

A FAMILY GUIDE TO TIERED SUPPORTS

How Northstar identifies needs, adds support, and partners with families



Northstar begins with effective support for every student. When more support is needed, staff and families review information, add matched support, monitor progress, and adjust the plan.

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

TIER 1 | UNIVERSAL

Foundation for every student

- Schoolwide expectations and social-emotional learning (SEL)
- Effective teaching, differentiation, reteaching, redirection, choices, and movement breaks
- Student Success Plan (SSP) documents strategies and response

TIER 2 | TARGETED

Additional matched support

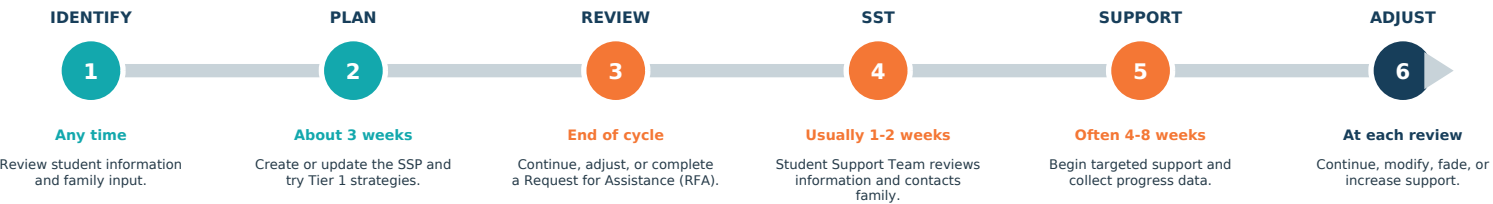
- Check-In/Check-Out (CICO), skill groups, mentoring, or Check & Connect
- Behavior contract, class pass, and stronger school-family communication
- School-based mental health when matched to need

TIER 3 | INTENSIVE

Individualized, intensive support

- Increased frequency and intensity
- One-to-one or very small-group support with continued Tier 1 access
- Data-matched intervention, implementation checks, and frequent review
- Section 504 accommodations or an Individualized Education Program (IEP), when eligible

HOW SUPPORT MOVES: GENERAL FAMILY TIMELINE



TIMELINE NOTE These are general planning ranges, not fixed deadlines. Timing may vary based on student need, school breaks, available data, and family input. Urgent needs are addressed sooner.

WHEN A DISABILITY-RELATED PLAN MAY BE CONSIDERED

SECTION 504 PLAN

Access and accommodations

- A 504 evaluation may be considered when a physical or mental impairment may substantially limit a major life activity.
- The team reviews relevant information and family input to determine eligibility and needed accommodations.
- A student does not have to complete every tier before a 504 referral or evaluation is considered; however, moving through the tiers first is recommended when appropriate.

SPECIAL EDUCATION / IEP

Specially designed instruction

- A referral may be considered when a disability is suspected and the student may need special education services.
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team evaluates eligibility and educational need using required timelines.
- Tiered supports may continue during evaluation. Intervention data can inform, but may not delay, a referral.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS GUIDE

SEL	Social-emotional learning	SSP	Student Success Plan	RFA	Request for Assistance
SST	Student Support Team	CICO	Check-In/Check-Out	IEP	Individualized Education Program

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Family input helps identify strengths and needs. Families receive updates as supports change. A referral or evaluation does not automatically mean a student qualifies.

OUR SHARED GOAL Support early | Communicate clearly | Monitor progress | Adjust based on student need