

MTSS F.A.Q. for Families

Blind Brook UFSD

What is MTSS?

“MTSS” stands for “Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.” It is a system that helps ensure every student gets the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral support they need.

Why does the school use MTSS?

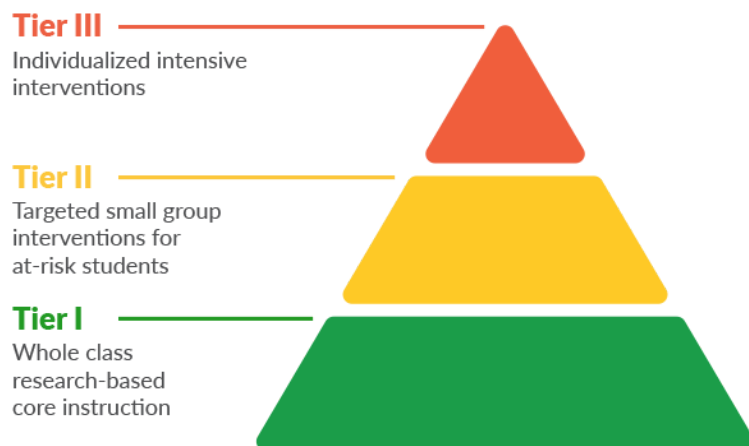
MTSS assists school staff to address challenges early and provide support quickly.

What are tiers of support?

Tier 1: Support for all students.

Tier 2: Small-group support.

Tier 3: Intensive individual support or more frequently.



What does Tier 1 support look like?

Tier 1 is the core instructional program provided to all students by the classroom teacher. To meet the needs and abilities of all students in the core program, teachers utilize a differentiated approach to teaching and learning. In addition to support in the classroom, teachers are available to students daily during WIN/HRE/Extra help to provide additional help and support as needed. Since all students have access to Tier 1 support, parents do not receive specific notification from the school.

Students also receive annual check-ins with student support staff.

How does the school decide if additional support is needed?

The building-level MTSS Team reviews assessments and data provided by classroom teachers (including STAR & NYS exams), classwork, behavior reports, attendance, and observations to determine whether Tier 2 or 3 interventions are needed.

Will I find out if my child is in need of Tier 2 or Tier 3 support?

Yes. New York State regulations require parents to be notified in writing when a student requires either Tier 2 (small group Academic Intervention Services/SEL Supports/Related Services) or Tier 3 (intensive individual services) support.

Does Tier 2 or 3 mean my child has a disability?

No. MTSS support is part of the general education program.

How long does support last?

Tier 1 - Year long for all students.

Tier 2 or 3 - Progress is reviewed every 4-8 weeks.

Who provides support?

Teachers, related service providers, counselors, social workers, psychologists, or interventionists.

What if my child isn't making progress?

The team may adjust supports or consider further evaluation.

How can I help at home?

Encourage and support routines, extend positive reinforcement, communicate with teachers, and use school-provided strategies.

How will I know if my child is improving?

You'll receive updates on assessments and teacher feedback.

Does my child have to take the STAR assessments?

New York State regulations mandate that all students be screened three times per year. For grades 3-8 STAR Reading and Math is this screener.

Is there value to the STAR assessments?

Yes, especially when students put forth their best effort. The STAR assessments are taken by hundreds of thousands of students nationally, and studies have confirmed the data to be valid, reliable, and aligned with New York state assessments. Each time students take the assessment, we have access to data which is used by our classroom teachers to identify students' strengths and target individual students' weaknesses. Additionally, we are able to monitor student growth and performance over the course of the year to identify any academic support that might be needed.

Does my child's score on the STAR assessments impact his/her classroom grades or report card?

No. The STAR data is diagnostic in nature and does not impact classroom grades. It is, however, taken into account when making educational decisions for each student (ie - class placement, supports or interventions needed, etc.)

What happens if my child does not do well on the STAR assessment?

The STAR assessment is only one tool utilized to determine whether students are at risk of not meeting state and/or local learning standards. After each round of STAR screening, student data is reviewed by our MTSS Team along with additional data points (ex - progress report and report card data, classroom assessment scores, teacher observations, etc.) to identify students who may be in need of Tier 2 (small group Academic Intervention Services) or Tier 3 (intensive individual services) support.