



Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education®

MTSS in Action

Multi-Tiered Model of Reading Instruction

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is an instructional framework that helps educators identify the learning needs of all students and provide personalized supports so that all students can be successful.

MTSS incorporate three hierarchical levels, or tiers, that represent levels of prevention or support. Below is a sample of how curriculum and instruction varies across each tier.

		TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
		Universal Instruction	Targeted Instruction	Intensive Intervention
Program	Elementary	Evidence-based core program implemented with fidelity	Evidence-based, supplemental, short-term interventions implemented with fidelity	Evidenced-based, focused, stand-alone interventions implemented with fidelity
	Secondary			
Learner	Elementary	All students	Students who need additional, targeted support	Students who are not making adequate progress, despite Tier 1 and 2 efforts
	Secondary			
Time	Elementary	From 90 to 120 minutes per day	From 30 to 45 additional minutes per day, three-to-five times per week	From 45 to 60 additional minutes per day
	Secondary	From 40 to 60 minutes per day, or one period per day		
Grouping	Elementary	Whole class plus differentiated instruction	Small group (e.g., four to eight students) intervention	Separate, one-to-one or small group (e.g., two to four students) intervention
	Secondary		Separate intervention class or period before, during, or after school	
Teacher	Elementary	Classroom teacher	Classroom teacher and/or interventionist	Interventionist or specialist
	Secondary			
Assessment	Elementary	Screening three times per year for all students; progress monitoring as needed	Progress monitoring (curriculum-embedded and/or CBM) monthly or bimonthly; diagnostic assessment as needed	Progress monitoring (curriculum-embedded and/or CBM) weekly or biweekly; diagnostic assessment as needed
	Secondary	Standardized achievement tests at end of the school year; screening as needed during the year		
Professional Development	Elementary	Ongoing training and support aligned with core program, assessment, and data-based decision making	Ongoing training and support aligned with core and intervention programs, assessment, and data-based decision making	Ongoing training and support aligned with stand-alone intervention program, assessment, and data-based decision making
	Secondary			

Excerpted from Teaching Reading Sourcebook, 3rd Edition, one of the texts used in CORE's Designing and Implementing MTSS Institute.

If you have questions about MTSS or would like support implementing MTSS, please contact CORE at 888.249.6155 or info@corelearn.com. Our Designing and Implementing MTSS Institute assists school leadership teams to implement MTSS as a coordinated PreK-12 system of academic and behavior support.