



## TIP SHEET

# Multi-Tiered System of Support



### *What is a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)?*

Your child's school is committed to helping all children succeed. A Multi-Tiered System of Support—known as MTSS— is a way to meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students. When a school uses MTSS, all students are taught the same essential content, but some students may get extra help. This help is provided to all students who need it. It is not the same as special education. Data from daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, and even games may be used to learn which students need more support.

MTSS is about meeting the needs of all students, including students with disabilities. With MTSS, students get support based on their needs. One element of MTSS is tiered support:

- Tier 1: Core (supports for all students) - all students receive high-quality, core academic and behavior instruction and supports. This could also include specially designed instruction for students with unique learning needs to access Core instruction.
- Tier 2: Intervention (targeted support for some students) - students needing additional support receive more focused, targeted small group instruction/intervention and supports, in addition to core academic and behavior curriculum and instruction provided to all students.
- Tier 3: intensive Intervention (smaller group or individualized support) - students receive the

most intense instruction based on individual student need, in addition to core and supplemental academic and behavior, curriculum, instruction and supports provided to all students.

Nebraska law does not specify the length of time or number of strategies to be tried in Tiers 2 and 3. This allows school districts to tailor the activities to the individual student. For some students, the problem-solving process may be very short. In other cases, problem-solving activities may cover a longer period.

If the strategies chosen in Tier 3 do not meet the needs of your child, there may be evidence a student has a disability. The school district's Problem Solving Team or Student Assistance Team (SAT) reviews the intervention data gathered from the MTSS process. If the problem solving team has determined that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for a special education evaluation may be completed.

- A student may be referred for a special education evaluation at any time within the MTSS process; in no way should an MTSS process delay the initial evaluation of a student that is suspected of having a disability. A special education referral can be made by the parents at any time during the MTSS process. For more information on special education evaluation, see the tip sheet at <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/parent-information/>.

## How Can I Get Involved in the MTSS Process?

- Ask to be involved.
- Parents are not required to attend problem-solving meetings, but must be given opportunities to participate in problem-solving for their child. Your information about your child's strengths, needs, interests, and preferences is important in the problem-solving process.
- Ask how MTSS works in your child's school. What support does the school provide? What information is used to decide if students receive extra support? How are families kept informed about the support their children receive?
- Talk to your child's teacher about your child's strengths and needs.
- Work with your child's teacher to identify strategies that can work at home and school.

## Key Points

- Schools use a systematic approach when trying new strategies and instruction for students needing additional support
- Sometimes students needing additional support are referred for an evaluation to see if they have a disability and are eligible for special education
- Parents have a wealth of information about their children. Don't hesitate to write it down and share it with the school district
- Consult with your child's teacher to identify strategies that can work at home and at school.

For more information about MTSS, contact your child's school, a PTI Nebraska parent/professional at (800) 284-8520 and <https://www.pti-nebraska.org/>, the Nebraska MTSS website at <http://nemtss.unl.edu/>, or the Nebraska Department of Education at (402) 471-2471 and <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/>.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. See <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/> for more information on IDEA.

Rule 51 is the document that outlines regulations and standards for special education programs in Nebraska. Rule 51 can be found on the Nebraska Department of Education's website: [https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule51\\_2017.pdf](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule51_2017.pdf).

Rule 55 is the document that outlines rules of practice and procedure for due process hearing in special education contest cases. Rule 55 can be found on the Nebraska Department of Education's website: [https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule55\\_2012.pdf](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Rule55_2012.pdf)

## SOURCES

Nebraska MTSS Framework

<http://nemtss.unl.edu/about/>

<http://nemtss.unl.edu/faq/>

SWIFT Education Center

<https://swiftschools.org/sites/default/files/What%20is%20Multi-Tiered%20System%20of%20Support.pdf>