



Why is this case being referred to the Intervention and Referral Services Team?

A Child Study Team referral is really a "last resort" and should only be considered after every other option to improve the student's performance has been attempted in the general education setting. The Department of Education has identified Camden as a district with a "high rate of students placed in separate classes or schools." This may imply that students are not being educated in the Least Restrictive Environment. Because our district has been identified, all special education referrals and placements are now subject to scrutiny by the State, and therefore must comply with the New Jersey Administrative Code.

In New Jersey, every public school building must establish and implement a coordinated system for planning and delivering intervention and referral services designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties. This system must also assist staff who have difficulties in addressing students' learning, behavior, or health needs. Additionally, because Camden is an Abbott district, the I&RST must work ***within the general education program*** to assist all students who have reading as their primary area of difficulty.

The Intervention and Referral Services Team (I&RST) is made up of professionals within each school. The team members are flexible, but typically include at least: the building administrator, the guidance counselor, and a general education teacher.

Before a Child Study Team referral is made, it is the responsibility of the I&RST to do the following:

1. ***Identify learning, behavior and health difficulties of students;***
2. ***Collect information*** on the identified difficulties;
3. ***Develop and implement action plans*** that provide for appropriate school or community interventions based on the collected data and desired outcomes for the identified difficulties;
4. ***Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff*** who identify learning, behavior and health difficulties;
5. ***Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff*** who participate in each building's system for planning and providing intervention and referral services;
6. ***Actively involve parents or guardians*** in the development and implementation of the action plans;
7. ***Coordinate the access to and delivery of school resources and services*** for achieving outcomes identified in intervention and referral services action plans;
8. ***Coordinate the services of community-based social and health provider agencies*** and other community resources for achieving outcomes identified in intervention and referral services action plans;
9. ***Maintain records*** of all requests for assistance and all intervention and referral services action plans and all related student information,



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10. **Review and assess the effectiveness** of each intervention and referral services action plan in achieving the identified outcomes, and modify each action plan to achieve the outcomes, as appropriate; and

11. At a minimum, **annually review the action plans** and the actions taken as a result of the building's system of intervention and referral services, and make recommendations to the principal for improving school programs and services, as appropriate.

NJAC 6A:14-3.3(b,c); NJAC 6A:16-8.1,8.2; NJAC 6A:10A-3.1