

Intensive Reading Education and Development (IREAD) Family Resource Guide



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Program Overview

The **Intensive Reading Education and Development (IREAD)** Program is a specialized, reduced class-size Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) program designed for students demonstrating language-based learning disabilities, reading difficulties, and/or dyslexia.



IREAD aims to prevent or reduce future reading challenges by providing high-quality structured literacy instruction that is explicit, systematic, and multisensory. Students in IREAD classrooms receive intensive foundational skills instruction, alongside their peers with and without IEPs.

Classes are taught by a general education teacher and a special education teacher, both trained in structured literacy. An additional literacy specialist supports targeted instruction, small group work, and data-based lesson planning. Related services such as speech therapy and occupational therapy are provided according to students' IEPs.

Instructional Model

IREAD classrooms implement structured literacy practices through:

- **Explicit & Systematic Phonics Instruction**
- **Small Group & Differentiated Reading Support**
- **Integrated Vocabulary & Comprehension Instruction**
- **Data-Driven Progress Monitoring (weekly/bi-weekly)**
- **Content-Rich Units of Study via NYCPS Approved Curricula**

Foundational reading skills—including phonological awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency—are prioritized to help students build necessary skills for reading comprehension.

Instruction is regularly adjusted based on student progress monitoring data to ensure rapid skill acquisition and growth toward grade-level literacy proficiency.

Student Profile

IREAD serves students in kindergarten to Grade 7 who are experiencing difficulty with literacy development.

Students May Show Difficulty In:

- Rhyming and other sound-based tasks

- Learning letter names and sounds
- Word reading (decoding) and spelling (encoding), especially of multisyllabic words for older students
- Phonological processing and rapid naming
- Written expression
- Reading fluency and stamina
- Accessing grade-level text independently in content areas

Eligible Students:

- With or without IEPs
- With or without formal dyslexia diagnoses
- Those identified through literacy screeners or teacher/parent concern

Common IEP Classifications in IREAD



- Speech and Language Impairment
- Learning Disability

Admissions Process

Step 1: Apply

Parents, guardians, or school staff, working on their behalf, may submit an IREAD application for students in **Kindergarten to Grade 7** who are experiencing literacy challenges. Applications are available by emailing: IREADprogram@schools.nyc.gov

If a student has not been screened, the IREAD team may send a dyslexia screener to be completed by the parent or teacher.

Step 2: Review

The IREAD team reviews:

- Dyslexia screener results
- Available Benchmark data (e.g., Acadience, MAP Growth Reading, i-READY)
- Additional assessments (if necessary), including phonological processing, rapid naming, letter knowledge, etc.
- Relevant IEP evaluations or outside testing (if available)

Step 3: Admission Decision

If the program meets your child's educational needs, you will receive an offer for an IREAD placement, including the school location. Families will be invited to visit the school before making a decision.

Once admitted, students do not need to reapply in subsequent years. If the IREAD classroom no longer serves the student, the IREAD and school team will work with the family to suggest and support an alternative placement.

Key Features of IREAD

- **Small Class Size & Co-Teaching Model**
- **Specialized Training in Dyslexia & Reading Disabilities**
- **Targeted Foundational Reading Instruction**
- **Inclusive Learning Environment**
- **Ongoing Parent Communication & Collaboration**

Questions?

To learn more or to apply:

contact IREADprogram@schools.nyc.gov or [Apply for IREAD](#)