

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

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), formerly Response 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 who exceed grade-level standards.

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.

MTSS Tiered Instruction

Tier 1 instruction, also known as core instruction, is at course/grade level instruction that each student receives 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 students 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 students 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 from the School Intervention Team (SIT).