Problem

- Students have different instructional needs
- Schools currently address these with small group instruction (SGI)
- But how well and consistently are we implementing SGI on campus?

Response to Intervention (RTI) Framework

- Tier 1: Universal screening of all students
- Tier 2: Preventive instruction for at-risk students
- Tier 3: Intensive, individualized intervention

Background

- Research-based best practice
- Expectation from administrators
- Mixed implementation across teachers and grades
- Response to Intervention (RTI) is the what
- Small group is the how

Methods

- Part I: Survey of 26 staff on confidence regarding individual and campus SGI
- Part II: 13 follow up interviews on challenges and supports needed for SGI
- 1 interview with an expert on SGI

Survey data

Teachers were...

- Slightly more confident in own implementation vs. campus’
- Mixed in their confidence in own implementation vs. in assisting a colleague
- More comfortable being observed by a colleague vs. a professor with pre-service teachers

Interview data

Barriers

- Time (planning & instructional minutes)
- Lack of training
- Work & effort intensive

Motivation

- Prioritizing it
- Building relationships
- Seeing results

Supports Needed

- Management
- Collaboration
- Coaching & observation
- Culture change

Recommendations

- Create optional support group to share how to implement SGI
- Request optional professional development and coaching
- Build culture for SGI over time → expand training to all teachers

Response to Intervention (RTI) Framework

- Additional instruction for struggling students
- More frequent progress monitoring

Background

- Research-based best practice
- Expectation from administrators
- Mixed implementation across teachers and grades
- Response to Intervention (RTI) is the what
- Small group is the how

Methods

- Part I: Survey of 26 staff on confidence regarding individual and campus SGI
- Part II: 13 follow up interviews on challenges and supports needed for SGI
- 1 interview with an expert on SGI

Survey data

Teachers were...

- Slightly more confident in own implementation vs. campus’
- Mixed in their confidence in own implementation vs. in assisting a colleague
- More comfortable being observed by a colleague vs. a professor with pre-service teachers

Interview data

Barriers

- Time (planning & instructional minutes)
- Lack of training
- Work & effort intensive

Motivation

- Prioritizing it
- Building relationships
- Seeing results

Supports Needed

- Management
- Collaboration
- Coaching & observation
- Culture change

Recommendations

- Create optional support group to share how to implement SGI
- Request optional professional development and coaching
- Build culture for SGI over time → expand training to all teachers

Acknowledgements

Thank you to my family for their unwavering support and encouragement. My advisor, Clay Spinuzzi, and my second reader and mentor, Thea Woodruff, provided me guidance and feedback to refine my writing and research. Colleagues were generous with their time. My cohort and HDO family kept me laughing and motivated. Evan Stein was a positive sounding board throughout.

Works Cited


Questions? Connect with me on LinkedIn