

TTAC Monthly e-Newsletter



An e-Newsletter linking people and resources to support quality practices in the education of all students



When implemented with fidelity, an integrated multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) has been shown to be a responsive and effective framework for providing layered evidence-based practices and intensified supports to address the learning needs of all students (McIntosh & Goodman, 2016). Proactive and preventative by design, MTSS connects existing efforts through data, systems, and practices that enhance educational outcomes for divisions, schools, teachers, families, and students (Center on Multi-Tiered System of Supports, 2020).

Get Ready

Build a Strong Tier One Foundation

Tier 1 core instruction is the foundation of the MTSS framework. It is the written, taught, and tested curriculum in which **ALL** students participate. Most education MTSS models, such as Response to Intervention (RTI) or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), suggest that the instructional needs of approximately 80 percent of students will

be met through high-quality Tier 1 instruction (Fuchs, 2017). Cautionary MTSS guidance suggests that "you cannot intervene your way out of core instruction that is not effective" (Metcalf, n.d., p. 3). This implies the importance of all educators intentionally utilizing research and evidence-based inclusive practices, such as those identified as High Leverage Practices for inclusive classrooms (McLeskey et al., 2022). Resources that can help any educator develop, enhance, or polish their effective core instruction skills include:

- Resources for High Leverage Practices in Inclusive Classrooms
- High Leverage Practices Crosswalks for Literacy, Mathematics and Transition
- Professional Learning Series on High Leverage Practices
- Supporting and Responding to Classroom Behavior: Evidence-Based Classroom
 Strategies for Teachers
- Defusing Disruptive Behavior
- Classroom Behavior Management
- <u>Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Students with the Most Significant</u>
 <u>Cognitive Disabilities</u>

Get <mark>Set</mark>

Provide an Evidence-Based Continuum of Interventions and Supports

The MTSS preventative and proactive framework uses screening and early identification systems for identifying students who may benefit from intensified interventions within a continuum of supports (VDOE, 2023). Through problem-solving conversations and the use of multiple sources of data for decision-making, school-based teams match identified learning needs to evidence-based interventions that intensify from one tier to the next (Center on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, 2021). Resources that can help division and school teams get set to provide advanced tier interventions and monitor student progress include:

- <u>What Works Clearinghouse Screening and Program Research</u> and <u>Practice</u> <u>Guides</u>
- Progress Monitoring Overview and Tools
- Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Assessment and Implementation
- Intensive Intervention Overview for Families
- Data-Based Individualization: Intensive Intervention
- Using Multiple Data Sources to Develop a Comprehensive Learner Profile

Go

Learn more about MTSS

To learn more about the MTSS framework and evidence-based academic, social, and behavioral interventions and supports, go to:

- VDOE MTSS 101-Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- <u>Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports</u>
- Center on Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports: Multi-Level Prevention System
- National Center on Intensive Intervention
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

References

Center on Multi-Tiered System of Supports at American Institutes for Research. (2020). MTSS fidelity of implementation rubric. <u>https://mtss4success.org/essential-</u> <u>components</u>

Center on Multi-Tiered System of Supports at American Institutes for Research. (2021). <u>https://mtss4success.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/MTSS_Equity_Brief.pdf</u>

Fuchs, L.S, Fuchs, D. & Malone, A.S. (2017). The Taxonomy of Intervention Intensity. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 50(1), 35–43.

McIntosh, K. & Goodman, S. (2016). Integrated Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: Blending RTI and PBIS. New York: Guilford Press.

McLeskey, J., Maheady, L., Billingsley, B., Brownell, M. T., & Lewis, T. J. (2022). *High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Metcalf, T. (n.d.). What's your plan? Accurate decision making within a multi-tiered system of supports: critical areas in tier 1. Retrieved from <u>http://www.rtinetwork.org/essential/tieredinstruction/tier1/accurate-decision-making-within-a-multi-tier-system-of-supports-critical-areas-in-tier-1</u>

Virginia Department of Education (2023). Virginia tiered systems of supports. <u>https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/student-services/vulnerable-students-wellbeing-student-success/virginia-tiered-systems-of-supports-vtss</u>

This e-Newsletter is produced by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at George Mason University. For questions about content, please contact Karen Berlin, **kberlin@gmu.edu** or Melissa Gunter, **mgunter2@gmu.edu**.

TTAC @ GMU	VDOE	TTAC Online	VA Family Website