Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Fact Sheet for Families

What is Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)?

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a framework that focuses on intervention best practices within the areas of academics, behavior, and social/emotional supports for the whole child. Tiers are based on student need and increase the level of support provided as a student moves from classroom-wide, to targeted and intensive interventions.

How does MTSS help students?

The goal of MTSS is to find struggling students early and quickly provide intervention. The systems use interventions proven by research to meet a student’s needs. Progress monitoring data is used to make decisions about movement between the tiers.

What type of support is available?

There are typically three tiers of support in an MTSS model.

- Tier 1 includes high quality classroom-wide instruction and support for all students.
- Tier 2 provides targeted support to address a student’s gaps in skills.
- Tier 3 involves intensive support usually provided more often and in smaller groups.

Schools may NOT...

- Use MTSS to delay or deny access to special education or other supports for students.
- Require a student to go through all MTSS tiers or spend a certain amount of time in MTSS before they are referred for a special education evaluation.

Texas public schools must...

Notify a parent of each child who receives assistance from the school district for learning difficulties every year. This includes supports through an MTSS program that are above the level of intervention used with all children. This notice does not apply to parents of children receiving special education.

Parents or guardians may request a special education evaluation for their child at any time.

Additional resources and information for parents can be found on the SPEDTex website.

- SpEdTex.org
- 1.855.773.3839

TEA.Texas.gov/TexasSpEd