

Difference Between Data Based Decision Making/RTI and Discrepancy Models

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RTI (Response To Intervention) is a modern concept used in schools that is used to address the identification of a learning disability. The RTI model utilizes evidence-based data. The Discrepancy Model is a more traditional method used to identify a learning disability through cognitive and academic achievement testing.

RTI focuses on the student's inability to respond to interventions and/or instruction within the classroom setting. If a child does not adequately respond to these scientifically based guidelines, this may deem the student to be eligible for services. Underachievement is usually a red flag that indicates a cognitive issue. If a child is not cognitively up to par with his same age peers, he will not be able to academically keep up with them. This may potentially be an indicator of his need for services.

The more traditional Discrepancy Model uses cognitive and academic testing to determine a student's eligibility for special services. After tests are administered, scores from cognitive tests and academic tests are compared. If a significant discrepancy is present between scores, it indicates a learning disability is present and the child is then eligible to receive services, or at least the need to consider the possibility of the child needing services.

Although The Discrepancy Model uses statistics to establish a conclusion and allows examiners to evaluate learning styles and processing skills, it is not practical for younger students. Before kindergarten, children are exposed to all different kinds of experiences and education. They also have developed at different rates. The Discrepancy Model does not allow for effectiveness regarding early intervention while

RTI can be applied to students of all ages, The Discrepancy Model does not take into account for standard error of measurement (SEM).

RTI requires school staff to be proactive. RTI is formulated to help prevent student failure and does not require a bunch of testing sessions that disrupts a student's class time which is another factor that may impede on a child's learning or achievement. The RTI is a more individualized model because it places children in "tiers" based on his/her needs.

When evaluating a student to determine if he is eligible for special services, it is always best to take into consideration the pros and cons of each model discussed. Each model has its own strengths and weaknesses and one might be better than the other due to the student's individual circumstances.

Sources

RTI: Response to Intervention. (n.d.). Retrieved February 23, 2015, from <http://www.ldinfo.com/rti.htm>

The Discrepancy Model Vs. The RTI Model. (2011, July 4). Retrieved February 23, 2015, from <http://theeclecticreadingteacher.com/2011/07/04/the-discrepancy-model-vs-the-rti-model/>