



Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS): Fact Sheet

MTSS is...

- ✓ A framework that helps schools improve the performance of all students by identifying needs early and modifying instruction quickly.
- ✓ A comprehensive system that screens all students and provides interventions that can be intensified if needed.
- ✓ Real-time support, not wait-to-fail.

MTSS is *not*...

- ✗ Just help with academics. Behavioral and social-emotional support are included.
- ✗ The job of a few specialists. General educators play a key role in helping assess students and plan interventions.
- ✗ An excuse to delay or deny a special education evaluation. Parents can request an evaluation at any time.

Many schools use some elements of MTSS

Response to intervention (RTI) focuses on academics and provides increasing levels of support to struggling students. In most districts, Tier 1 is classroom-wide support for all students, Tier 2 is small group interventions, and Tier 3 is intensive, individualized support.

Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) is similar to RTI but focuses on establishing behavioral expectations and providing tiered supports to help students meet those expectations.

Teacher training in MTSS can help schools work on...

Assessing the needs of **all students**, not just those who are outwardly struggling

Monitoring **student progress data** and using this data to make decisions

Expanding **access to specialists** who typically work with kids with disabilities

Faithfully following **intervention timelines** and other key aspects of MTSS

Spotlight: Integrated MTSS

MTSS can be phased in. For example, Kansas started using it in 2005 in one content area like math or reading. Since then, it has been integrated into all content areas, behavior and social-emotional learning. Survey respondents at more than 500 Kansas schools said MTSS helped by:

- ↓ Decreasing discipline referrals (77% of respondents)
- ↓ Decreasing special education referrals (63% of respondents)
- ↑ Increasing student proficiency (70% of respondents)