

## The Impairment Rating Scale: A Measure of Psychosocial Impairment for Children and Adolescents

Gregory A. Fabiano & William E. Pelham  
University at Buffalo

The Impairment Rating Scale (Fabiano et al., 2006; Evans et al., 2005) is a multi-dimensional measure that assesses functioning across domains (e.g., peer relationships, academic progress, family functioning). The IRS asks the rater to place an “x” on a seven point scale that ranges from “No problem; definitely does not need treatment or special services” to “Extreme problem; definitely needs treatment or special services.” Because the IRS can be completed by a parent or teacher without clinician involvement, and it is publicly available, the only clinical cost for the tool is the time spent to review and score it. The IRS exhibits concurrent, discriminant, and convergent validity, and acceptable levels of temporal stability (Pelham, Fabiano, & Massetti, 2005). The IRS is also sensitive to changes in behavior modification or pharmacological interventions (e.g., Fabiano et al., 2007). The evidence-base for the IRS as a measure of overall psychosocial functioning will be reviewed and discussed. Future directions will include a discussion of additional areas of needed research, potential additional applications for the measure, and the importance of assessing psychosocial impairment in prevention and intervention trials.