

Combs Elementary School and Cross Keys Middle School
Ferguson-Florissant School District
Florissant Missouri

Response to Intervention

Ferguson Florissant School District has implemented Response To Intervention in various schools since 2007. Two schools, Combs Elementary and Cross Keys Middle School, will discuss the successes and challenges of Response To Intervention, which is a philosophy that guides instruction and behavior modification. This on-going process has allowed general education staff and special school district staff to collaborate and work towards the success of all students.

Combs Elementary School is in its second year of implementation. Students are making significant academic and behavioral gains, especially our under-served students. Staff is very diligent about making sure all students are performing at high levels. We will discuss our approach to closing the achievement gap of African-American students and students with Individual Education Plans. More specific topics are: Philosophy, Tools, Reading Instruction, Positive Behavior Intervention, Assessment, Data, and Successes.

Response to Intervention at the middle school level is new to our district. In looking at programming at our middle school it was determined that while we had multiple supports in place on the Tier 3 level, we had few organized interventions for students falling in Tier 2. The district has multiple assessments in place such as the Gates reading test, Tungsten assessments, and Math placement exams which we used to determine which students may be “under-served” and therefore eligible for a Tier 2 intervention group. Intervention groups are organized within an academic lab, a class period previously designed to allow students to complete homework. “Under-served” students were assigned to a reading or mathematics academic lab based on their area of weakness. Academic labs are taught by math and reading teachers who are implementing research based interventions. As the process is very new, we are still exploring the most effective method to progress monitor and track growth.