



Office for Dispute Resolution

**January 14, 2010 Hearing Officer Training
Biographies of Presenters**

Response to Intervention Presenters

Dr. James Gaggini

I have recently retired after thirty-five years with the Armstrong School District, the past seven years I served as the Asst. Superintendent in charge of Elementary Education and Pupil Services. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and my Master's in Special Education Supervision at Slippery Rock University. I received my Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration at IUP.

I believe that my most significant contribution to the Armstrong School District was the systematic implementation of an RtI instructional delivery system in grades K–6 and data informed instruction in grades K-12. I have recently participated in a group presentation at the National Association of School Psychologists National Conference in Anaheim California. The topic of the symposium presentation was “RtI and Reality: Three Models of Early Implementation”. I have extensive experience in the implementation of the RtI model including the planning and the implementation of the required professional development opportunities for both administrators and teachers. I have participated in providing RtI training/in-service programs for the Mid-Western IU 4, ARIN IU 28, the Karns City School District and the Penns Valley School District. I was also invited to serve on PDE Western Regional Task Force to draft Chapter 14 definition of SLD using the RtI process (Chaired by Dr. Linda Rhen, Spring 2007).

Dr. Jennifer Lillenstein

Dr. Jennifer Lillenstein is a nationally certified school psychologist and currently works for PaTTAN as a consultant in the areas of school improvement and RtII. Jennifer's areas of research interest include organizational change, sustainable leadership, literacy and response to instruction and intervention.

Joseph F. Kovalski, D.Ed., NCSP

Joseph F. Kovalski is Professor of Educational and School Psychology and Director of the Program in School Psychology at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is also co-principal investigator for the Pennsylvania RTI Project through the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN).

Dr. Kovalski earned his doctorate in school psychology from the Pennsylvania State University. He began his professional career as a school psychologist and preschool

coordinator with the Carbon-Lehigh (PA) Intermediate Unit. He subsequently worked as Director of Special Services in the South Plainfield (NJ) Public Schools, Supervisor of Clinical Services with the Lancaster-Lebanon (PA) Intermediate Unit, and Director of Pupil Services with the Cornwall-Lebanon (PA) School District. From 1990-1997, he served as Director of the Instructional Support Team (IST) Project for the Instructional Support System of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kovaleski has consulted with school districts and departments of education throughout the United States. His professional interests include system-wide efforts for school restructuring, the application of student assessment to classroom instruction, and implementing response-to-intervention assessment programs in the context of whole-school reform.

Lynda Lupp

Lynda A. Lupp serves as Special Education Advisor with the Bureau of Special Education. As special education liaison between the Bureau of Special Education and the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability, Ms. Lupp maintains responsibility for statewide assessments for students with disabilities including the general assessment with accommodations, the alternate assessment, and the modified assessment. She is also the Bureau of Special Education contact for the Response to Intervention initiative. Prior to her work at the Bureau of Special Education, she served as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and director of elementary special education. She earned her undergraduate degree from Millersville University and her Master's in Educational Administration from Temple University.