

Three Tiers of Advanced Academic Services (AAS) in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)

This document provides an overview of the continuum of AAS within ACPS. The Gifted Talent Development Model aligns with a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), a tiered intervention system. Research suggests that aligning the Gifted Talent Development Model and the MTSS Model benefits gifted learners' academic and social-emotional development.

Key Components of Tier I

- Tier I instruction provides access to rigor and critical and creative thinking (CCT) for all students in ACPS.
- K-12 classroom teachers provide Tier I instruction.
- At the elementary level, the Advanced Academic Services Teacher (AAST) plans, co-teaches, and models CCT strategies in all classrooms, either once a week or once every two weeks, depending on the school size and school staffing.
- At the middle school level, the AAST supports classroom teachers with co-planning and teaching.

Key Components of Tier II

- Tier II instruction is geared toward students in K-12 who need more than Tier I instruction.
- Grades K-3 for General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) receive interventions that are provided by the classroom teacher and will receive a Differentiated Education Plan (DEP).
- The Young Scholars (YS) program receives interventions that are provided by the classroom teacher.
- The AAST plans, co-teaches, models, and works in large or small groups within all K-3 classrooms, either once a week or once every two weeks, depending on the school size.
- Tier II interventions may include rigorous instruction through flexible grouping. This can include reading and math groups using enriched or accelerated standards, higher-level reading or math assignments, or independent projects.

Key Components of Tier III

- Students identified as requiring Tier III include Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) in grades 4-12 for mathematics, science, social studies, and/or language arts (LA).
- The curriculum is modified from the standard curriculum and contains accelerated, enriched, and differentiated activities.
- All grades 4-5 students identified for SAA services in LA or math receive daily instruction by an AAST teacher in a self-contained class.
- All grades 4-5 students identified for SAA services in social studies or science receive differentiated instruction from the classroom teacher.
- All grades 6-12 students identified for SAA services, when possible, are clustered grouped within Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and/or Dual-Enrollment (DE) classrooms.

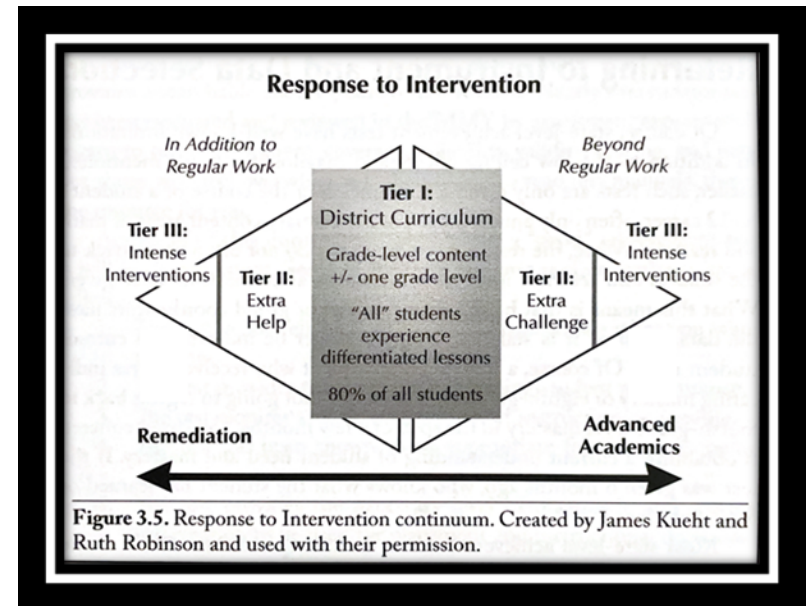


Figure 1: MTSS Model for Advanced Academics (Peters S., Matthews M., et al., 2014)