

Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS): Foundational Beliefs

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), formerly Responses to Intervention (RtI), is a framework of instruction that provides support to ALL students to ensure mastery of grade-level content standards. The tiers of MTSS provide varying levels of support for students who are struggling to reach mastery as well as those to exceed grade-level.

MTSS provides a framework that incorporates screening, progress monitoring and data-based decision making to provide effective instructions.

MTSS and RtI Are viewed as similar concepts by the Minnesota Legislature; however, since 2012, education leaders have witnessed a systematic movement away from RtI toward MTSS. There is an articulated process that guarantees each student with the support and time he/she needs in order to learn at high levels (Action Plan).

There are three critical components that guide the MTSS framework in Alexandria Public School District. These components are: We're Personal, We're Comprehensive, We're Responsive.

1. **We're Personal:** All stakeholders believe they are responsible for ensuring that each student learns at a high level.
2. **We're Comprehensive:** Curriculum is developed based on identified units of study. Personalized learning paths are developed in order for each student to attain a high level of mastery.
3. **We're Responsive:** The systemic use of data to determine the learning needs of each student and monitoring the effectiveness of instruction in regards to meeting those needs.

Rtl Tiered Instruction

Tier 1 instruction, also known as core instruction, is at course/grade level instruction that each student receive on a daily basis. For the majority of students, Tier 1 instruction will meet their academic needs. For approximately 80% of students Tier 1 instruction will meet their academic and/or behavioral needs.

Tier 2 instruction is supplemental instruction, at course/grade level, for student who need additional support in learning course/grade level material. Tier 2 instruction is intended to be timely and coordinated with Tier 1 instruction. Approximately 20% of student should need Tier 2 instruction in the ideal MTSS framework. Tier 2 needs and interventions are identified during PLC conversations referencing the four critical questions.

Tier 3 instruction is intensive support provided to students who are struggling with significant learning gaps and need academic and/or behavioral support. Typically these students do not have the appropriate course/grade level skills yet to be successful in solely Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction. Tier 3 provides yet an additional level of intervention to help students develop foundational skills. **Students receiving Tier 3 instruction also receive Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction.** Students are entered into the Tier 3 interventions based on a referral to the School Intervention Team (SIT).

MTSS TEAMS

| | Team Purpose | Team Members | Frequency of Meetings |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| Teacher Teams/PLC | <p>The team has five main functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly Defined Essential Skills • Provide Tier 1 instruction • PLCs • Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Behavior ○ Grade/homework completion (skills/completions) ○ Goal completion (check and connect) • STAR Data • Need to track the data regarding the measurement • PLCs – content specific at the Middle school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course/grade level teams • Department Teams • Interdisciplinary teams • Academy Teams • Team Time Meetings • High School Counselors • Dean of Students | Once a week |
| School Intervention Teams (SIT) | <p>Primary function is to analyze various forms of data to determine how to best meet the needs of students requiring Tier 3 interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine students' academic/behavioral needs • Diagnose causes of struggles in Tier 1 and 2 • Determine appropriate intervention • Monitor student progress • Revise intervention as needed • Determine appropriate next steps for students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social worker/counselor • Intervention Lead • General education teacher(s) • Special education teacher/representative • EL teacher, as needed • School Psychologist • Principal/Assistant Principal • Deans of Students – Middle school | |

SIT should not exceed 12 members.