Manchester Essex Regional School District
Multi-Tiered System of Support

District Mission: The Manchester-Essex Regional School District (MERSD) provides a high quality, comprehensive, student-centered educational experience that supports students' academic, social, and emotional development and prepares them for a post-secondary educational or service experience, a career, and life as an engaged member of society.

Vision for MERSD Tiered Systems of Support: The District will ensure high quality instruction across academic and social emotional domains and provide an inclusive environment to foster equitable access for all students.

Definition of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): MTSS is a multi-tiered system of support that offers a comprehensive continuum of systematic, evidence-based practices to ensure a proactive response to students' needs. MTSS is a structure that requires staff collaboration, continued monitoring of student progress, and responsive instructional support. Data collection and progress monitoring are integral in guiding decision making. Student needs are addressed through tier 1, 2, and 3 supports based on assessment and progress monitoring data.

Areas of Focus:
Academic – Reading, Written Language, Mathematics
Social Emotional – Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills, Emotional/Behavioral Regulation

Description of Tiers:

Tier 1:
Instruction provided to ALL students within the general education classroom across academic and social emotional skills.

Tier 2:
Short-term, targeted support to address academic and social emotional skill gaps within or outside the classroom setting. This supplements Tier 1 instruction.

Tier 3:
Intensive, frequent, and explicit focused interventions for students in need of more support and instruction. Increased intensity may vary based on amount of time, group size, resources utilized, etc.

Universal Screening: Math and literacy assessments are completed three times per year utilizing a system of nationally normed, universal screeners. MERSD uses the i-Ready Assessment System for universal screening.

Identification of Student Needs*:
Student assessment results are reviewed by district and school based teams. Student scores that fall below our threshold are utilized to identify students who require intervention.

- Data meeting processes review student scores, identify students in need of support based on district criteria, and make determinations about intervention plans.
- Interventionists will continue to facilitate data cycle meetings for classroom support and progress monitoring throughout the year.

**MERSD is in process of developing a SEL assessment and tiered SEL student support system.*

Methodology:
Interventions and supports will be delivered in small groups within or outside of the classroom setting by the classroom teacher and/or interventionist. The continuum of research-based resources used to provide intervention instruction is differentiated by tier and matched to student needs. Continued progress monitoring allows for student support to be adjusted continually as student learning progresses.

Resources: *(this list is not exhaustive and identifies curriculum tools that may be utilized during interventions.)* The primary curriculum materials utilized at tier 1 are Wonders and Everyday Math.

Reading – Phonemic Awareness:
Wonders, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Phonemic Awareness for Young Children, Explode the Code, Lively Letters

Reading - Phonics:
Wonders, Orton Gillingham Based Programs (e.g., Project Read Phonics, Recipe for Reading), Phonics First, Megawords

Reading – Comprehension and Fluency:
Wonders, Visualizing and Verbalizing, The Comprehension Toolkit, Reciprocal Teaching, Read Naturally

Mathematics:
Everyday Math, Number Worlds, i-Ready

Progress Monitoring: Staff utilize progress monitoring routines to periodically measure student progress towards learning targets. Progress monitoring data allows staff to respond to student needs and adjust levels of support as necessary. This is an ongoing and continual part of the MTSS system.

References/Resources:

- MA DESE Systems for Student Success Office: MTSS
- MA DESE MTSS Blueprint