



MTSS MINUTE



A GOSHEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 NEWSLETTER

NOTABLE DATES



WY-TOPP Summative Assessment Window

April 14–May 8

This window includes ELA and Math for grades 3–10, Writing for grades 5, 7, and 9, and Science for grades 4, 8, and 10.

Spring Benchmark Assessment Window

April 20–May 8

Elementary students will take Aimsweb+ reading & math. Secondary students will take Star reading & math assessments.

ACT Test Window 3

April 21–May 1

Schools that test during window 3 will administer ACT to all juniors during this time.



Steady Support During Testing Season

April is often one of the most demanding months of the school year. Testing schedules disrupt routines, pressure increases, and energy runs low for students and adults alike. During this stretch, MTSS is not about adding more. It is about holding steady. Strong Tier 1 practices such as predictable routines, clear expectations, and supportive relationships help students stay grounded during this overwhelming season. Small, intentional moves now can reduce escalation, support regulation, and help everyone move through testing season with less stress and greater stability.

Message from Leadership

I know testing season can feel long and exhausting for everyone. Schedules are off, energy is low, and it can feel like we're just trying to get through the day. Thank you for showing up with patience, consistency, and care. Those small, steady things you do every day are making a real difference for our students right now.



Lindsay Maxey,
PRS Principal

MTSS Myths



Myth: Testing stress means behavior problems are unavoidable.

Reality: *Consistent routines, clear expectations, and proactive supports can significantly reduce stress-related behaviors during testing season.*

Myth: Behavior issues during testing mean MTSS isn't working.

Reality: *Increased stress often shows up in behavior. MTSS provides the tools to respond proactively instead of reactively during high-pressure times.*

Myth: It's too late in the year to make a difference.

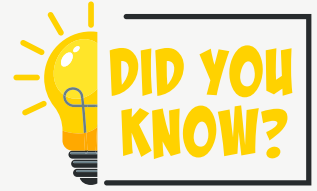
Reality: *Small, intentional supports now can have a big impact on how students finish the year academically and emotionally.*

MTSS in Action



GCSD's returning & new Title interventionists met with instructional coaches, principals, and the Title 1 coordinator to prepare for next year. They are reading and discussing *Reading Assessment Done Right* (Stollar & Winn, 2026) and unpacking Title 1 law.

FAQ Corner



Question: Should we change interventions this late in the year?

Answer: *Only if data indicates a need. Often, tightening implementation and increasing consistency is more effective than starting something new.*

Question: How can MTSS support end-of-year behaviors?

Answer: *By reinforcing predictable routines, proactive supports, and shared expectations that help students stay regulated and engaged.*

Question: What data should teams focus on now?

Answer: *Look for trends rather than single data points by focusing on attendance, engagement, progress monitoring, and classroom behavior patterns.*

Question: What is the most helpful thing teams can focus on during testing season?

Answer: *Staying consistent with routines and expectations while responding with flexibility and empathy. Predictability helps students and staff navigate stress more effectively than adding new strategies.*

MTSS Resources & Learning Opportunities



Encouraging Engagement During Testing Season



This article shares realistic strategies for keeping students engaged, calm, and productively occupied during testing days while reducing stress and disruption.



Self-Regulation Strategies for Teachers and Students



This resource focuses on how adult regulation supports student regulation, offering simple practices teachers can use when everyone feels emotionally expended.

Tips & Strategies

April MTSS Moves That Matter



Tip #1: Revisit expectations and routines after breaks or schedule changes.



Tip #2: Use quick data check-ins (exit tickets, observation notes, behavior trends) to guide small adjustments.



Tip #3: Continue Tier 1 consistency & don't relax structure when students need it most.

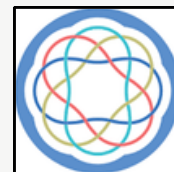


Tip #4: Check in with students showing fatigue or frustration before concerns escalate.



Tip #5: Maintain common language across teams to support predictability and confidence.

Branching Minds



Finishing the Year Strong with Branching Minds Documentation

Taking a few minutes to update Branching Minds now helps ensure student supports are clearly documented and ready for smooth end-of-year transitions.

Helpful end-of-year BrM reminders

- Close out interventions that are no longer active
- Add brief progress or outcome notes when possible
- Make sure current supports match what is documented
- Log key family communication that occurred throughout the year

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.



Dr. Kelsey Walker

K-12 Instructional & MTSS Coach

kwalker@goshen1.org