



Istation

# CREATE A STRONG INTERVENTION CULTURE

## 6 Ways to Support Your Intervention Team

Allocating time and resources to building out your intervention team can yield big rewards. Developing data leaders ensures that teachers have a deep understanding of the benefits of data-driven instruction. They will also learn how to support each other in reaching the school's learning goals.

Using a common framework for intervention allows teachers to focus on assessing the needs of students and incorporating student performance data in an equitable way. Many schools use Response to Intervention (RTI), a multi-tiered approach to identifying and supporting students' learning needs.

All students first receive research-based instruction in the core curriculum in their regular classrooms. Then universal screening and progress monitoring provide data about students' levels of achievement. This data is used to determine which students need closer monitoring or intervention. Student progress is monitored over time to measure the effectiveness of both the curriculum and the interventions.<sup>[1]</sup>

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### THE TECH ADVANTAGE

#### Personalizing the Learning Experience

Technology plays an important role in an effective data-infused learning environment. Differentiated instruction and intervention are supported by technology. Not only does technology personalize learning for students but it informs a teacher's instructional intervention plan. Data captures a student's academic performance, quantifies their rate of improvement or responsiveness to instruction, and evaluates the effectiveness of the instruction. Ongoing professional development ensures that the intervention team uses their resources for maximum impact.

[1] Retrieved from <http://www.rtinetwork.org/learn/what/whatisrti>



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## Key Insight: The Power of Data and Differentiated Instruction

Teachers need to see the power of data-informed instruction in order to adopt this method of teaching. Continuous progress monitoring through assessments helps determine the level of instruction needed by individual students.

Regularly reviewing individual student data along with assessments helps teachers determine the exact amount of support or enrichment each student needs. Adaptive curriculum adjusts to the level of each student so that progress remains steady toward end-of-year learning goals.

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## Creating a Strong Intervention Culture

Most schools have either a formal or an informal intervention team based on their unique circumstances and resources. The following seven recommendations can be individualized to suit any configuration of intervention teams.

### 1. *Engage your stakeholders.*

A blended learning curriculum approach using data to benchmark and monitor student progress requires more than one champion. Leadership, teachers, and parents/guardians need to be on board. Explain the “why” of using student data to reach student, school, and district learning goals. Comprehensive initial training will help teachers understand how to support student growth with data. Ongoing professional development for educators and collaboration with students’ families build a shared culture. It is important to provide parents and families easy access to information that addresses how they can support students’ learning whether they are on campus or participating in virtual learning.

### 2. *Put systems in place.*

In addition to the appropriate technology support and professional development, make sure the primary data leader is a good communicator who coaches teachers to prioritize data. Establish regular communication with parents and families and provide feedback to teachers.

### 3. *Hold data meetings monthly.*

Schedule regular data review sessions so that teachers can learn to support each other as well as their students by diving deep into the data. The more communication you provide teachers, the better they will be able to drill down into the data to ensure that learning goals continue to be met. Ensure teachers have sufficient support as they learn how to address each student's needs, especially when they are critical.

### 4. *Empower teachers.*

Help teachers understand what to look for in the data reports. The goal is for teachers to review the reports themselves, become data experts on their students, and learn how to adjust instruction to accommodate each student. Coaching is the key to successful implementations.

### 5. *Generate enthusiasm*

As an ongoing practice, encourage teacher behaviors you want to embed into your school culture. Seeing the growth of students is a huge motivator. Students themselves get motivated by being able to track their own growth through their teachers. Encourage parents and families to stay in touch with their student's progress.



## Success Story: **Intentional Intervention and Instruction**

Hoover City Schools in Alabama wanted to streamline their intervention process for their RTI and Tier 1 students. They chose Istation because it identifies learning gaps and provides engaging interactive lessons and face-to-face teaching strategies to get students back on track.

“After we started using Istation, students were going back into the general education classroom and were being successful, so we were able to serve additional students—more than we ever had in the past,” said Debra Walker Smith, director of federal programs and testing for the district.

“Istation definitely helps drill down to the standards that students haven't mastered. And when students do, they are so excited to share what they've accomplished.”

Students used Istation from August to April and saw a marked increase in Lexile® scores: First graders gained 370 points, second graders gained 280, third grade 155, fourth grade 165, and fifth grade 132 points.

“I believe this program is one of the best investments we have made using our federal funds,” Smith said. “I like the ease of implementation, but more importantly, I like that students feel successful using it.”



## 6. *Celebrate success.*

As teachers and students meet benchmarks and growth goals, find ways to celebrate: jeans Fridays for teachers, a weekly session for lesson planning, or a class party. Celebrating success serves as a morale booster for teachers and students, reinforces the role of data-driven instruction in your school, and contributes to a positive school culture.

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## Key Insight: **The Importance of Assessments**

Frequent progress monitoring allows teachers to get a pulse check on how their students are moving toward skill mastery and provides an opportunity to pivot instruction to keep students on track to achieve grade-level goals. It is important to realize that Istation focuses on differentiation for all students, not just intervention for struggling students.

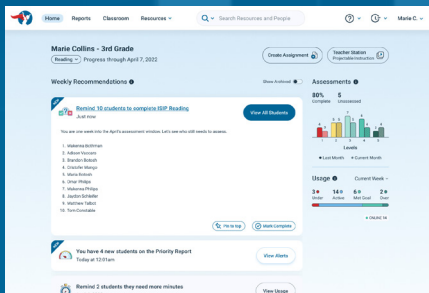
Powered by the science of reading, Istation's assessments support the "Big Five" foundation domains determined by the National Reading Panel. Istation provides activities and lessons that generate insightful and actionable data that

measure phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary — the Big Five.

With Istation's reading assessment...

- readers are assessed in approximately 30 minutes with Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP™);
  - students are placed in skill level-appropriate online instruction based on their ISIP results; and
  - administrators, leaders, teachers, and parents receive instant reports to monitor student progress and group students for targeted reading interventions.
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# INSIGHTFUL DATA



## Bring Insightful Data and Innovative Tools to your Classroom

Over at Pinellas County, the results of its accelerated-learning strategy show promising evidence that what it's doing is helping to mitigate learning slides resulting from the pandemic. For example, in ELA/Literacy, while the entire state dropped two points in its fifth-grade assessment, Pinellas County gained a point. Being flexible with its actions has helped Pinellas County create a successful accelerated-learning plan. "We need to watch carefully and make adjustments along the way as we see fit," Slaughter said. "That's the science and the art of teaching."



Istation helps school and district leaders gather and understand data about student performance in accelerated-learning programs under their purview. This, in turn, helps them develop an accelerated-learning framework that works best for individual districts and classrooms, ensuring that students and teachers are more likely to reach their goals.



Propel Your School or District to Reach its Full Potential

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