

MTSS Component Summary: Multi-Level Prevention System

The multi-level prevention system includes three tiers of intensity for instruction, intervention, and supports. Tier 1 includes high-quality, schoolwide academic, social, emotional, and behavioral programming and supports designed to meet the needs of all students. At Tier 2, schools provide small-group, standardized academic interventions or targeted behavioral or mental health supports using validated intervention programs to support students identified as at-risk. Tier 3 includes intensive intervention for students not responding to Tier 2 through instruction and supports that are intensified and individualized based on student need. Education teams should pay close attention to ensure the selection and implementation of evidence-based practices at all tiers of the system, with consideration for cultural and linguistic responsiveness and recognition of student strengths

A multi-level prevention system is important to the MTSS process because

- it allows schools to be responsive to students by matching a student's needs to a corresponding level of support;
- defines the levels of support to allow school teams to engage in more effect decision making;
- organizes evidence-based practices, interventions, and supports within a comprehensive system; and
- includes schoolwide, multi-level systems which prevent school failure when implemented with fidelity.

Implementing multi-level prevention system:

- Tier 1 includes core academic, social, emotional, and behavioral programming, curriculum, instruction, and supports that are aligned to grade-level standards and student needs. Educators use instructional strategies and practices shown to be effective for the student population and educational context. In effective Tier 1 systems, the majority of students benefit from Tier 1 programming, and teachers use differentiation to ensure all students benefit from core programming.
- Tier 2 includes supplemental, validated intervention programs delivered to students identified as needing additional [academic](#), [behavioral](#), or mental health supports. Teams select and ensure that interventions and supports are delivered with fidelity at an appropriate frequency and duration to ensure that students have increased opportunities for practice and corrective feedback.

- Tier 3 includes individualized, intensive intervention to support students with a demonstrated history of severe or persistent learning or behavioral needs, including students with disabilities. Teams can use [data-based individualization \(DBI\)](#) as a validated approach to providing intensive intervention.

Tips for implementing multilevel prevention system:

- Clearly communicate grade-level and schoolwide learning objectives.
- Provide staff training on instructional differentiation at Tier 1, including academic enrichment opportunities.
- Ensure that core curriculum is aligned with state standards.
- Use standard interventions at Tier 2.
- Use your most intensive resources and supports for students needing Tier 3.