

LINWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER | Understanding MTSS in Grades K–5

Every Child Learns. Every Child Grows.

What is MTSS? MTSS stands for **Multi-Tiered System of Supports**. It is a schoolwide way to notice when students need help, provide the right instruction, and check whether that help is working. MTSS supports reading, math, behavior, and social-emotional growth. It also helps schools respond to the needs of advanced learners.

The 3 Levels of Support

TIER 1 For ALL students	Every student receives strong classroom instruction, positive behavior expectations, and regular checks for understanding.
TIER 2 Extra support	Some students receive additional targeted practice, often in small groups, while continuing their regular classroom learning.
TIER 3 More individualized support	A smaller number of students receive more intensive, focused instruction. Teachers closely track progress and adjust the plan as needed.

How MTSS Works at Linwood

- 1. Notice needs:** Teachers review classwork, classroom observations, assessments such as i-Ready and STAR, attendance, and behavior information.
- 2. Make a plan:** Teachers and support staff choose skills to work on and plan instruction that matches the student's needs.
- 3. Give support:** Students receive extra practice or intervention in addition to classroom instruction.
- 4. Check growth:** Staff monitor progress, discuss results, and change supports when needed. Families are important partners throughout the process.

What Might Support Look Like in K–5?

Reading: Practice with letter sounds, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, or understanding stories. **Math:** Small-group work with counting, number sense, facts, or solving problems. **Behavior and well-being:** Teaching routines, self-management, friendship skills, and positive choices with help from teachers and the school counselor.

How Families Can Help

Read and talk with your child daily. Practice a few math skills through everyday activities. Encourage regular attendance and on-time arrival. Celebrate effort and improvement. Stay in contact with your child's teacher and ask what skill your child is practicing and how you can help at home.

GOOD TO KNOW: MTSS is not a label or a special education placement. Students can receive support at different levels as their needs change. MTSS must not delay an evaluation when a disability is suspected.

Questions about your child's progress? Contact your child's classroom teacher or Linwood Elementary School to discuss available supports.

Based on Mississippi Department of Education, *Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): District Guidance* (2020), especially sections on the three tiers, assessment, behavior, and family involvement.