

Current Screening Practices: Part I

With a group of colleagues, discuss the current assessment practices in your school. Include the following questions in your discussion:

1. What reading skills are assessed at each grade level at your school? Do the assessments focus on essential early literacy skills? Discuss whether other skills should be assessed at the various grade levels.
2. How often do screening assessments occur? Does the first screening occur early enough in the school year to match students with the appropriate instruction? Is there at least one (or two) other universal screenings that occur during the school year (sometimes referred to as benchmarking)? Discuss whether the frequency of screenings should be changed at your school.
3. Are new students screened as they enter school? If not, how can the school systematically accommodate the screening of students who enter school mid-year?
4. Do the assessments have established reliability and validity data? Is the data adequate? (For more information on technical adequacy, see the training module *Assessment: Using measures that are technically adequate, valid and reliable*).
5. Are the screening results truly used to inform instruction at your school? If not, what changes need to be made in order to make this happen?

Current Screening Practices: Part II

Familiarize yourself with the information available on The National Center on Response to Intervention's Universal Screening Tools Chart which is available at the following URL: <http://www.rti4success.org/screeningTools>

Find and notice the supplemental resources available on the webpage. Then find and notice the following features of the chart:

- Definitions and rating criteria are available by clicking on links in the column headers.
- Information regarding each assessment tool is available by clicking the assessments listed in the "area" column.
- The specific information used to determine the rating for a given assessment is available by clicking the link available in each cell.

Use the chart to discuss and answer the following questions as applicable:

1. Are any of the screening measures your school uses listed on the Tools Chart? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the tools your school uses?

2. If your school currently uses some screening measures that are not listed on the Tools Chart, take some time to consider how the tools would rate on this chart. Does your school's screening tools rate favorably compared to the other tools on the chart?

3. If your school needs to choose additional screening tools to "fill in the holes," study the user's guide available in the supplemental resources section of the webpage. Outline a plan for selecting the screening tools your school will use.