

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, since July 2012, the New York State Education Department has required public schools to use Response to Intervention (RTI) in grades K-4; because of how our schools are structured, in New York City RTI is implemented in all grades, K-5. As you continue to develop your RTI structures and refine your expertise in how best to differentiate instruction for your students, ELLs included, we at the Office of ELLs would like to continue to support you by providing additional guidance as to how best to maximize this model with your diverse ELL population.

During past 18 months, OELL has offered school teams several intensive *ELLs in RTI* institutes. As a result of what we learned during these sessions, we created a reference document that highlights some of the most frequent questions you had around RTI and ELLs.

The core of RTI is research-based instruction for all students; this is why we partnered with nationally renowned researchers in the field of literacy and language development to create the following document. The Office of ELLs offers special thanks to Dr. Nonie Lesaux (Harvard Graduate School of Education) and Dr. Janette Klingner (University of Colorado at Boulder) for their guidance and work on this project.

We hope that you will find our document to be a valuable tool – one that provides you with information about how to support your ELLs under the RTI structure, how to design research based instruction that is linguistically and culturally appropriate for ELLs, how to best use assessments to guide daily instruction (Tier1), and how best to design instructional routines and interventions in Tiers 2 and 3.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Infante". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Angelica Infante
Chief Executive Officer
Office of English Language Learners