



## Division of Technical Assistance and Brokering Services

### **Scientific Research Based Intervention Schools and districts in Connecticut implementing a new paradigm**

#### **District Highlights**

SRBI is a service delivery structure of increasing levels of instruction and support matched to students' needs. It starts in the classroom using best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. If students do not meet with success, they are given supplemental instruction in small groups and their progress is monitored. If that is not sufficient to get students up to grade level, intensive or individual instruction is then delivered with an even more intensive level of progress monitoring. This system of monitoring the student's "response" to appropriate instruction provides an accurate picture of the student's learning rates over time.



TABS consultants are working throughout the CREC region to assist schools and districts in the planning and implementation of SRBI. Daniel Hansen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Dianna Roberge -Wentzell, Language Arts Curriculum Specialist, are leaders of the SRBI effort in South Windsor Public Schools. Working with CREC consultants throughout the 08-09 and 09-10 school years, efforts are underway to systematically implement an SRBI approach in all schools. Universal Screening of all students K-8 occurred in June 2008 and teachers and staff are poised to begin intervention immediately. "RTI is a smart framework that builds on all the good things we are currently doing in South Windsor. From a literacy perspective, every student benefits if we focus our efforts on prevention and early intervention. RTI could reduce the problems that struggling students encounter in intermediate and secondary education. At that level, the complex literacy demands can be quite daunting for struggling readers." CREC supports the momentous efforts of South Windsor to make SRBI a practical, do-able part of everyday practice" said Jonathan Bauer, CREC Education Specialist, who has worked with the curriculum and intervention planning teams throughout the summer to develop teacher-friendly diagnostic assessments, protocols, and materials that support mathematics intervention from the primary to high school levels.

Mr. Hansen said “Implementing the SRBI model is an opportunity for teachers, support staff and administrators to work together to meet the needs of all students. Putting the structure in place is a daunting task, yet the pay-off for students will be worth it!” “Manchester Public Schools have embraced SRBI with foresight and careful planning because they are confident that this is what’s best for their students” said Ellen Cohn, CREC Senior Educational Consultant. For the last year, Ellen has worked closely with Shelly Matfess, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Ann Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction of the Manchester Public Schools, school principals, and school-based SRBI Teams. “The implementation of SRBI gives us the opportunity to look at our instructional process holistically. We are able to analyze student needs effectively and provide them with immediate services that will ultimately close the achievement gaps. When implementing our interventions with fidelity, we are then able to make data-driven decisions about which students are not responding to intervention and may require additional supports.” said Ms. Matfess.

In the Rocky Hill Public Schools, Marian Hourigan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, has spearheaded efforts to implement SRBI at all levels. “Implementing SRBI has been a collaborative effort in Rocky Hill. Special education and regular education personnel have come together to devise a plan which will accelerate learning for at-risk students. We are eager to blur the lines between these two domains as we continue to provide comprehensive instruction for all children” said Ms. Hourigan. Efforts have included district level planning meetings, school based professional development; and the creation of a well defined District SRBI Plan.