2020 Call for Submissions of Academic Screening Tools

The **National Center on Intensive Intervention** (NCII) is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to build capacity of state and local education agencies, universities, practitioners, and other stakeholders to support implementation of intensive intervention in reading, mathematics, and behavior for students with severe and persistent learning and/or behavioral needs.

Rigorous research has shown that educating students with disabilities who require intensive intervention due to persistent learning and/or behavioral problems, whom teachers find among the hardest to teach, begins with a validated instruction platform that is "personalized" using data-based individualization (DBI). NCII believes that DBI is the engine that powers a dynamic, continuous interplay between assessment and intervention until the student demonstrates a satisfactory response.

The primary goals of this call are:

- to solicit information about existing academic screening tools;
- to evaluate the quality of the evidence that demonstrates efficacy for these tools; and subsequently,
- to provide technical assistance to participating stakeholders for successful implementation of them.

NCII will share information about evidence-based academic screening assessments that are identified through this call with an array of partners including state and local education agencies, institutions of higher education, technical assistance centers and professional development providers, parent centers, and relevant professional organizations.

The submission deadline for academic screening tools is **August 25, 2020**.

New Online Submission Portal

To facilitate the 2020 call for academic screening tools, NCII is using an online submission portal that streamlines the submission and review process. This customized platform, first used last year for our 2019 call for academic progress monitoring submissions, allows submitters to provide data using a fillable, dynamic form. The shift to an online submission system allows NCII to make substantial improvements to its review process. This shift also benefits submitters in the following ways:

- Submitters will receive instant confirmation of receipt by NCII.
- The submission form is fully 508-compliant and supports file attachments.
- Submitters will be notified automatically when interim results and final results are available.

- Returning submitters with tools featured on our charts will gain access to data from prior submissions.[1]
- Submitters can revise and resubmit submission forms they have previously created. This system eliminates the version control issues inherent to the Word/PDF protocols that were previously required for review.

The online submission portal can be accessed at https://trcreview.intensiveintervention.org; submitters must create an account to use the new system.

If you are a vendor with one or more tools(s) currently on our academic screening chart, we ask that you register for an account - even if you are not submitting this year - so we can link you to your historical data. Instructions are embedded throughout the form. Submitters may direct questions about the new portal or submission form to ToolsChartHelp@air.org.

Criteria for Review of Academic Screening Tools

For the purposes of this call, the NCII defines academic screening as follows.

> *The National Center on Intensive Intervention defines academic screening as a process using tools with convincing evidence of classification accuracy, reliability, and validity to identify students who may require intensive intervention efforts to meet their academic needs.*

Evidence-based academic screening tools in accordance with this definition and meeting the specifications that follow are invited to respond to this call.

For detailed information on the review standards and rating criteria see the Academic Screening Rating Rubric and FAQs on our website here: http://www.intensiveintervention.org/tools-chart-review-process.

Academic Screening Tools Criteria

Submissions of evidence-based academic screening tools must meet the following criteria.
1. Documentation of the tool's effectiveness must be based on direct evidence[2] rather than indirect evidence.
2. The tool must have the following classification data:
   a) Number of students in your sample who represent a true positive classification, a false positive classification, a false negative classification, and a true negative classification; and
   b) Area Under the Curve (AUC) derived from a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve analysis.

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[1] Returning submitters must register for an account and email ToolsChartHelp@air.org to gain access to historical data.

[2] Direct evidence refers to data from a study based on the tool submitted for evaluation. Studies that use data from the use of another tool, even if it is similar, are considered indirect evidence and will not be considered as adequate evidence for the purposes of this review.

3. Classification data analyses must be conducted using cut points identifying students in need of intensive intervention (i.e., cut points between the 10th and 20th percentile on local or national norm).
4. The tool's outcome variable must match the construct the screening tool measures (e.g., reading outcome for reading screeners or math outcome for math screeners).

Center staff will review submissions upon receipt to ensure that these minimum criteria are met. Only submissions that are determined to meet all five criteria will be assigned for review.

Review Process

The TRC review process consists of the four steps below. For a detailed explanation, visit our website: http://www.intensiveintervention.org/tools-chart-review-process.

1. All submissions will be checked for completeness by NCII staff. Required documentation must accompany the submission in order to be reviewed by the TRC.

2. All complete submissions will undergo a review process by the Center's Technical Review Committee of nationally renowned experts on academic screening. For further information about the committee members and their roles in the review process, please visit our website.

3. The review process will be conducted in two phases. Submitters will be notified of initial results and comments after the first phase of review. If presented evidence is found to be insufficient after the first phase, submitters may submit additional evidence or clarification. This additional information will be used to re-review and finalize results during the second phase of review. **Once the review has begun, withdrawal will not be permitted.**

4. Final TRC decisions as to the technical adequacy of submitted tools will be disseminated through NCII to states, districts, schools, and NCII's partners for implementation.