WDE ◉ WYOMING MTSS
MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

MTSS Component Summary: Universal Screening

Universal screening is a systematic process that uses appropriate measures for identifying students who may be at risk of poor learning outcomes, including academic, behavioral, social, emotional, school completion, and college and career readiness. It is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of core programming, which includes identifying schools or systems that need support because of large numbers of struggling students. The universal screening process depends on access to and use of reliable and valid assessments for desired outcomes within selected grade levels.

Screening is important to the MTSS process because it:
- allows for early identification and early intervention,
- helps schools plan for equitable use of resources and programs,
- identifies individual student needs and needs of the entire system, and
- prioritizes equity by being responsive to the cultural and learning needs of all students.

Steps to implement:
1. Design a screening process aligned to desired outcomes that identifies the target population, administration schedule, and approach to data analysis.
2. Select screening tools based on academic and behavioral needs, context, and priorities of the team.
3. Train staff through regular professional learning opportunities focused on helping staff to understand the purpose of screening and building their capacity to implement screening with fidelity.
4. Collect data and monitor fidelity by developing a clear plan for the screening process.
5. Analyze screening data as a district or school team to make data-based decisions about individual student needs, programming, curriculum, and allocation of resources and equitable services.

Tips for implementing screening:
- Ensure fidelity to the screening process. Accurate data are critical.
- Be aware of false positives. Verify the needs of students by using additional data sources or readministering the screener.
- Consider the cultural and learning needs of all students when selecting screeners and when implementing screening processes.