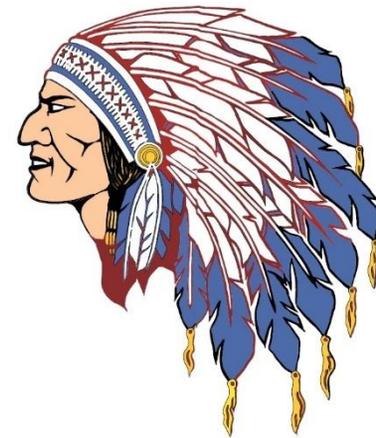


# **Response to Intervention: A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Principles of MTSS**



**Pawnee Community Unit School District #11**

Pawnee Grade School

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If you have questions and/or concerns about your child's academic performance or would like more information about the MTSS process, please contact your child's teacher by calling the school or emailing him/her.

[www.pawneeschools.com](http://www.pawneeschools.com)

# MTSS Terms

## **Baseline**

- Data collected prior to the initiation of an intervention that is utilized for comparison with data collected during and/or after an intervention has been implemented.

## **Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM)**

- A standardized method of tracking and recording student progress in specific learning areas.

## **Differentiated Instruction**

- Using assessment and data to prepare and plan instruction; includes targeted, small group or flexible grouping based on progress; matches instructional material to student ability (or “tailoring” instruction to address student needs).

## **Intervention**

- A designed change in the manner and/or degree in which a student is being instructed. An intervention can address academic and/or behavioral needs.

## **Progress Monitoring**

- A scientifically-based practice to assess ongoing student progress, as well as the effectiveness of the instruction/intervention plan.

## **Research-based Instruction**

- Instruction and intervention validated as “effective” through scientific studies.

## **Universal Screening**

- A way to assess students who are “at risk” for falling below state or grade level standards. The screening is accomplished through formal screening that occurs multiple times throughout the school year at each grade level.

## Parent Involvement

- ✓ Communicate frequently with your child's teacher(s).
- ✓ Attend school activities, including conferences.
- ✓ Help your child with homework assignments and activities.
- ✓ Acknowledge your child's progress and improvements.
- ✓ Read with your child each night.
- ✓ Review sight words, flash cards, and spelling words at home.
- ✓ Engage in counting activities with your child such as counting forward and backward, skip counting, and identifying the number before and after another.
- ✓ Count coins together and assist with telling time on an analog clock.
- ✓ Discuss with your child's teacher(s) what is working well at home.
- ✓ Ask a question when something is not clear.

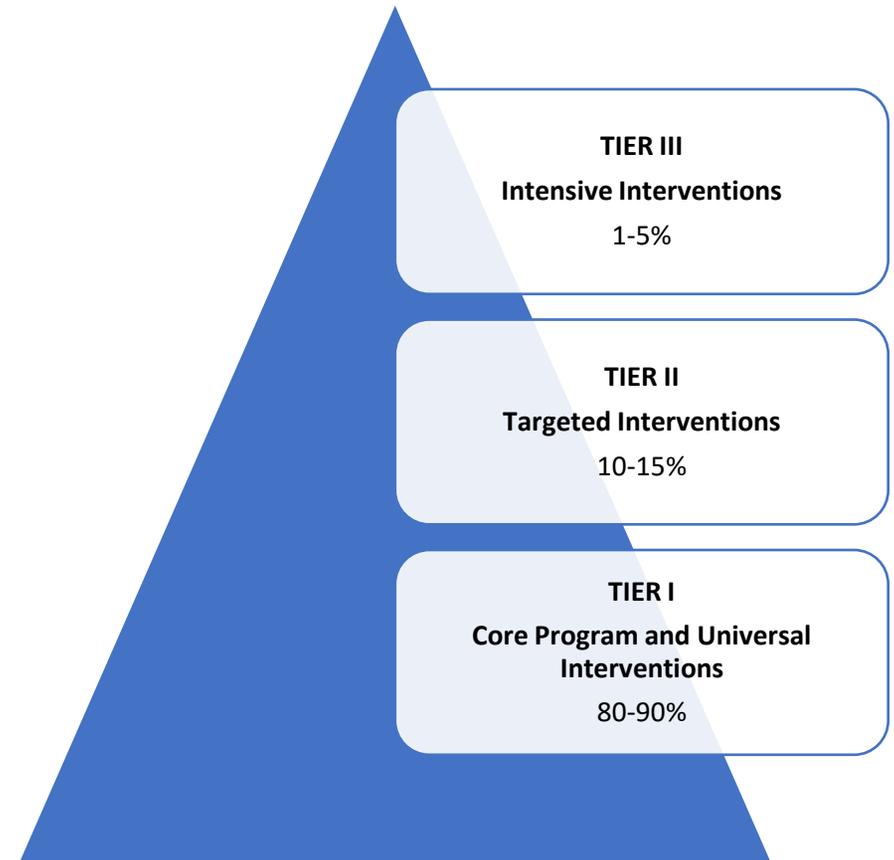


## Introduction

Both federal and state laws have directed schools to focus more on helping all children by addressing their learning needs earlier within the general education setting.

These laws emphasize the importance of providing high quality, research-based instruction and interventions, and hold schools accountable for the adequate yearly progress of all students.

The process of providing interventions to students who are in need of academic or behavioral support is called Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS).



## MTSS Explained

Effective instruction is provided in the classroom to all students; however, sometimes struggling learners benefit from additional, targeted instruction that aligns to their specific needs. Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) is an instructional approach that focuses on helping schools match student needs with research-based interventions. Universal screenings are conducted and used to identify students who are at risk of failure. These students immediately receive targeted interventions that are tailored to meet their needs. Student progress is frequently monitored in an effort to help students progress toward meeting grade level performance goals. The assessments and data collected drive differentiated instruction for students and help school personnel make decisions regarding students' educational programs.

When students are identified as those who would benefit from MTSS services, parent/guardians will be notified. Once parent notification is made, small group interventions and/or differentiated instruction will be provided through the general education program.

## Benefits of MTSS

One of the greatest benefits of an MTSS approach is the focus on *preventing* learning difficulties and intervening *before* students are failing. MTSS allows for early help or support within the general education setting. Through the universal screening process, progress monitoring, and teacher input, students are identified and targeted interventions are put in place to address student learning needs.

## MTSS Process

Most MTSS systems are divided into a three-tiered intervention model as illustrated below:

### Tier 1

- ALL students
- Core classroom curriculum and instruction
- All student progress assessed three times per year
- Usually includes whole group and some flexible small group instruction

### Tier 2

- Small group interventions (1-5 students) outside of the core curriculum and instruction (additional instruction)
- Frequent progress monitoring
- Provided in addition to Tier I

### Tier 3

- Often one-on-one, intensive interventions provided when students are not responding adequately to the interventions already in place; may be referred for a special education screening
- May include small group interventions (2-3 students)
- Frequent progress monitoring
- Typically provided in addition to Tier I and Tier II instruction