

Understanding General Education Supports in Kansas

What Are General Education Supports?

General education supports are tools, strategies, and programs schools use to help students succeed without the need for special education services. These supports are for **all students**, including those who may be struggling with learning, behavior, or social-emotional skills.

In Kansas, many of these supports are provided through a framework called **MTSS** (Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

What Types of Supports Might Be Offered?

Depending on your child's needs, schools may offer:

- Small group reading or math support
- Behavior charts or goal setting
- Social-emotional learning lessons
- Academic interventions or enrichment activities
- Check-ins with a counselor or mentor
- Flexible grouping or reteaching during instruction
- Visual schedules or organizational tools

These supports are part of the general education program and are available before any discussion of an IEP or 504 Plan.

What Is MTSS?



Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a system Kansas schools use to match students with the right level of support based on their needs.

Tier 1

Support for all students in the general education classroom (for example, high-quality teaching, classroom routines, behavior expectations)

Tier 2

Small group or short-term supports for students who need a little more help (for example, targeted reading or math interventions)

Tier 3

Intensive, individualized supports (for example, frequent small group sessions or behavioral support plans)

MTSS is **not special education**. It is a general education process designed to prevent students from falling behind.



What Can Parents Do?

- Ask your child's teacher how your child is doing in core areas
 - Request to see progress data if your child is receiving extra help
 - Ask what strategies are being used and how you can support them at home
 - Attend parent-teacher conferences and ask specific questions
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What Parents Say

- "I didn't know my child was getting small group help, but I'm glad they are."
 - "The classroom behavior plan helped my child stay on track."
 - "When I asked how I could help at home, the teacher gave me great tips."
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Important Reminder

You don't need a formal plan for your child to receive support. General education supports are built into the school system and are designed to allow every student to succeed. If concerns persist, you can always inquire about next steps, including whether an evaluation or additional support is needed.

For more information, talk with your child's teacher, counselor, or principal, or visit www.ksde.org.