National Summit on Education Reform

Oct. 17, 2013
TN is taking on a comprehensive set of initiatives to improve outcomes for students with special needs

1. Improving the process for identifying students
   • 14 percent of Tennessee students have an IEP
   • Approximately half are identified with “specific learning disabilities”
   • Minority male students significantly overrepresented
   • July 2014, Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI²) will become means of identification for specific learning disabilities

2. Improving access to a continuum of services
   • RTI² will help ensure special education is a suite of services and interventions, not a place
   • Improve IEPs with focus on measurable annual goals in area of deficit
   • Significant training for parent and advocacy community on IEP process
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3. Improving access to general education curriculum and assessments
   • Significantly increase students’ time in general education settings
   • Legislation passed requiring content area licenses for teachers of courses that have end of course assessments
   • 10,000+ students moved from alternative assessments to regular assessments

4. Including special education students in accountability
   • Legislation passed adding special education students to value-added scores
   • Focus on reducing gaps for students with disabilities under ESEA waiver accountability system
Value-added scores look similar for special education students
We will be fully implementing Response to Instruction and Intervention in 2014-15

- RTI² is a framework for ensuring all students can learn through great, differentiated instruction.
- RTI² aligns with and supports Tennessee’s work on teacher evaluation and the Common Core State Standards.
- Beginning 2014-15, it will also serve as the method for determining if a student has a specific learning disability.