Tier 2 Support

The goal of Tier 2 supports is to close the achievement gap as quickly as possible. Students who do not make adequate progress in Tier 1 receive more intensive Tier 2 small-group services within the general education classroom. Tier 2 interventions include programs, strategies, and procedures that provide a “double dose” of support to accelerate learning.

Tier 2 often lasts from six to nine weeks and provides around 50 to 100 minutes of additional instruction per week on specifically targeted skills. These services are always “in addition to” and never “instead of” Tier 1 instruction. Students are encouraged to immediately apply skills learned in Tier 2 in the general education classroom.

Tier 2 Structure & Criteria

It is important to reiterate that Tier 1 instruction is the first line of defense. However, if a student is more than a year below grade-level expectations, Tier 2 support should start as soon as possible. The Tier 2 formula for successful small-group intervention is to use modeling, active participation, corrective feedback, self-monitoring, practice to mastery, and efficient time on task in every session. This approach works for both academic skills and behavior. Teams that establish specific sets of highly active research-based strategies not only see good results but also remove the burden of solo planning from teachers.
RtI Tier 2 Support

Tier 2 instruction needs

- Systematic and explicit instruction that includes modeling and direct teaching.
- Specialized programming that focuses on just a few key skills at a time.
- Frontloading of skills to be introduced at a later time in the general education class.
- A variety of practice opportunities that coordinate with identified classroom skills but use different approaches.
- Continuous corrective feedback, encouragement, and self-monitoring activities.
- Weekly progress monitoring and charting to check growth patterns.

Tier 2 is typically implemented with groups of three to six students who have similar skill needs. Sessions last a 10-45 minutes and are done at least three times a week. Sometimes Tier 2 strategies are delivered during intervention periods outside the core classroom. No matter how long the session is, where it is held, or who conducts it, following a well-defined daily routine of fast-paced activities is the key to success. Success is defined as adequate student progress along the established goal line. All Tier 2 group members simultaneously perform their tasks. This keeps every student actively involved throughout the fast-paced session, unlike round-robin approach to reading. The teacher is also able to listen in and provide individualized corrective feedback for each student.

Procedures should be followed daily, thus creating a routine so familiar that the students are able to intuitively follow the lessons with little time wasted to explaining basic directions. Familiar routines also reinforce previously taught skills while modeling and teaching new ones. The skills can be altered to reflect specific student needs or relevant skills, based on material emphasized in the classroom.

Source: What Every School Leader Needs to Know about RTI
RtI Tier 2 Support

Pace and involvement of Tier 2 intervention sessions at a secondary level are very similar to the elementary level. Direct vocabulary instruction in a variety of contexts and modeling of specific strategies are both essential components of Tier 2 intervention at any level.

Tier 2 instruction is intended to provide 20-30 sessions of supplemental intervention, lasting from six to nine weeks. The problem-solving team (which includes classroom teachers) then analyzes the student data and makes a decision to

- Support the student using only Tier 1 interventions.
- Continue Tier 2 support with some new strategies.
- Increase the intervention intensity by moving to a Tier 3 plan.

Source: What Every School Leader Needs to Know about RTI