

Subchapter 8: Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS Teams) *NJAC 6A:16-8.1*



KEAN
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*School Counselor
Conference*

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WHAT'S YOUR I&RS IQ? (THE DIRTY DOZEN)

The winner will not
be allowed to attend
our I&RS training

<http://www.nj.gov/education/students/irs/>

Foundational Ideas in Code - QUIZ

1. The NJAC describing the I&RS mandates is 3 pages long

ANSWER 1

- TRUE - It's 3 pages long...
The Code actually shrank as parts were removed. The manual is VERY large and available online.

QUIZ Question 2

2. The Code only addresses providing for planning & interventions with students experiencing difficulties

Code Answer 2

FALSE – “a coordinated system for planning and delivering intervention and referral services designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties, and to assist **staff** who have difficulties in addressing students’ learning, behavior, or health needs.”

IT INCLUDED STAFF...

QUIZ Question 3

3. The I&RS team approach is up to the district

Answer 3

- TRUE – “District boards of education shall choose the appropriate multidisciplinary team approach for planning and delivering the services required under this subchapter.”
- NOTE MULTIDISCIPLINARY...team roles were removed BUT best practices suggest....

Quiz 4

- Services to aid students (in general education) are optional according to I&RS Code.

ANSWER 4

- FALSE - "The intervention and referral services shall be provided to aid students in the general education program;" (BTW, Parents/guardians do not have a right of refusal to have kids participate.)

QUIZ Question 5

Classified students are
excluded from I&RS

Answer 5

- FALSE – “and...may be provided for students who have been determined to need special education programs and services.”
- BUT you need to coordinate it with their team/case manager

QUESTION 6

- The functions of the I&RS related to students is up to the building to determine

CODE answer 6

- FALSE – “The functions of the system of intervention and referral services in each school building shall be to:
 - Identify learning, behavior and health difficulties...
 - Collect information...
 - Develop and implement action plans... “
- But could be MORE...

QUESTION 7

- Professional development for school staff is a **BEST PRACTICE**, not a mandate

ANSWER 7

- **FALSE (MANDATE)** – “Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff who participate in each building’s system for planning and providing intervention and referral services.”
- **ALTHOUGH** it is a best practice too

QUESTION 8

Sending a letter to parents/guardians about their child's involvement in I&RS is a **MANDATE**

Answer 8

FALSE – “Actively* involve parents or guardians in the development and implementation...” (but also a BEST PRACTICE)

*Actively involving parents/guardians means getting their input in the development and implementation of plans. Attending a meeting is ACTIVE!

CODE Question 9

**Support for I&RS team
members is only a BEST
PRACTICE**

QUESTION 9

FALSE (MANDATE) – “Provide support, guidance and professional development to school staff who identify learning, behavior and health difficulties;”

QUESTION 10

- Reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of plans every 30 days is a Code mandate

ANSWER 10

- FALSE (30 days is not mandated) –
“Review and assess the effectiveness of each intervention and referral services action plan...”
- A best practices suggests a standard review date be established & a sooner date may be in the plan

QUESTION 11

- Naming the committee the I&RS team is a Code mandate



Answer 11

- FALSE – no name is suggested or required
- Call it what you like – best practice suggests that the name I&RS can be scary

CODE Question 12

Making a report on ways to improve school programs and services is a BEST PRACTICE

ANSWER Question 12

- Although it IS a best practice, it is a mandate in Code:
“...and make recommendations to the principal for improving school programs and services, as appropriate.”
- District policy could have reports to the CSA

I&RS is Not an Exit Ramp from General Education

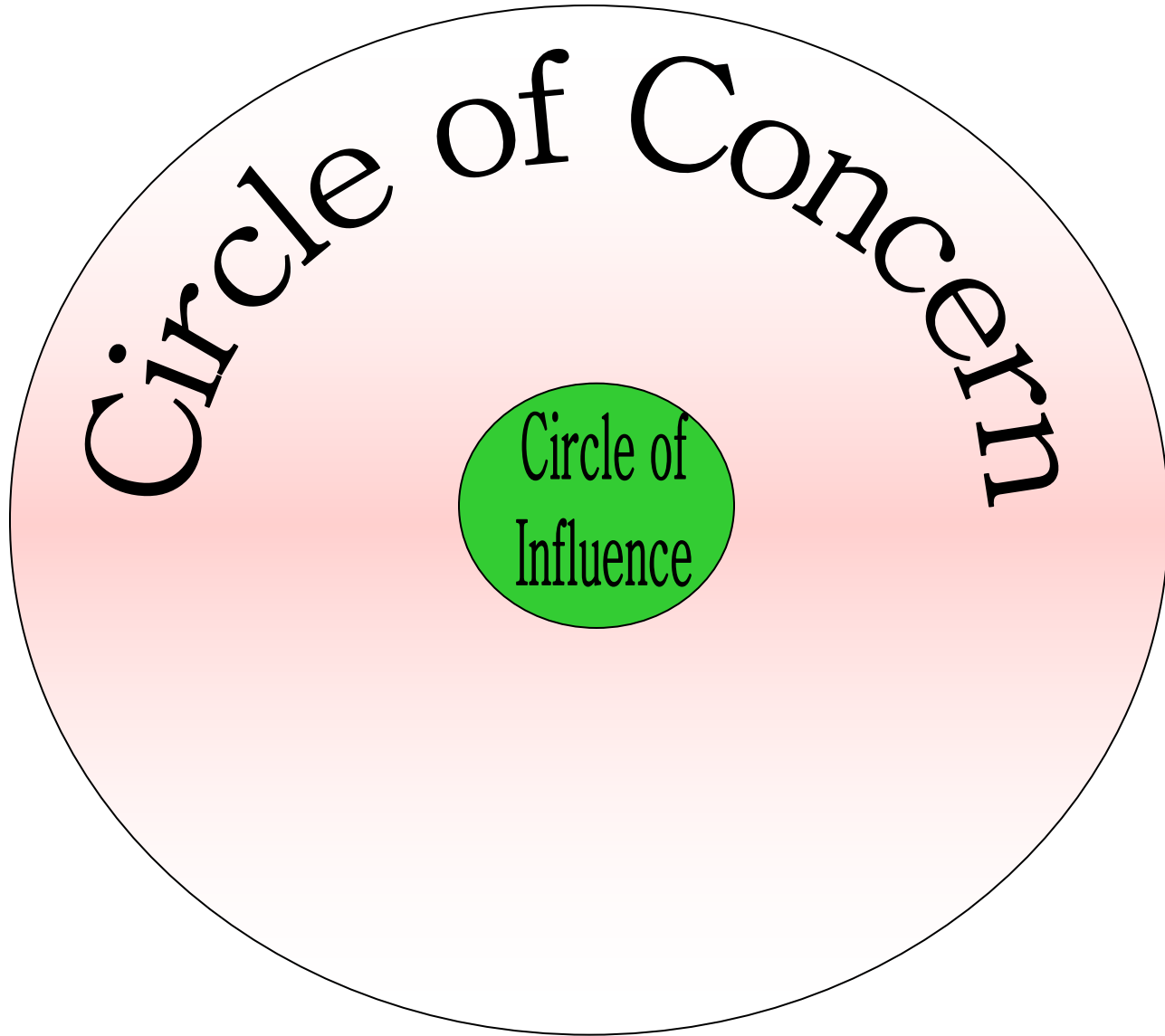
- Although the following was removed from the updated Code:
- “Programs of I&RS may not be used to delay obvious & appropriate referrals to special education”
- Schools still may not delay an obvious referral to the child study team

FINAL JEOPARDY QUESTION

A 504 Committee must be separate from the I&RS Committee

Best Practices (not mandates)

- Merging of teams (504, Core) is *encouraged*
 - More efficient use of staff time
 - Non-duplication of services (see the same kids)
 - Improved communication
 - Improved coordination of resources
 - Improved case management
- Structure of the teams remains up to you



Steven Covey

**CONSIDER BRINGING A TEAM
TO A TRAINING**



I&RS Trainings Reflect

- NJ CODE (mandates)
- BEST PRACTICE (how to address mandates)
- EXPERIENCES (from district implementation)



I&RS Training

Receive a “tune-up” from former NJDOE trainers

DATE to be determined

**Sponsored by the Counselor Education Department
Kean University**

Trainers: J. Barry Mascari, Ed.D. & Jane Webber, Ph.D.

Cost per 5 person team: \$140/individual-\$40 – for 2 days includes materials
(Check or purchase order payable to Counselor Education Fund, Kean University)

Adjuncts, Faculty & Current & former Students - \$5.00

Send a team of up to 5 staff members from your school to an Intervention & Referral Services refresher using the training materials from the original NJ Department of Education's trainings.

A second day in fall will be scheduled as follow-up and problem solving session for teams. A total of **10 CE hours** will be provided.

For information call: 908.737.5954

To register, go to: http://ku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_blxqvuhDE5nb6u1



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