

## *Questions and Answers about the RTI Summit*

### *Response to Intervention: Improving Achievement for ALL Students*

#### **What is the Response to Intervention (RTI) Summit?**

The RTI Summit is an event sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and chaired by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) that will bring together teams of educators and parents who are focused on improving the academic performance of all learners, including struggling learners. While not all educators are familiar with the term response to intervention or “RTI”, it is a systematic process of screening all students for academic difficulty, implementing instruction/interventions that have evidence to support their efficacy, monitoring student progress in these interventions, and applying more intense levels or “tiers” of interventions, as needed. In fact, individuals involved with Reading First programs have been supporting the use of evidence-based practices and tiered interventions in education for many years. In order for states and local school districts to plan for and implement an RTI model, first they must understand the potential of RTI and align implementation activities with existing initiatives in their state. The RTI Summit will bring together teams of educators from each state who will be involved in the planning and implementation of RTI in their state.

#### **Who has been involved in planning the RTI Summit?**

The Summit is being planned by personnel in the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) along with a planning committee of educational stakeholders.

#### **Who will participate in the Summit?**

11-person teams from each state will be invited to attend the RTI Summit. The teams will be comprised of a combination of key stakeholders from the State Department of Education (6 members) as well as representatives from state affiliates from several national organizations/networks (5 members).

*From the SEA:* The six-member, State Department of Education team will be selected by the Chief and should include, at a minimum, the state’s Chief State School Officer (or a deputy/designee), the director of Special Education (or designee), and the director of Reading First (or designee). We are encouraging the Chiefs to strongly consider selecting directors or coordinators of Title I, Title III, Curriculum and Instruction or School Improvement, and policy implementing groups in higher education as they select the remaining three representatives from the State Department of Education office. We recognize that the Chief will select the remaining three roles to reflect the realities and priorities in the state.

*From the state affiliates:* The state affiliates from national organizations/networks that will be represented on each state team include:

- (1) selected PTI/PIRC representatives (Parent Training & Information Center/Parent Information Resource Center),
- (2) a representative from each state affiliate of NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals),
- (3) a representative from each state affiliate of AASA (American Association of School Administrators),
- (4) a representative from each state affiliate of NEA (National Education Association), and
- (5) a representative from each state affiliate of AFT (American Federation of Teachers).

### **What are the Expected Outcomes for the RTI Summit?**

We anticipate that this Summit will provide state teams an opportunity to learn about the value of using a response to intervention model to increase student achievement, decrease inappropriate referrals to special education, and assist SEAs and LEAs in making adequate yearly progress (AYP). A combination of plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and three state team planning sessions will be included in the agenda.

The three state team planning sessions will provide team members with an opportunity to build rapport, share information, tools, and resources, create a shared vision, establish team expectations, assess their state's capacity to implement multi-tiered instruction/response to intervention, and develop an action plan that is consistent with state improvement efforts across general and special education.

### **When/Where is the RTI Summit?**

The RTI Summit is scheduled for December 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

#### **Two Conference Hotels:**

Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
at Reagan National Airport  
2799 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 418-1234 (phone)  
(703) 418-1289 (fax)

Courtyard by Marriott Arlington Crystal City/  
Reagan National Airport  
2899 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703)-549-3434 (phone)  
(703)-549-7440 (fax)

### **How can I register to attend the Summit?**

This is an invitational conference that is not open to the general public. If you are a state education agency employee, one individual per SEA will be responsible for registering the six member SEA team. If you are a state affiliate for NAESP, AASA, NEA, or AFT, you will receive registration information through your national office. If you are a representative from a PTI or PIRC, you will receive a letter of invitation directly from the Department of Education that will include Summit registration information. The conference website is available at [www.RTISummit.org](http://www.RTISummit.org).