

## RTI TERMS

*As a parent or an educator, in your RTI research, you will come across some common terms. Those terms and their meanings are listed here.*

### Universal Screening

A step taken by school personnel early in the school year to determine which students are “at risk” for not meeting grade level standards.

### Benchmark Assessment

Universal screening method is repeated 3 times per year.

### Interventions

A change in instructing a student in the area of learning or behavioral difficulty.

### Scientific, Researched Based

#### Interventions

Curriculum and educational interventions that are researched based and have been proven effective for most students.

### Progress Monitoring

A scientifically based practice used to frequently assess students’ academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of the instruction.

### Probe

A short assessment administered to measure student growth. A probe is the tool used when one is progress monitoring.

### Curriculum Based Measurement

(CBM) – A “family” of assessment instruments that are designed to assess basic skills progress using tests with a number of common features. CBM tests are:  
(a) standardized, (b) short (i.e. usually less than 5 minutes), (c) easy to administer and score over time, (d) technically adequate, and (e) sensitive to improvement.

### Risk Status

Student scores on the universal screening tool are evaluated according to pre-determined cut scores and are then assigned to benchmark (students scoring above the cut score), strategic (students scoring between the cut scores set for moderate and high risk status) and intensive (students scoring below the cut score set for high risk status) risk groups.

### Rate of Improvement (ROI)

A student’s rate of improvement on progress monitoring tests is the number of units of measure (i.e. words read correctly correct responses, correct digits) a child has made per week since the beginning of the supplemental intervention. To discover this rate, divide the total number of units gained by the number of weeks that have elapsed.  
(ex.  $16wrc/9 \text{ weeks} = 1.5 \text{ wrc/week}$ )

### Level of Performance

This is a factor that is considered in determining whether a student has made adequate progress.

### Differentiated Instruction

Teaching that provides students with different ways to acquire knowledge so that all students can learn. Differentiated instruction is the foundation of RTI.

### Special Education

Specialized, individualized interventions and accommodations for students with disabilities—Disabilities that limit their ability to learn without intense support. RTI is not special education.