

Possible Funding Sources to Support RTI Initiatives

There are a variety of possible funding sources to help school districts support RTI initiatives. Some of these funding streams may include:

1. Use Your Federal Title Funds

- Title I – Title I funds, under certain circumstances, can be used to help support the RTI process. The cost of professional development can be cost shared among several federal programs. Title I paid staff can assist in working with identified students to provide intervening services. Resources and materials can be shared among programs.
- Title II A – Title II A funds designated for professional development could be used to support professional development in the RTI process.
- Title V – These funds are very flexible and can be used to support a variety of innovative educational activities, including RTI.

2. REAP (Rural Education Achievement Program Initiative) – These funds target small rural districts. Eligible school districts are allowed to combine the funding under several Titles and can use these funds for any authorized activity. If your school is eligible, these funds can be combined into Title II A or Title V to support RTI.

3. Transferability – These funds target larger urban districts. Eligible school districts are allowed to combine some of the federal funding under several Titles and use these funds for any authorized activity. If your school is eligible, these funds can be combined into Title II A or Title V and used to support RTI.

4. IDEA – An LEA is allowed to use not more than 15% of their IDEA Part B funds to develop and implement EIS in an RTI model. EIS funds are to be used for those children who are not currently receiving special education services under IDEA. This could include students who were previously eligible for special education but who are not receiving it now, who may need additional support, academically or behaviorally. In North Dakota, IDEA Part B funds go to the special education units. If you are interested in utilizing IDEA Part B funds to provide EIS, you should contact your local special education director. EIS is part of the IDEA Part B application that unit directors complete.

5. Program Improvement Funds – Schools and districts in program improvement may receive additional funds to help them make Adequate Yearly Progress. Using these additional program improvement dollars to support RTI would be an allowable use of these funds.

6. Small Rural Schools Achievement Program Funds through REAP – Eligible schools can apply for these additional funds through the U.S. Department of Education. These funds can be used for authorized activities under the Title programs and can support any of the supplemental activities under the federal programs, including RTI.

7. General Funds – Another avenue for funding RTI is your district's general funds. If your school staff really believes the RTI process will make a difference, you should consider collecting the data and showing how it will improve student achievement, approach your school board, and request funds to sustain it.
8. Pool Your Resources – In North Dakota, it is becoming quite common for districts to cooperate and share services. Federal regulations allow school districts to pool their resources to share services among several schools. One district would simply agree to be the fiscal agent and the funds would flow through that district to pay for the shared activities. A district could pool their funds to support professional development on RTI or hire another reading or math specialist to work with identified students. Another viable option would be to share resources through your local Regional Educational Association (REA).
9. Reallocated Title I Funds – These funds are available to school districts that would like to add to their Title I program, but need additional funds to accomplish their plan. The funds must supplement your current local and Title I budget. These funds are made available in September and could be used to support any additional activity that will enhance services for Title I students.