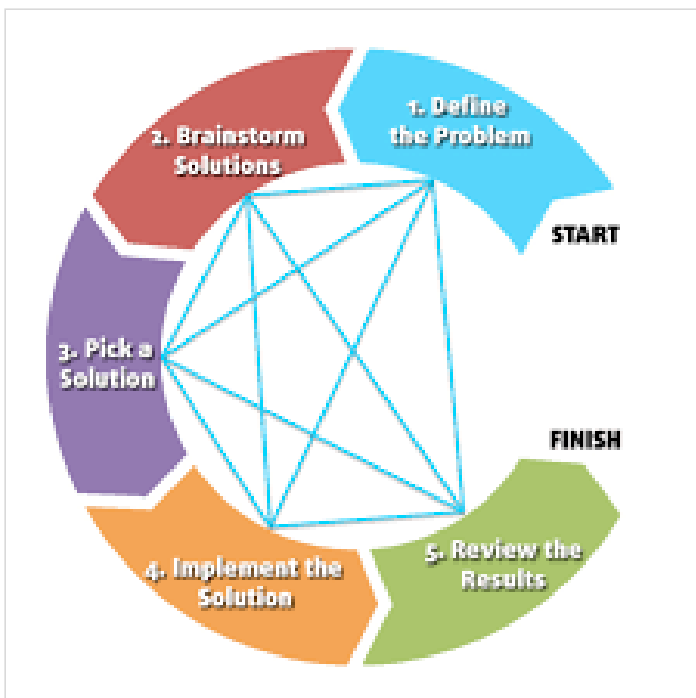# M4: Discussion on Weekly Readings and Big Ideas

Group Problem Solving

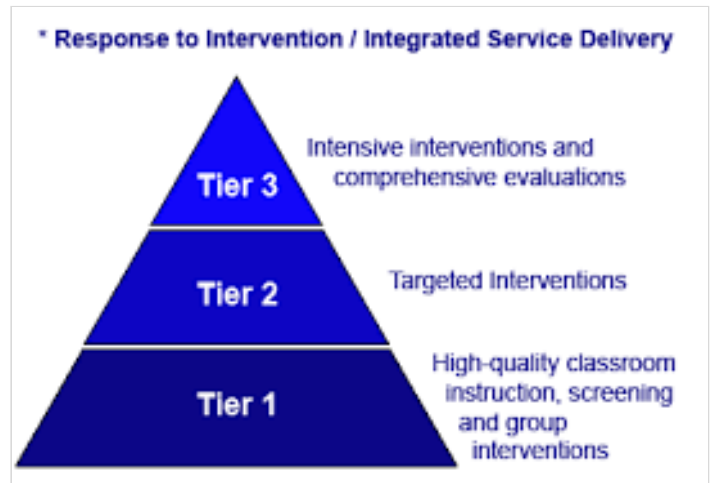**@MEGAN_GREGORY**   MAY 26, 2017 03:53PM

Steps in Problem Solving

After it is determined that there is a problem to solve, there are steps (protocol if you will) to how we can solve the problem. First we must properly define the problem as this guides the process. After identifying the problem, brainstorming solutions and determining the best option, practice or intervention can be implemented. Analysis of the outcome(s) will decide if the problem has been solved or if further collaboration is needed.

Problem Solving and Diversity

Collaboration means working with others. Various people coming together to solve problems means that cultural diversity is impacted. People have different backgrounds, opinions, thoughts, experiences, as well as different perspectives. When problem solving, it is important we recognize any bias we may have and even how our beliefs can help or hinder the process of solving problems together. We can achieve more than we could alone.

A Special Type of Problem Solving: Response to Intervention

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a specific model that assists in problem solving, specifically in relation to our students. This model targets a problem or need of a particular student or group of students. Once decision making takes place, tiers are identified determined by the needs and goals of the student(s). Tier 1 is the primary level at which all students are instructed. Tier 2 moves to small groups, and Tier 3 is individualized support.

Problem Solving is our Professional Responsibility

Group problem solving is the most fundamental component of successful interactions (e.g., Sio & Ormerod, 2015). Our role as professional educators is to solve problems. We do this when we choose lessons, interventions, activities, conversations, and all else that involves our students. It is our duty to address issues before they become problems, assume responsibility , and hold ourselves accountable for the outcomes.

Reactive and Proactive Problem Solving

How we respond to problem solving defines us as teachers. Reactive problem solving is when we respond to a situation, such as an incident in the classroom. Proactive problem solving is how we anticipate situations before they occur, such as creating behavior supports. How we approach problems before and after can help us solve them!