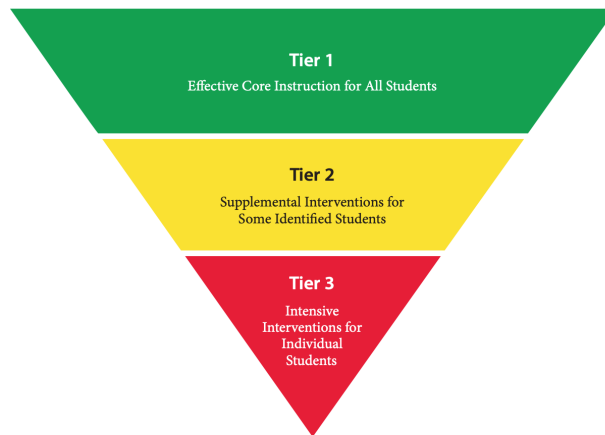# MTSS
All Means All

By Jenny Ross-Klingel, Director of Curriculum

MTSS stands for multi-tiered system of supports. It is a prevention-based framework that is designed to support **all** students (general education and special education) at every level of learning. MTSS focuses on a team-driven, data-based, problem solving approach that allows educators to identify students' needs and provide differentiated support in a timely and targeted manner through a three-tiered delivery system. MTSS is unique in that academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs are all addressed.

The diagram below illustrates the three tiers.

Tier 1
Effective Core Instruction for All Students

Tier 2
Supplemental Interventions for
Some Identified Students

Tier 3
Intensive
Interventions for
Individual
Students

Buffum, Mattos, Weber. *Simplifying Response to Intervention Four Essential Principles*, Solution Tree Press, 2012.

Tier 1: All students in the general education classroom have access to high-quality, evidenced-based core instruction. Teacher teams have worked collaboratively to answer the question of "what we expect our students to learn" by identifying essential standards for each content area. Students learn to demonstrate proficiency in these skills in tier 1.

Tier 2: When students have not mastered the essential standards in tier 1, increased levels of targeted support are provided in tier 2. **Some** students will receive supplemental interventions.

Tier 3: Tier 3 is a more intensive and individualized intervention for a **few** students. Students will continue to receive support in tier 2 and instruction in tier 1 while focusing on very targeted foundational skills in tier 3.

Working through the tiers has resulted in a more effective and proactive process that gives all students what they need in order to catch learning problems early and often

while reducing discrepancies later. Movement between the tiers is fluid and determined by data as the needs of all learners change. MTSS is an equitable educational best practice as it provides the opportunity for **all** students to learn at high levels.

Understanding the Tiers. Google images. www.charterselpa.org