
MTSS Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms Series

Prevention Focus

A multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) is a universal framework designed to prevent poor learning outcomes for all students. School staff collect screening and progress monitoring data to identify students who need additional support. Educators use core instruction to prevent learning difficulties, and utilize Tiers 2 and 3 to address any identified concerns. Staff members are aware that student placement and movement within the tiers is not specifically a referral for special education, as the goal is to prevent and remediate any identified learning problems.

What Does Prevention Focus Look Like at the School Level?

All staff members understand the preventative model of MTSS and how the tiered systems of support work together to prevent poor learning outcomes. Staff use screening data to evaluate the health of core instruction (Tier 1) to ensure that at least 80% of students benefit from Tier 1. Staff also use screening data to identify students who need additional support. Tier 2 is designed to prevent poor learning outcomes, and Tier 3 supports students with significant learning problems. Educators use ongoing progress monitoring data for decision making about intensity of prevention services. General education teachers, along with special education teachers and interventionists, work together to design instruction and ensure its alignment across tiers.

Tips for Implementation

- Utilize the [MTSS Fidelity of Implementation Rubric](#) to self-evaluate the school's level of prevention focus.
- Use screening data to identify needs that can met through core programming, small-group instruction, and [individualized supports](#).
- Provide adequate training and follow-up coaching to staff to ensure awareness of the preventative purpose of MTSS.

Resources

- Use the [MTSS Fidelity of Implementation Rubric](#) to measure staff's awareness of the prevention focus of MTSS.
- [Intensive Intervention: Myths and Facts](#): This document highlights common misconceptions about the implementation of intensive intervention within the context of MTSS and can be used to further inform school staff of the preventative purpose of MTSS.
- Explore tools and rubrics to help with [consensus building](#) from the National Center for Systemic Improvement.

To learn more about prevention focus, visit www.MTSS4success.org.