- Instructional support is provided for students who are enrolled in a public school program, grades kindergarten through twelve, and who are experiencing behavioral, psychological, physiological, and/or academic difficulties. This program does not apply to those students who are thought to be gifted or for those students who are attending non-public schools and who are thought to be exceptional.
- The purposes of the Instructional Support Team concept are to assure that a continuum of services is available and used effectively in each public school building, to provide peer support for teachers and other staff members, to provide initial screening and direct interventions with those students prior to referral for a multidisciplinary evaluation.
- Research has shown where the Instructional Support Team Model has been implemented, the following trends are evidenced:
  - Additional teacher peer support
  - An increase in student achievement
  - An increase in student self-esteem
  - More positive student relationships
  - An increase in parental satisfaction with the instructional process
  - An increase in the percent of students functioning at their instructional levels relevant to their curriculum
  - An increase in the percent of special education students served in regular education and itinerant programs
  - A decline in the rate of referrals and placements in special education due to student success in regular education programs
- 5220.4 The Superintendent is directed to formulate guidelines for an Instructional Support Program.