



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Standing Committee
January 15, 2025

Location: District Office for Bellingham Public Schools, 1985 Barkley Blvd.

Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Presenters: Mike Copland, deputy superintendent; Jessica Wallace, teacher on special assignment; Analisa Ficklin, director of special education and Arionda Feeney, assistant superintendent.

Members present: Mike Copland, deputy superintendent; Jessica Wallace, teacher on special assignment; Analisa Ficklin, director of special education; Arionda Feeney, assistant superintendent; Craig Baldwin, principal at Cordata elementary school; Laura Burke, mental health specialist; Anna Burns, special education teacher at Shuksan middle school; Nicole Cook, assistant principal at Wade King elementary school; Kacey Emerson, teacher at Roosevelt elementary school; Rachel Frye, instructional coach at Carl Cozier and Lowell elementary schools; Jodi Haggen, special education teacher at Silver Beach elementary school; Breann Hulford, assistant principal at Whatcom middle school; Alex Johnson, dean of students at Carl Cozier elementary school; Yana Mansfield, instructional coach and teacher on special assignment; Clare Martin, teacher at Birchwood elementary school; Matt Neisinger, school nurse; Kaylee Nelson, teacher at Geneva elementary school; Jennifer Newbauer, counselor at Kulshan middle school; Pam Pottle, principal at Northern Heights elementary school; Shala Poulsen, speech language pathologist at Wade King elementary school; Andrea Quigley, teacher on special assignment; Doug Ray, school support team; Stacia Reid, school psychologist at Alderwood elementary school; Rebecca Sauter, school support team lead; Sam Slider, school psychologist at Kulshan middle school; Dana Smith, assistant director of communications; Lara Stark, literacy specialist at Parkview and Lowell elementary school; Dionte Thomas, campus monitor at Squalicum high school; Alexa Tucker, teacher at Shuksan middle school; Brooke Wertz, teacher at Bellingham family partnership program; Luke Hostetler, teacher at Sunnyland elementary school; Stephanie Korn, principal at Lowell elementary school; Bethany Barrett, assistant principal at Options high school; Sarah Zeller, teacher at Whatcom middle school and Jermy Louzao, assistant principal at Squalicum high school.

Welcome: Mike welcomed the group and reviewed the MTSS Standing Committee goals.

- Establish a vision for how to implement a strong, evidence-based MTSS for all students in Bellingham Public Schools
- Use collective expertise of the committee to develop a curated list of resources that demonstrate best practices.
- Investigate, review, and recommend professional learning experiences that can be accessed by district employees in support of growing our work in inclusive instructional strategies.
- Focus on growing inclusive strategies and increasing the scope of inclusion over time, beginning with the early grades.

Outcomes

- Strengthen our data-driven teams in every building to have the tools and understanding to implement a strong, evidence-based MTSS framework.

- Develop a system-wide culture of using data to drive our equitable decision-making.
- Provide a solid foundation to service all our goals.

Agenda

- December review
- Activator
- Learn Together
- DTL PPOP
- PPOP Collaboration
- January Task

December Meeting Review

Jessica provided a summary of the December meeting. Reviewed data within MTSS, data-based decision making and levels of data include satellite data, map data and street data.

December feedback highlights

- Building shared background knowledge about data.
- The district direction and how schools are moving forward.
- Time to talk with others facing similar challenges.
- Continue to build upon methods for collecting and ways to use data to strengthen MTSS.
- Learned about different kinds of data – wondering how street data incorporates into all kinds of data.
- How can we shine a light on this work in our schools and practice it in my current role?
- Hear from other schools about their PPOPs and feel inspired!

Activator

Jessica led the activator. Members asked to identify potential types, purpose and levels of data that can be collected from the scenario given. Table groups connected to discuss.

Learning Together

Using the BPS model for implementation of MTSS Cycle of Inquiry can be used to get clarity around the language we use and the acronyms we use. As a team, these are good questions to ask in your building as a starting point.

Key Questions for each step of the Cycle	
Plan • To identify the Problem or Possibility of Practice: ○ What question are we attempting to answer? ○ What data do we have to support this claim/question? • To write an Action Plan: ○ What data will help us monitor the plan? ○ Who's in charge of data collection? ○ What data would determine success or adjustment? ○ What is the longevity of the plan?	Do • Does everyone involved fully understand how to implement the plan? • What movement are we seeing in the data? • What should be adjusted? • Are we ensuring use of a variety of data sources?
Study • What movement are we seeing? • What should be adjusted? • Did we implement with fidelity? • Did the change move us closer to the goal?	Act • Abandon – what we will we do instead? • Adapt – what will we do differently? • Adopt ○ Should we expand implementation? ○ Should we continue to monitor pilot implementation?

DTL PPOP

Analisa asked members to use these models for work back at their schools. As an example, the department of teaching and learning (DTL) are using this model to answer the who, what, next steps and outcomes to the problem or possibility of practice (PPOP).

- Can we define and clarify so we can support all schools?
- Who was at the meeting? Do you need to invite others with expertise?
- During your meeting take the plan questions only and clarify based on data.
- What was the outcome? Create an action plan, next steps and determine who is responsible for what part of the plan. Meet again and refine the plan to share with the Team. You will need to monitor data over time and if needed, adjust the plan. Sometimes these tasks are completed quickly and sometimes it is a process over time.

The MTSS committee is a place to gather expertise and collate information to house for others to use as a resource. This team's research can be used across our system to move best practices forward.

PPOP Collaboration

Members met in groups of three to talk about consultancy protocol.

- Present your plan and what you would like feedback or help think through.
- Clarifying questions
- Dialogue – use the Plan-Do-Act-Study questions to guide your discussion.
- Presenter shares what they heard, then next steps.

Groups shared out examples of what they discussed, including reducing incidences of isolation, or chronic suspension.

January Task

- Apply the MTSS cycle of inquiry to your problem of practice. Use the key questions to move the work forward.
- In the OneNote, share how you used the MTSS cycle of inquiry and key questions with your principal or building leadership team.

The facilitators requested feedback on sticky notes:

1. Rose (Success) What was a positive highlight from today's meeting?
2. Bud (Opportunity) What is an opportunity for growth for yourself or as a team to help plan for the next meeting(s)?

Next meeting: February 19, 2025, 4-5:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Schools District Office