

The School Counselor Guide to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a framework for providing early intervention and support to students who are struggling academically or behaviorally. MTSS is based on the idea that all students can learn, but some students need more support than others. MTSS provides a continuum of services that are designed to meet the needs of all students, from those who are struggling to those who are excelling.

MTSS is typically implemented in three tiers:

- **Tier 1:** Universal screening and progress monitoring for all students.
- **Tier 2:** Targeted interventions for students who are struggling.
- **Tier 3:** Intensive interventions for students who are not responding to Tier 2 interventions.

Tier 1 services are provided to all students in the school. These services include:



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- Screening and progress monitoring to identify students who are struggling.
- Evidence-based instruction that is designed to meet the needs of all students.
- A positive school climate that supports student learning.

Tier 2 services are provided to students who are struggling in Tier 1. These services include:

- Small-group instruction that is targeted to the specific needs of students.
- Academic support, such as tutoring or extra help.
- Behavioral support, such as counseling or social skills training.

Tier 3 services are provided to students who are not responding to Tier 2 interventions. These services include:

- Intensive academic support, such as one-on-one tutoring or special education.
- Intensive behavioral support, such as therapy or counseling.
- A Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) to identify the underlying causes of a student's behavior problems.

Implementing MTSS in your school requires a team effort. The team should include administrators, teachers, school counselors, parents, and students. The team should work together to develop a plan for implementing MTSS that meets the needs of your school.

The following steps can help you to implement MTSS in your school:

1. **Establish a leadership team.** The leadership team will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of MTSS in your school. The team should include administrators, teachers, school counselors, parents, and students.
2. **Develop a plan.** The plan should include the following components: * A description of the MTSS framework * A timeline for implementing MTSS * A budget for MTSS * A plan for evaluating the effectiveness of MTSS
3. **Train staff.** All staff members who will be involved in MTSS should be trained on the framework. The training should include information on the components of MTSS, how to implement it, and how to evaluate its effectiveness.
4. **Implement MTSS.** Once the staff has been trained, MTSS can be implemented in the school. The implementation should be gradual and should be based on the needs of the school.
5. **Evaluate MTSS.** MTSS should be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that it is effective. The evaluation should include data on the following: * The number of students who are struggling * The number of students who are receiving Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions * The effectiveness of Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions

School counselors play a vital role in MTSS. School counselors can help to:

- Screen and progress monitor students.
- Provide Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions.
- Consult with teachers and parents on how to support students who are struggling.
- Advocate for students who need additional support.

School counselors are uniquely qualified to help students who are struggling. School counselors have the training and experience to provide academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support to students. School counselors can also help to connect students with the resources they need to succeed.

MTSS is a powerful framework for providing early intervention and support to students who are struggling. MTSS can help to improve student outcomes and reduce the number of students who are struggling. School counselors play a vital role in MTSS. School counselors can help to ensure that all students have the support they need to succeed.



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