



# What is MTSS?

## How is it Helping Our Students?

MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. It is a framework used by many schools nationwide to screen all students throughout the school year to provide targeted support and instruction.

The goal of MTSS is to help schools know when to intervene early so students can catch up with their peers.

MTSS includes increasing levels or 'tiers' of targeted support for those who are struggling, and integrated plans to support them.

MTSS focuses on the "whole child," and looks at not only academics but behavior and social and emotional needs.



**The Coatesville Area School District's staff in grades K - 7 began implementing MTSS in the 2021-22 school year, with support from the Chester County Intermediate Unit.**



- We began in the 2021-22 school year with Reading and English Language Arts. Our teachers evaluate student progress, group students according to need for targeted support, and determine whether students need to move in or out of a certain level of targeted instruction, based on their changing needs. Teachers are focusing on phonemic awareness (letter sounds), phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.



- The goal for the 2022-23 school year is to incorporate an MTSS model for math to support math concepts such as number sense, spatial sense, estimation, measurements, patterns, and problem solving.
- We plan to expand MTSS to grades 8 - 12.

**MTSS tiers are about specialized support - not a placement or an identity.**

MTSS tiers may change based on a student's response to the interventions they are receiving.

### How do teachers monitor student progress?

Teachers use short assessments in class that help them to know where a student is struggling or excelling. Coatesville teachers use tests that are part of a national program called Acadience, designed specifically for schools using models like MTSS. Coatesville teachers meet twice a month in groups to evaluate student data and determine which students may need to move to a different tier. This allows them to track student progress and communicate that progress to parents and to other teachers.

**Our Schools Use Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a proactive approach to support student behavior.**

PBIS works hands in hand with MTSS. In Coatesville, students are rewarded in various ways for positive behavior. This program helps us to improve climate and culture, strengthen student-teacher relationships, increase student expectations, intervene early, and provide opportunities for students to be recognized and supported. It is part of the MTSS framework that includes the 'whole child.'