



MTSS MINUTE



A GOSHEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 NEWSLETTER

NOTABLE DATES



Guiding Coalition

March 4

District Guiding Coalition members will meet to continue their work leading PLC work district-wide.

District Literacy Team

March 19

District literacy leaders will finish drafting a district-wide literacy action plan during their final meeting of the year.

Green Friday

March 20

Students are invited to interventions and enrichments.

SAEBRS Screening Window

March 30 - April 10

All teachers and students in grades 2-12 will complete the spring SEL screener.



Belonging at the Center: Relationships as the Heart of MTSS

Why Belonging Matters in MTSS

Strong relationships and a sense of belonging are imperative to effective Tier 1 support. When students feel valued and connected, they are more engaged academically and more regulated behaviorally. There are several components to fostering a sense of belonging for students including: classroom practices, team collaboration, and consistent expectations. All these components help create an environment where every student feels seen, safe, and supported. Belonging isn't an "extra." A sense of belonging is foundational to student success and fuels the entire MTSS framework.

Relationships don't just support MTSS;
relationships power MTSS.



MTSS Myths

Myth: Belonging is just about students liking school.

Reality: *Belonging is a measurable driver of academic, behavioral, and SEL outcomes. It’s built through intentional practices that align with Tier 1 expectations and MTSS structures. A sense of belonging is not developed by luck.*



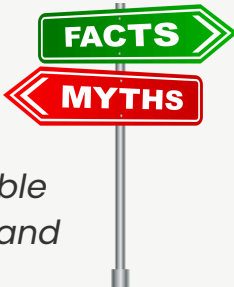
Myth: Belonging only comes from big gestures.

Reality: *Belonging is built through small, daily interactions such as consistent greetings, positive feedback, and predictable routines.*

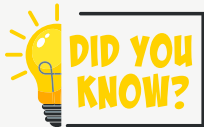


Myth: Students who are quiet & compliant already feel connected.

Reality: *These students may actually feel unseen. Connection requires intentional check-ins and relationship-building.*



FAQ Corner



Question: How does belonging connect to MTSS?

Answer: *Belonging strengthens Tier 1 by improving engagement, attendance, and readiness to learn which reduces the need for higher-tier supports.*

Question: Can relationships really impact academic growth?

Answer: *Yes, students who feel connected to their teachers and peers are more likely to participate and trust the learning process.*

Question: What if a student resists connection?

Answer: *Keep showing up with consistency. Predictability and patience build trust over time, especially for students who feel lack of connection at school.*

MTSS in Action



Lincoln’s 2nd grade teams had a half day data deep dive with instructional coaches to form reading groups & organize their next intervention cycle.



Secondary special education teachers attended a virtual Study Sync training to learn more about scaffolds & differentiation.



LFL’s special education department met with coaches, the special education director, and principal for a data deep dive.



Secondary principals of GCSD attended a virtual Study Sync training to learn more about the curriculum & how to support ELA teachers.

MTSS Resources & Learning Opportunities



7 Strategies for Boosting Student Belonging



Actionable, teacher-friendly strategies that emphasize routines, student voice, and connection-building.



Six Tips for Schoolwide Belonging



A school leader-focused guide for greeting routines, relationship mapping, inclusive environments, and emotional check-ins.



Fostering Belonging in the Classroom



A practical guide with four evidence-based strategies teachers can implement immediately to support classroom belonging.

Tips & Strategies

Quick Ways to Build Belonging in Tier 1



Tip #1: Greet students at the door with eye contact and a personal acknowledgment.



Tip #2: Use consistent routines to create predictability and trust.



Tip #3: Highlight student strengths during feedback not just areas of need.



Tip #4: Embed community-building moments (turn-and-talks, partner work, check-ins).



Tip #5: Model belonging cues: warmth, patience, encouragement, and shared language.



Branching Minds

6 STEPS TO...

Using Data To
Develop Classwide
SEL & Behavior
Strategies



MTSS Support or Coaching

Do you want to take a deeper dive into any of the topics within this newsletter? I'd be happy to help! Whether it's a quick question or an in-depth meeting, reach out to schedule a time for us to chat.



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