
REACH: Helping Children Succeed in School

Responsive Education for All Children (REACH)

What is REACH?

REACH – Responsive Education for All Children – is a process that involves teachers, other school staff, and families in planning and making decisions **together** about how children are taught.

Each child learns differently. Children may also face different challenges as they learn and grow. The REACH process helps schools offer teachers and families options and choices in how children learn so all students succeed.

Staff and families work as a team to help:

- Prevent learning or behavior problems for most students
- Identify early signs of concern
- Get involved or intervene with some students before small problems grow
- Meet the individual needs of students in danger of failing or dropping out.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports schools that choose to implement the REACH Framework. Any school can access REACH documents and training opportunities.

How does REACH help students?

REACH helps **students** by giving teachers, families, and other school staff tools to help prevent or cope with learning or behavior difficulties children may experience. School staff and families work together to plan how to teach and respond to student concerns. They also receive training, meet as a team, and share ideas about what works best for students.

Schools using the REACH process have improved student achievement, reduced the number of students referred for behavior problems, and referred fewer children for special education services.

Teachers using REACH said that they are able to learn from each other and change the way they relate to each child to address small problems before they become big. They share knowledge about children who need attention.

The REACH process helps everyone figure out how to help all children learn better.

How does REACH work in schools?

Every school using the REACH process develops plans to meet the unique needs of its students, families, and staff. These things may happen:

1. **The leadership team**, composed of school staff and parent members, meets to talk about the needs of students and teachers and how the school involves families in meeting those needs.
2. **Teachers** meet with each other and with school support staff to share ideas to help children learn more.
3. **Families** may meet with a small group of teachers or staff to share insights about their child. Together, parents and staff may craft a plan to help the child do better.

The REACH process helps children at any of three levels:

1. **School-wide** efforts may include programs to improve the curriculum, to prevent bullying, or to recognize positive student behavior.
2. **Small groups** of students, or some students, may need help with learning or behavior and benefit from tutors or mentors assigned to work with them.
3. A **few** students in danger of failing or dropping out may receive individual academic or behavior support, such as services before and after school or family support programs.

Families can be involved in the REACH process by providing important information and helping to develop plans for their child with school staff. Families volunteer time and effort to school programs such as tutoring that improve children's learning. They also serve on the building leadership team or other school groups to offer the parent perspective on school issues.

For more information on REACH, visit www.reachwi.org