

What Is MTSS? (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)

What Does MTSS Mean?

MTSS stands for **Multi-Tiered System of Supports**. It is a framework Kansas schools use to make sure **every student gets the support they need** to succeed in academics, behavior, and social-emotional learning.

MTSS is not a program. It is a system for problem-solving and providing help early, before a student falls too far behind.

The 3 Tiers of MTSS

MTSS is built like a pyramid with three levels of support:

Tier 1: Support for All Students

- High-quality teaching in reading, math, behavior, and social-emotional learning
- Positive school-wide behavior expectations
- Regular screening and progress checks

Tier 2: Targeted Small Group Support

- Short-term interventions for students who need a little more help
- May include small group reading, math, or behavior lessons
- Progress is tracked to see if the help is working

Tier 3: Intensive Individualized Support

- For students who need more frequent or customized instruction
 - Often includes one-on-one or very small group support
 - Adjusted based on how the student responds to interventions
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What Are MTSS Teams Called?

Every school may use different names for the team that meets to review student needs and problem-solve. Common names include:

- Student Intervention Team (SIT)
- Student Assistance Team (SAT)
- General Education Intervention Team

These teams usually include your child's teacher, a school counselor or social worker, instructional specialists, a school psychologist, and sometimes the principal or MTSS coordinator. Parents **can and should** be invited to attend when their child is being discussed. You have valuable insight and can help the team better understand what your child needs.

What Areas Does MTSS Support?

- **Reading** (fluency, comprehension, decoding)
 - **Math** (calculation, problem-solving)
 - **Behavior** (self-regulation, following rules, coping skills)
 - **Social-Emotional Learning** (managing emotions, peer relationships)
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How Do Schools Use MTSS?

Schools use MTSS to:

- Identify students who may need help early
 - Match the right type of support to student needs
 - Monitor how students respond to interventions
 - Make data-informed decisions about next steps
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What Can Parents Ask?

- Is my child receiving support through MTSS?
- What tier of support are they in?
- How often is progress being monitored?



- What happens if my child does not improve?

MTSS is a general education support — it does not require an IEP or 504 Plan.

What Parents Say

- “I didn’t know the school was helping my child in a small group, but I’m thankful they were.”
 - “The reading support made a difference, and we caught it early.”
 - “The school checked in often and showed us data so we could help at home too.”
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Important Reminder

MTSS is about meeting students where they are and giving them what they need to grow. It is a proactive way to keep students from falling behind. If your child needs more than classroom instruction alone, MTSS is often the first step in getting extra help.

To learn more, visit www.ksdetasn.org/mtss or talk with your child’s teacher or school counselor.