



TIPS FOR CREATING EQUITY FOR ALL THROUGH MTSS – TIER 1

THE SITUATION

Equity is ensuring that each and every student gets what they need to learn what they are expected to learn. While there may be common needs across many students, each student will also have some unique needs. Tier 1 within a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), the “universal tier”, is generally expected to provide a common set of learning experiences for all students, with some differentiation.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge is providing equity in opportunity to learn expected learning to each student with the right balance of common and individualized learning opportunities. This requires having data on student learning on progress towards common learning expectations, as well as strategies and programs matched to the range of student needs.

THE TIPS

- **Develop a common set of learning targets** for your district/school grounded in the academic content standards required by your state.
- Ensure teachers, key support personnel, and administrators **know how to use the common learning targets** to make decisions about curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- **Frame the learning targets in different, student-friendly ways** that represent the diversity of your student population to increase engagement in their own learning.
- Establish **multiple ways** in which students can **demonstrate their learning** of the common targets that are culturally relevant and sensitive.
- **Work in collaborative teams** to review lesson plans and student work, with an eye to both student skill demonstration, as well as cultural relevance/sensitivity of the learning targets is supporting student engagement.
- **Disaggregate**, analyze, and use student learning data by key demographics.
- During curriculum and assessment adoption cycles, **engage in a rigorous standards-alignment process** to ensure selections are made based on data and not just vendor claims.
- **Continue your learning** around equitable practices and grow in self-awareness around your own skills and biases.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Equity is about providing students with what they need to learn and grow, as is MTSS. Mindful implementation of MTSS will facilitate equitable practices.