

MTSS = One Instructional System™

A systems-based framework for aligning Tier 1 instruction, intervention, assessment, feedback, and leadership practices into one coherent instructional model that improves outcomes for all students.

Core Belief

The Problem

Schools often struggle because instructional systems operate in isolation.

- Tier 1 is disconnected from intervention
- Assessment is disconnected from instruction
- PLCs discuss teaching instead of learning
- Walkthroughs focus on compliance instead of cognition
- Tier 2 becomes overloaded because Tier 1 lacks consistency

Core Principle

MTSS is not an intervention program.

It is the organizational structure for how instruction, assessment, intervention, and leadership work together.

The 5 Core Components

1. Tier 1 Instruction

The foundation of the system.

Focus Areas:

- Teacher clarity
- Explicit instruction
- Student discourse
- Checks for understanding
- Success criteria
- Cognitive engagement

Leadership Look-Fors:

- Students explaining learning
- Frequent formative assessment
- Aligned objectives
- High response participation

2. Assessment & Feedback

Assessment drives instructional response.

Focus Areas:

- Formative assessment
- Exit tickets
- Real-time feedback
- Student evidence
- Data-informed reteaching

Leadership Look-Fors:

- Teachers adjusting instruction
- Students using feedback
- Evidence of misconceptions identified quickly

3. Intervention & Enrichment

Support is aligned to core instruction.

Focus Areas:

- Targeted reteach
- Skill precision
- Small-group instruction
- Acceleration opportunities

Leadership Look-Fors:

- Intervention connected to Tier 1 standards
- Groups formed by evidence
- Clear skill deficits addressed

4. Instructional Leadership

Leadership creates coherence.

Focus Areas:

- Walkthrough alignment
- Coaching precision
- PLC calibration
- Shared instructional expectations

Leadership Look-Fors:

- Consistent language across classrooms
- Aligned leadership feedback
- Observable instructional priorities

5. Student Ownership

Students understand the learning process.

Focus Areas:

- Learning intentions
- Success criteria
- Self-assessment
- Goal setting

Leadership Look-Fors:

- Students explaining:
 - what they are learning
 - why it matters
 - how success is measured