I would like to clarify some issues in regards to the BBSST process. According to the Alabama State Department of Education’s RTI model, BBSST is part of Tier III intervention. This implies that Tier I and Tier II interventions should be implemented and documented before referral to BBSST. Upon receiving documentation of Tier I and Tier II interventions, the BBSST should review the documentation to ensure the interventions that have been provided are appropriate to remediate the student’s identified skill deficits. If the BBSST determines that there is sufficient evidence of Tier I and Tier II intervention, it should accept the BBSST referral and at this point the BBSST timeline begins. Once the referral is accepted, the BBSST should initiate Tier III intervention, screen for vision and hearing and complete the Functional Assessment of Classroom Environment (FACE). The BBSST should carefully monitor students’ progress as they receive intervention and only refer a student for special education evaluation when they have documentation that Tier III intervention has been provided for at least 40-50 days and progress monitoring data indicates the student is not responding to the intervention.

Referral interventions may be waived for students who have severe problems that require immediate attention. If a waiver is granted, a copy of the waiver will be forwarded to the school’s BBSST chairperson. The BBSST should begin the BBSST process which will include screening for vision and hearing and completing the Functional Assessment of Classroom Environment (FACE). The BBSST process of interventions will be carried out simultaneously with the special education testing referral process. Ongoing BBSST interventions should be available and discussed at the eligibility meeting.

cc: Dr. Faron Hollinger
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