

What is MTSS: Parent Page

Montana Tiered System of Supports

What is MTSS?

MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

MTSS is a comprehensive framework for:

- meeting the needs of all students,
- providing evidence-based interventions,
- monitoring student progress through data-driven systems.

This multi-tiered approach provides systems of layered support in the areas of academics, behavior, attendance, and social needs, thereby improving learning outcomes for EVERY student.

MTSS eliminates the "wait to fail" model that prevents at-risk students from receiving support earlier rather than later.

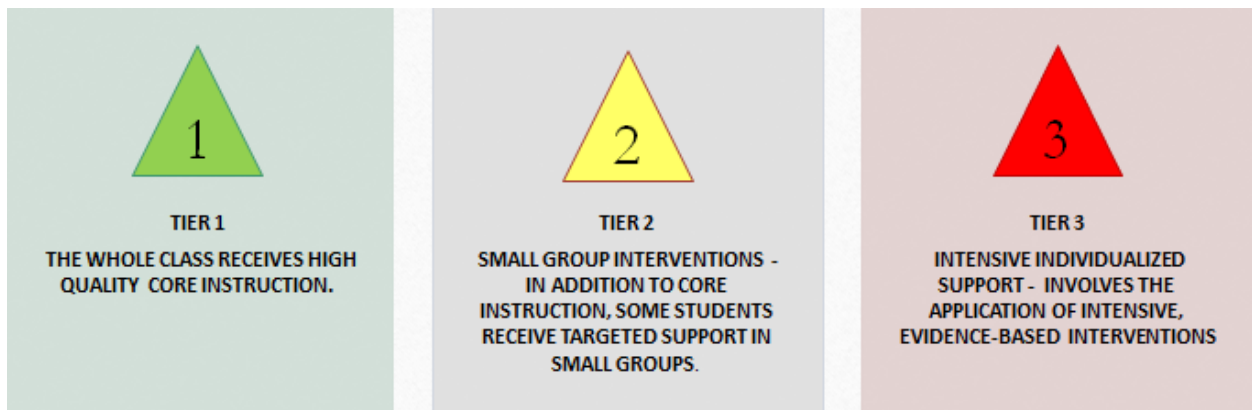
MTSS provides the broad framework for school improvement efforts, creating a positive school climate, and improving the academic and social achievement for all students through prevention, early intervention, and tiered support.

A Closer Look At Tiered Supports:

Tiers of MTSS



An MTSS problem solving framework delivers a continuum of evidence-based academic, behavior, & social emotional practices matched to student needs. There are three levels or tiers:



Within MTSS,

- **Instruction and interventions are provided to ALL students, at varying levels (tiers) of intensity.**
- **The levels of support increase or decrease over time depending on your student's needs.**
- **The goal is to prevent problems and intervene early so that students can be successful!**

Frequently Asked Questions:

What Can Parents Expect With MTSS?

- Information on your child's progress in meeting grade level standards
- Notice of academic or behavior concerns (early identification)
- Instruction and intervention that is matched to your child's needs
- Supports for your child can increase or decrease depending on his/her needs
- Feedback on how your child is progressing with supports/interventions
- Involvement in individual data-based problem solving for students (sometimes at Tier 2 and always at Tier 3)

What is My Role as a Parent?

- MTSS encourages teachers and parents to effectively communicate, collaborate, and use a systemic data informed problem-solving process to best meet the needs of your child.
- You are an important source of information regarding your child's strengths, interests, and challenges. You can contribute information about what has or hasn't worked in the past and can partner with school personnel in determining learning supports to meet your child's needs.
- If your child is struggling in school, you can expect information and involvement in the planning and problem solving process. Parent and school data that is gathered collaboratively provides the most complete data and leads to effective and prescriptive data-based decision-making.
- Parents should be actively engaged in all steps of the problem-solving process, and, particularly, engaged in all decisions regarding adjustments to interventions and related changes to a student's curriculum.
- Parental involvement increases the likelihood of success!

How Does the School Know My Child Needs Supplemental Support?

- Screening takes place 3 times a year to identify students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes.
- To determine the specific support a student needs, the school may gather additional data from observation, diagnostic assessment, or a data-based problem solving meeting.
- Students may receive supplemental (Tier 2) support through small groupings, increased instructional time, and explicit instruction.
- When supplemental support is not sufficient, a problem-solving team may meet to determine more intensive, individualized support (Tier 3). While parents aren't required to attend these meetings, they must be given the opportunity to participate if they wish to do so.

How Does MTSS Fit with Title and Special Education?

- MTSS is an **integrated system** connecting general education, title and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning with the objective of providing high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention.
- MTSS is not a separate class, program or intervention but instead, it is a way of organizing instruction to meet the needs of all students.
- Tier 3 support is not exclusive of students who receive Special Education Services. Students with or without an Individualized Education Plan can receive Tier 3 supports.
- If multiple interventions are not successful, MTSS may assist in identifying students for special education.

Do All Schools in Montana Implement MTSS?

- Every school uses some kind of intervention system but Montana schools choose whether or not to implement MTSS. It is up to each school to develop an MTSS framework that addresses challenges specific to the needs of its students and school community.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is providing schools with information, guidance, and professional learning to assist in the implementation of MTSS.

How Can I Get More Information About MTSS?

Take a look around this website to learn more about the MTSS, MTSS Essential Components and Tiered Supports!

Check out additional information from this online resources:

- **Montana Empowerment Center, Inc. (MEC) 1-877-870-1190**
<https://www.facebook.com/mtempowermentcenter.org>
<https://www.mtempowermentcenter.org/>

Source: Some of the content in this document was adapted from the **Montana Empowerment Center, Inc. (MEC) 1-877-870-1190** <https://www.mtempowermentcenter.org/>



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