

Prereferral Intervention and Re-engaging Students in Learning

A Prereferral intervention process delineates steps and strategies to guide teachers seeking information about what may be causing a youngster's problems.

Some Steps in Prereferral Intervention are:

1. *Understanding the Problem:*

- Get the youngster's view of what's wrong.
- Build a positive working relationship with the youngster and family.
- Ask about what the youngster doesn't like at school
- Explore the reasons for dislikes
- Explore possible causal factors
- Explore what the youngster and those in the home think can be done to make things better.
- Discuss some new things the youngster and those in the home would be willing to try.

2. *Try new strategies in the classroom*

- Make changes to improve the match between the student's problem and his/her interests and capabilities

3. If the new strategies don't work, *talk to others* at the school

4. If necessary, use the *school's referral processes*

- If necessary include other staff in a special discussion with the youngster exploring reasons for the problem and ways to enhance positive involvement at school and in class.

5. Work with referral resources to *coordinate your efforts* with theirs