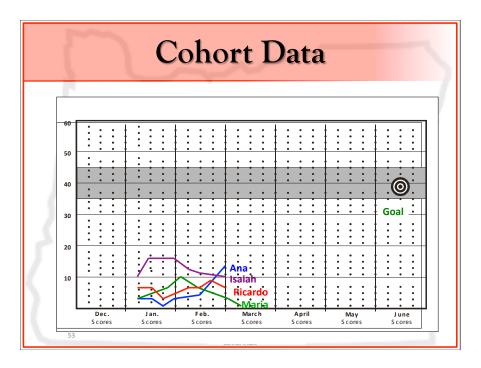
Question	ı	Evidence from Assessment/Score Low?									
Does the student	CBM/Scre	eening & Progress Monitoring: ive	YN	Y N							
exhibit LOW SKILLS?	Core Prog 40% aver	ram: age, class average 90%	YN	Y N							
o220v	Interventi Passed 65	YN	Y N								
	SBAC: Did not m	neet (8 <sup>th</sup> %ile)	YN	Z							
	Achievem 29th %ile subtests (S	Y N	Y N								
	Other: Pho Survey Lev below	N N	Y N								
	Preponderance of Evidence? (Y) N										
Additional Information	Additional Information Needed?										



### Slow Progress: Does the student make inadequate progress despite intervention? standards based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention [581-015-2170 (3)(b)] Slow Progress Despite Interventions: Is the student Data Sources: Review, Interview, Observe, making slower than expected progress when appropriate instruction is provided? Slow Progress.. Cumulative Records Rate of progress during intervention is significantly less Report Cards Progress Graph Student Rate of Improvement (ROI) is less than Intervention Plan Intervention Fidelity Data typical student ROI Student Rate of Improvement (ROI) is less than Problem Analysis/Diagnostic Data needed to close the gap between student Instructional Program Data Parent/Teacher/Child/Provider Interview performance and typical/benchmark performance Student Rate of Improvement (ROI) is less than that Interview Interventionist of district/school peers Observation during intervention Student Rate of Improvement (ROI) is less than that of peers receiving similar intervention support .Despite Research-Based Interventions Tier 2/Tier 3 instruction meets requirements of time & intensity Tier 2/Tier 3 instruction matched to student needs Tier 2/Tier 3 instruction provided as designed (fidelity) Resources required to support sufficient growth differ

### How much progress is enough? In order to answer know how much progress is enough, we need to compare Rates of Improvement (ROI's): **Attained ROI** Actual growth of the target student as compared to **Typical ROI** Expected growth of a student who starts the year at benchmark and remains at benchmark through Winter and Spring Growth needed for the student to meet the end-of-**Targeted ROI** vear benchmark **Peer ROI** Growth of students receiving the same instruction as the target student





# Comparisons

Comparison	ROI (WCPM/week)
Targeted ROI	1.77
Peer ROI (Intervention Group)	1.4
Peer ROI (Similar ELL)	1.25
Peer ROI (All District)	1
Attained ROI	0.9
Typical ROI	0.83
Each & Yan Alf Malan	



### Calculating Rates of Improvement (ROIs) **Directions and Formulas**



### Step 1: Determine the beginning performance and ending performance

- For the Target Student this can be done using the student's benchmark score(s), or the median of the most recent 3 progress monitoring scores
- For a Comparison Group (e.g. district/school, intervention group, or ELL Cohort), this can be done by taking the average beginning and ending score of the group. For example, you could take the average Fall Benchmark score and the Average Spring Benchmark score.

Step 2: Calculate the difference between the beginning performance and ending performance to get the TOTAL GROWTH
Step 3: Calculate the # OF INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKS between beginning performance and ending performance

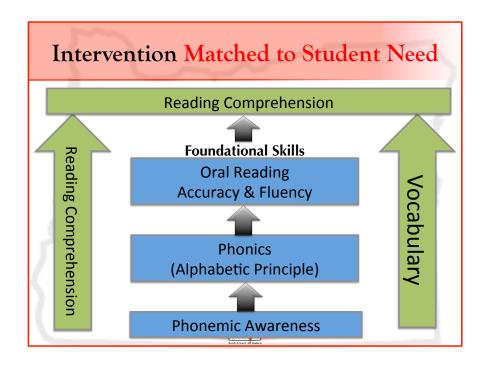
- For the Target Student this will be the number of weeks the intervention(s) have been provided
- For a Comparison Group (e.g., district/school, intervention) for a ELL Cohort), this could be either the total number of
  instructional weeks in the school year if using a full year of data OR it could be the number of weeks the comparison group has
  received similar intervention support

Step 4: Divide TOTAL GROWTH by # OF INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKS to get the weekly RATE OF IMPROVEMENT (ROI)

	(TOTAL	L GI	ROWTH)	l			
GROWTH FORMULA	(Ending performance	-	Beginning performance)	÷	# of Instructional Weeks	=	Rate of Improvement (ROI)
ATTAINED ROI		-		÷		=	
TYPICAL ROI		_		÷		=	
TARGETED ROI		-		÷		=	
DISTRICT/SCHOOL ROI		-		÷		=	
INTERVENTION GROUP ROI		1	,	÷		=	
ELL COHORT ROI (if applicable)		1		÷		=	

Slow Progress

Questions	Does the student	Does the student make "adequate" progress?								
Does the	What is the student's Attained Rate of Improvement (ROI)?:									
student exhibit	End performance	- Beginning performance	/	# of	Instructional Weeks	=	Attained ROI			
SLOW PROGRESS?	23 V	<b>NCPM</b>	/		22	=	1.04			
					(Circle	e One)				
	The Typical ROI	is: 1.2 whi	ch is		Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than ne Attained ROI			
	Target ROI is: uhich isLess than the Attained ROI					Greater th				
	Peer (District) Ro	2			Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than ne Attained ROI			
	Peer (Interventio	on Group) ROI: 1.4Less than the which is Attained ROI					Greater than ne Attained ROI			
Intervention	Matched to stude	nt need?					Y N			
Intervention	Intervention time & intensity appropriate?						Y N			
Intervention	ervention delivered with fidelity?						Y N			
Prepondera	erance of Evidence? Y N									
Additional In Needed	formation									



# Intervention Matched to Student Need: ELL Considerations

- Did they also receive a language intervention?
  - "Not all currently used interventions in literacy (especially for primary grade students) include adequate attention to these areas [listening & reading comprehension], and thus they may need to be augmented for English learners."

Institute for Education Sciences, 2004

- Is there a high degree of "fluidity" of instruction for ELL's across the day?
- Do we have decision rules for placement and movement of ELL's in interventions?
  - Did we follow them?

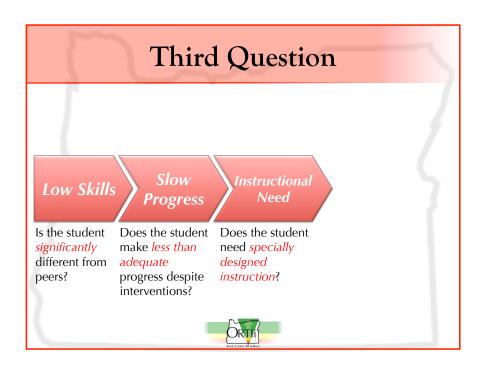


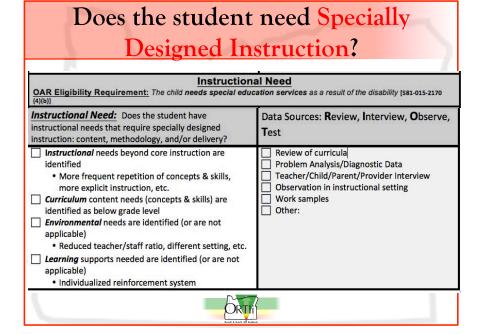
Slow Progress

Questions	Does the student make "adequate" progress?							
Does the	<u>Wł</u>	at is the stude	nt's Att	tainec	d Ra	te of Improvement (	ROI	<u>)?:</u>
student exhibit	End performance	- Beginni performa		/ ;	# of	Instructional Weeks	= Attained ROI	
SLOW PROGRESS?	23	WCPM		/		22	= [	1.04
						(Circle	On	e)
	The Typical ROI	is: 1.2	whic	h is	.	Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
	Target ROI is:	1.75 which is				Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
	Peer (District) R	OI: 1.3 which is				Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
	Peer (Intervention	on Group) ROI: 1.4 which is				Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
Intervention	Matched to stude	nt need?						Y N
Intervention	time & intensity a	ppropriate?						Y N
Intervention	delivered with fid	elity?						Y N
Prepondera	Preponderance of Evidence? Y N					Y N		
Additional In Needed	formation							

Slow Progress

Questions	Does the student make "adequate" progress?							
Does the student	Wh End performance	ROI)	?: Attained ROI					
exhibit SLOW PROGRESS?	<u> </u>	- Beginni <u>performa</u> <b>VCPM</b>		/		22	=	1.04
				•		(Circle	. One	2)
	The Typical ROI	is: 1.2	whic	h is.		Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
	Target ROI is: uhich isLess than the Attained ROI					Greater than Attained ROI		
	Peer (District) R	Ol: 1.3	1.3 which is			Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
	Peer (Intervention	on Group) ROI: 1.4 which is				Less than the Attained ROI		Greater than Attained ROI
Intomontion	Matched to stude	. t						YN
intervention	watched to stude	nt needs						T N
Intervention	time & intensity a	ppropriate?						Y N
Intervention	delivered with fid	elity?						Y N
Prepondera	Preponderance of Evidence?							YN
Additional In Needed	formation	<b>333</b>						





# What is Specially Designed Instruction?

- Federal Definition: adapting the......
  - Content
  - Methodology and/or
  - Delivery of instruction



# What is Specially Designed Instruction?

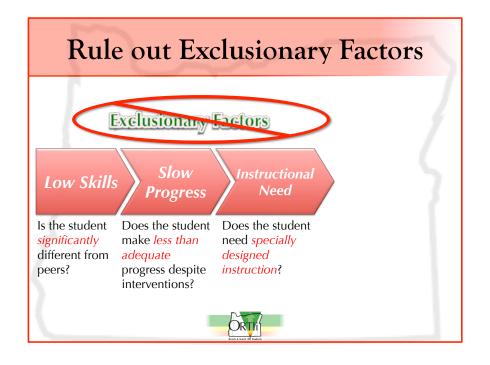
### Additional components:

- 1. Needs to be truly *necessary* rather than merely beneficial
- 2. Designed or implemented by certified special education personnel
- 3. Not available regularly in general education



### **Instructional Need?**

Question:	Evidence/Data of Need		Different than typically provided in general ed?	
Does the student have an Instructional Need for special	Instruction/Method	ology	Y	Ν
education services?	Curriculum/Content		Y	Ν
	Environment/Delivery		Y	N
Additional Information Needed?		Beyond what general ed can provide? Y N		



# How you determine instructional need?

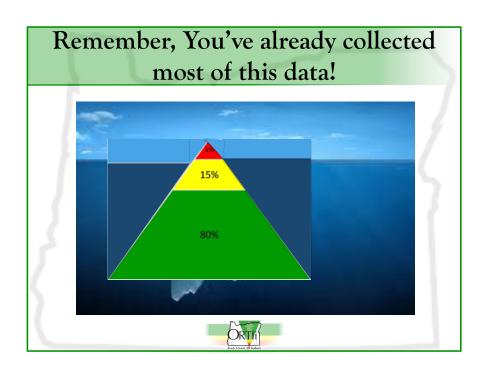
• It comes down to the balance: How does the *weight* of the intervention compare to the *rate of progress*?

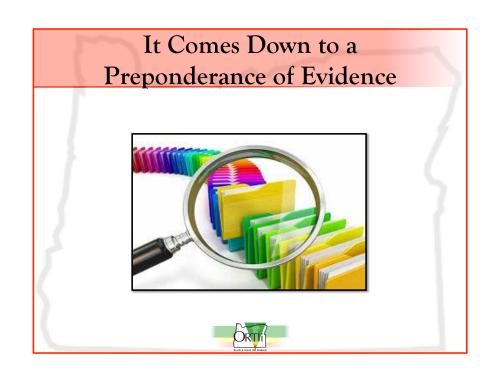


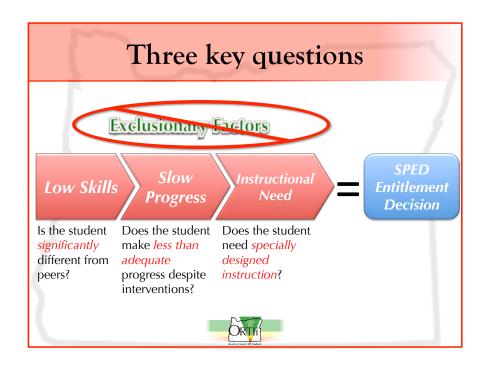
# Exclusionary Factors: Has the student had ample opportunity to learn?

	/			
Exclusionary Factors  OAR Eligibility Requirement: A determination of whether the primary basis for the suspected disability is (i) a lack of appropriate instruction in reading (including the essential components of reading) or math; or (ii)  Limited English proficiency [581-015-2170 (5)(g)]				
Appropriate instruction: Has student had ample opportunity to learn?	Data Sources: Review, Interview, Observe, Test			
<ul> <li>□ Appropriate instruction provided in general education setting (core &amp; intervention instruction)</li> <li>□ Concerns pervasive (exist across settings or providers, etc.)</li> <li>□ Consistent attendance during instruction</li> <li>□ Primary cause is not limited English Proficiency</li> <li>□ Primary cause is not visual, hearing, or motor impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, cultural factors, or environmental or economic disadvantage.</li> </ul>	□ Cumulative Records     □ Attendance Records     □ Report Cards     □ Parent/Teacher/Child/Provider Interview     □ Observation of general education instruction     □ Progress monitoring data from cohort students Intervention documentation     □ Other:			

# Has the student had ample opportunity to learn? Appropriate instruction provided in general education setting (core & intervention instruction) Concerns pervasive (exist across settings or providers, etc.) Consistent attendance during instruction Primary cause is not limited English Proficiency Primary cause is not visual, hearing, or motor impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, cultural factors, or environmental or economic disadvantage. English language development Acculturation Cohort groups How do their skills and growth compare to students with similar language, acculturation, etc.?







# Putting it ALL Together RULES COMPLIANCE TANDARDS GUIDELINES CODES AUDIT PROCEDURE PROCEDURE OF THE PROCEDURE OF T

# Regularly Analyze Implementation

- Review Disaggregated Outcome Data
- Ensure teachers are trained and using effective instructional strategies
- Ensure Decision Rules are being followed
- Focus on what students need from the school in order to be successful



### RTI is the Most Equitable Approach

"The implementation of a multitiered instruction and assessment model such as response to intervention (RTI) facilitates a more equitable process of identifying struggling learners, especially when they are ELLs... and is effective in reducing inappropriate referrals of ELLs to special education"

Klingner and Eppolito, 2014



