
MTSS Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms Series

Schedules

Scheduling is an essential school infrastructure and support mechanism necessary for implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). A well-designed MTSS schedule ensures that schools can provide students sufficient time and access to core programming as well as additional interventions and supports. Effective schedules can support multiple levels of intervention based on student needs and afford staff adequate time to meet as a collaborative team, analyze data, and plan for instruction and supports.

What Do Schedules Look Like at the School Level?

Although MTSS schedules may vary based on the context of the school, a few key activities need to be included in an effective MTSS schedule. In addition to core programming, the schedule should include appropriate times for interventions that allow for intensification. Schools can ensure that the schedule includes ample time for screening, progress monitoring, and teaming for all tiers of instruction. The staff is assured time not only to provide instruction or intervention but also to gather and analyze data and to meet as a team accordingly. The leadership team should have dedicated time in the schedule to meet and engage in continuous improvement of MTSS processes.

Tips for Implementation

- Ensure that the schedule includes protected and dedicated time for staff to collaboratively plan, gather data, and adjust intervention for nonresponders.
- Include protected time in the schedule for the leadership team to evaluate MTSS and engage in continuous improvement, such as evaluation of fidelity of implementation for instruction, intervention, and assessment practices.
- Check that the schedule includes best practices for intervention and core instructional time across domains.
- Consider key questions when evaluating your schedule:
 - Does it follow guidelines for time for a given content area (e.g., at least 90 minutes daily in reading)?
 - Is there sufficient time to provide appropriate intensity of supplemental interventions?
 - Does the schedule allow for uninterrupted team time and ample time for data collection and analysis?

Resources

- Explore the [Strategies for Scheduling](#) document from the National Center on Intensive Intervention to find ways to maximize time for interventions.
- Check out our resource, [RTI Scheduling Processes for Middle School](#).
- Explore the RTI Action Network's considerations for scheduling [at the elementary level](#).