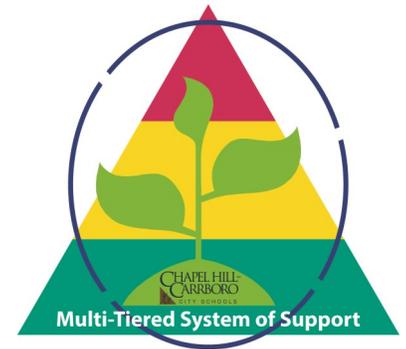


# A Multi-Tiered System of Support

*CHCCS*  
*MTSS*



## Information for Families

### **What is a Multi-Tiered System of Support?**

MTSS is a term used to describe a model which encourages school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. MTSS uses data-driven problem-solving to maximize growth for all students.

All staff and students are included as part of a multi-tiered system of support. MTSS uses a data driven problem-solving model to review multiple pieces of data to determine how all students are responding to instruction. Teams problem-solve in the areas of instruction, curriculum, and environment. All students have access to all layers of instructional support.

### **How does it work?**

MTSS has three levels, or tiers, of instruction and support, all aimed at giving teachers an efficient way to provide the best instruction to all students.

- Tier 1 includes the instruction and support provided to all children.
- Tier 2 serves students needing more help. Extra instruction and support are often provided to these children in small groups.
- Tier 3 is for children who need intense support in order to succeed. Extra instruction and support are provided, often in even smaller groups or one-on-one.

### **How is MTSS different than current practices?**

Of course this kind of evaluation and intervention already is taking place. Teams are regularly looking at school-wide and individual needs. MTSS gets every school on the same page. Teachers and administrators speak a common language and use a data-driven problem-solving process to address areas of need.

- MTSS is a more accurate term that refers to one seamless framework that provides differing levels of academic and behavioral supports to students based upon their need.
- MTSS encompasses the framework of Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).
- Schools may choose to refer to their system as an RtI framework.
- The term RtI is typically much narrower than what is meant by MTSS. Some of these topics include: the identification of a student with specific learning disabilities under IDEA, individual student problem-solving approach to interventions, standard protocol approach to interventions or possibly a school wide approach.

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### What can I expect from MTSS?

- Frequent updates of student progress.
- Early identification of academic or behavioral concerns at the first signs of difficulty.
- Help for your child that increases or decreases depending on his or her need.
- Information and involvement in planning and providing interventions to help your child.
- Information about how your child is responding to the interventions being provided.

### What do I do if I believe my child is struggling?

#### Step 1. Talk with your child's teacher

Set up a time to talk to your child's teacher(s). Items to discuss are:

1. What is the problem? As a parent, where do you see your child struggling? What are the teacher's concerns?
2. What support is available in the classroom to help your child in the identified area of concern?
3. Make a plan to follow up with the teacher within a few months. If your child continues to struggle, discuss Step 2 with your child's teacher.

#### Step 2. Targeted support identified through the problem-solving model

If your child continues to struggle even after differentiated classroom support, more targeted supports are available.

1. Your child's teacher will participate in the problem-solving model with his/her colleagues. As a team, they will work to identify more targeted support for your child and develop a plan of action.
2. The problem-solving team will review your child's progress and make changes as needed.
3. Make a plan to follow up with the teacher within a few months. If your child continues to struggle, discuss Step 3 with your child's teacher.

#### Step 3. Individualized problem-solving

If your child continues to struggle after targeted support and teacher collaboration, more intensive and individualized supports are available.

1. You will be invited to participate in the problem-solving model with your child's teacher along with specialists, such as literacy coach, school psychologist, counselor, and administrators, at your child's school.
2. The problem-solving team will work collaboratively to develop an individualized plan with intensive supports.

Your child's progress will be monitored weekly and supports adjusted as need.

### Tips for parents:

- Get to know your child's teacher and actively participate with them in problem-solving discussions.
- **Get to know your child's strengths and weaknesses.**
- If your child is receiving Tier 2 or 3 support, ask school staff what academic, social –emotional or behavioral area is being addressed
- **Ask what you can do to be part of the solution.**
- Suggest strategies and interventions based on what you know works at home.
- **Read with your child every day, and help with homework.**
- Ask when the school will update you on the results of intervention.
- **Praise your children for any improvement in the area of concern.**