

TIER 1

Tier 1 refers to the Core Universal Instruction and Supports.

These are the core academic and behavior instruction with supports designed and differentiated for all students in all settings. Approximately 80 percent of students in Tier 1 are typically expected to meet learning targets.

Tier 1 instruction is the key component of the MTSS framework. It is the core program in which all students receive high quality evidenced-based instruction. Generally, academic and behavior instruction and supports are designed and differentiated for all students. Tier 1 instruction incorporates the core academic curriculum that is aligned with state standards. The intent of the core program is the delivery of a high-quality instruction to all students with the expectation of meeting grade-level standards and preparedness for the future.

TIER 2

Tier 2 refers to Targeted Supplemental Interventions and Supports.

These are more focused, targeted instruction/intervention and supplemental supports in addition to and aligned with the core academic and behavior curriculum and instruction. Approximately 10–15 percent of students typically need targeted supplemental interventions and supports while continuing to be instructed in the core program.

Tier 2 consists of the academic and behavioral instruction/intervention that are provided to students who show a need for help in addition to the instruction/intervention they receive at Tier 1. Tier 2 instruction/intervention is designed to meet the needs of students who are at some risk for academic failure but who are still above levels considered to indicate a high risk for failure. The needs of these students are identified through the assessment process, and instructional programs are delivered through smaller groups and are administered with a focus on meeting the specific needs of the students.

TIER 3

Tier 3 refers to the Intensive Individualized Interventions and Supports.

Tier 3 contains more focused, targeted instruction/intervention and supplemental support in addition to and aligned with the core academic and behavior curriculum and instruction are provided to students with greatest need for personalized attention. This tier also provides an opportunity to conduct more diagnostic study of the student's needs to plan for more comprehensive programming and intervention. A small percentage of students, in the range of 1–5 percent, would need the intensive individualized interventions and supports of Tier 3.

Tier 3 refers to the academic and behavioral instruction/interventions that are provided to students who show a need for intensive and individualized help that is provided in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 3 instruction/intervention consists of students who are considered to be at high risk for failure and, if not responsive, are considered to be candidates for identification as having special education needs. It is also viewed as a tier that includes students who are not identified as being in need of special education but whose needs are at the intensive level. The groups of students at Tier 3 are of much smaller sizes than Tier 2 with some models including one-to-one instruction.

