

Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports

A number of educational researchers have long advocated for a system of prevention and intervention for all students. In Kansas we refer to this systemic approach as the *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS). Simply put, MTSS is a continuum of increasingly intense, research-based interventions provided to students that helps them learn by responding to their academic and/or behavioral needs. It includes ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of the interventions provided. The outcome is to ensure that each Kansas student is challenged to achieve to high standards both academically and behaviorally.

“MTSS requires systems change . . . rethinking how schools meet the needs of ALL students through core curriculum and instruction.”

Dr. Diane DeBacker
Commissioner of Education



“Leadership, professional development and an empowering culture are all necessary for successful implementation of the MTSS.” ~ Dr. Diane DeBacker

The principles and practices included in a *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS) are research based and supported by the Kansas State Department of Education. MTSS builds a system of prevention, early intervention, and support to ensure all students, both struggling and advanced learners, are achieving to high standards academically and behaviorally. It establishes a system that intentionally focuses on leadership, professional development, and an empowering culture. It also incorporates a continuum of assessment, curriculum, and instruction into the framework to ensure students are learning and provided appropriate support.



Find out more at

www.kansasmtss.org

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Supporting the Learning of All Students

The Goal of MTSS

The goal of a *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS) is to provide an integrated systemic approach to meeting the needs of struggling and advanced learners and using resources in the most effective and efficient way—enabling every child to be successful. This is accomplished by:

- Being prevention oriented: knowing who needs support early each year and putting those supports in place.
- Implementing evidence-based practices for all students and tailoring interventions based on student need.
- Using progress monitoring data to know when to make a change.

These practices set up a system to provide students at risk of experiencing school difficulties with targeted interventions while students who are identified as being at low risk for difficulties can be provided advanced instruction to enhance their learning. What makes this approach different is that the assessment and instructional practices are integrated into an objective, data-based system with built-in decision stages.

What We Know

- The earlier school staff can assess students' needs and identify those with difficulties, the quicker and less expensive the task is to help those struggling learners catch up.
- The longer a student goes without assistance, the longer the remediation time and the more intense the services must be.
- There is emerging evidence that many students who struggle in the early grades cannot catch up if we wait until 3rd or 4th grade to deliver intensive remediation.

What it Looks Like

MTSS helps schools and districts ensure that supports for the entire system are provided in a very coordinated way, including:

- Students receive the help they need quickly.
- Data is used for all instructional decisions.
- Student progress is monitored frequently to ensure instructional efforts are on track.

“MTSS has had a positive impact on student achievement and school climate.”

~Dr. Diane DeBacker

- Ineffective practices are discontinued immediately.
- Support is provided to teachers throughout the process.

Accessing Training Support

A network of Recognized *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS) Facilitators has been developed across the state through partnerships with many educational agencies. Recognized Facilitators receive training specific to MTSS and have the responsibility to support buildings through the MTSS training system with fidelity to all essential practices and materials. A list of Recognized Facilitators and their contact information is provided on the Kansas MTSS website:

www.kansasmtss.org