

# Combs Intermediate School Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework 2022-23



## Mission Statement

The Combs School Community will challenge each learner to reach their full potential by providing them with the tools to:

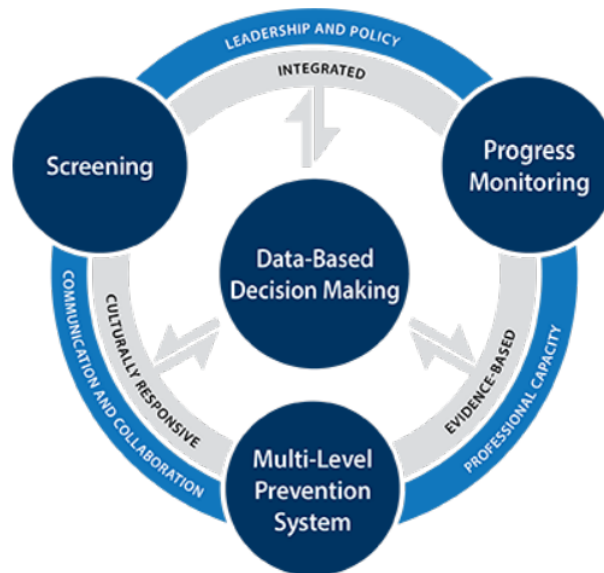
- Set goals
- Persevere
- Problem solve
- Take ownership of their actions
- Practice self respect

in a safe and respectful environment.

# Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework: Introduction

What is MTSS?

Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) is a framework that integrates data and instruction within a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and support students' social, emotional, and behavior needs from a strengths-based perspective. ([Center on MTSS, 2020](#))



## ***Essential Components of MTSS:***

- Universal Screening
- Multi-Level Prevention System
- Progress Monitoring
- Data-Based Decision Making

## **Universal Screening:**

Universal Screening uses a systematic process for identifying students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes, including academic, behavioral, social, emotional, school completion, and college and career readiness outcomes. Screening data can also be used to identify schools that need support due to large numbers of struggling students.

## Multi-Level Prevention System: Tiered Systems of Supports

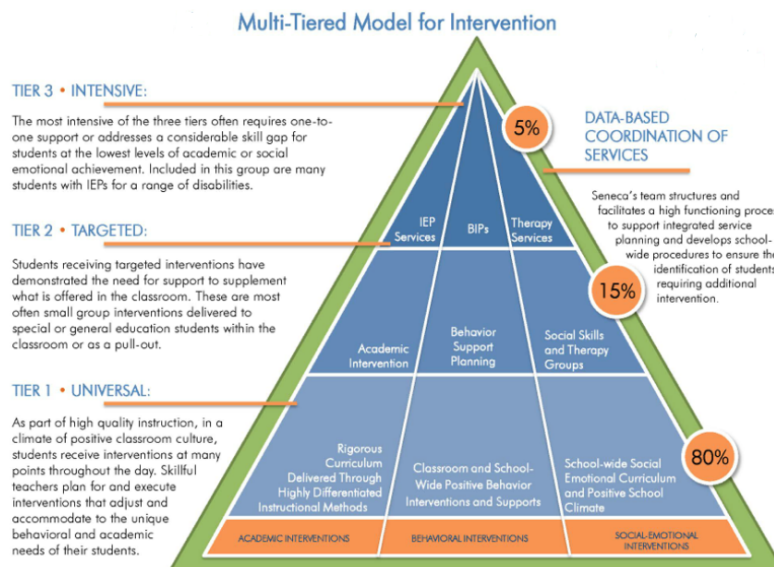
MTSS is a comprehensive framework for providing academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support in schools.

The multi-level prevention system includes three tiers of intensity for instruction, intervention, and supports. At all levels, attention should be on selection of evidence-based practices and fidelity of implementation, with consideration for cultural and linguistic responsiveness and recognition of student strengths.

**Tier 1 (universal)** includes high-quality, school wide academic, social, emotional and behavioral programming and supports designed to meet the needs of all students.

**Tier 2 (targeted)** schools provide small group, standardized academic interventions or targeted behavioral or mental health supports using validated intervention programs to support students identified as at-risk.

**Tier 3 (individualized)** includes intensive intervention for students not responding to Tier 2 through instruction and supports that are intensified and individualized based on student need. ([Center for MTSS](#))



[Multi-tiered Model for Intervention](#)

## Progress Monitoring:

Progress monitoring uses valid and reliable tools and processes to assess performance, quantify improvement or responsiveness to intervention and instruction, and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction, interventions, and supports.

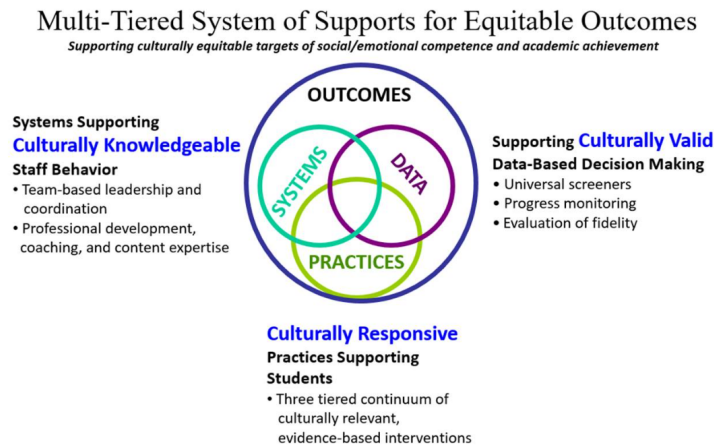
## Data-Based Decision Making:

Data analysis and decision making occur at all levels of MTSS implementation, from individual students to the district level. Teams use screening and progress monitoring data to make decisions about instruction, movement within the multi-level prevention system, intensification of instruction and supports, and identification of students with disabilities (in accordance with state law). Teams use implementation data to evaluate the extent to which their assessments, interventions, and supports have been implemented as intended and identify areas of improvement.

**Tier 1 Universals: Academic, Behavioral, and Social Emotional**

Academic Universals	Behavioral Universals	Social Emotional Universals
<p><b>Academic Core Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evidence-based</li> <li>● Aligned to grade/content level standards</li> <li>● Effective instructional strategies</li> <li>● Differentiated</li> </ul>	<p><b>Teaching District-wide Expectations:</b></p> <p>S: Safe            P: Persevere            R: Responsible            C: Cooperative            K: Kind</p> <p><b>Acknowledgement System:</b>            Varies by school to encourage and reward appropriate behavior</p> <p>4:1 Positive Specific Praise</p>	<p><b>SEL Curriculum:</b>            Explicit instruction and reinforcement of CASEL competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Self-awareness</li> <li>● Self-management</li> <li>● Social awareness</li> <li>● Relationship skills</li> <li>● Responsible decision-making.</li> </ul> <p>Counselor Lessons</p>
<p><b>Academic Data/Assessments:</b></p> <p>Screeners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dyslexia</li> </ul> <p>Benchmark Assessments:            (progress toward mastery of grade/content standards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Galileo</li> </ul> <p>Classroom Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Common Formative Assessments</li> <li>● Standards Based Evaluation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behavioral Data:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Referrals</li> <li>● Suspensions</li> <li>● Classroom Generated</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEL Data/Assessment:</b></p> <p>SEL Universal Screener/Survey to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in social emotional competencies to identify students in need of Tier 2/3 intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DESSA SEL screener (K-12)</li> <li>● SECA Student Survey (5-12)</li> </ul>

## Equity, Anti-Racism, Cultural Responsiveness and MTSS



The FFSD MTSS Framework is rooted in our work in equity and anti-racism. In order to fulfill our mission to become an anti-racist school district, we must commit to serving all students equitably. Culturally responsive practices, systems, and data within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports are necessary to achieve equitable outcomes for all.

The Ferguson Florissant School District is a community of learners committed to equity and the success of each student. This commitment means that student success will not be predicted nor predetermined by race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or initial proficiencies or zip code. Recognizing that each student has a unique identity is central to our work in education. The Ferguson-Florissant School District, school and classroom decisions, policies, and practices affect each student differently depending on the components of that student's identity. Our commitment to equity supports fostering an inclusive and barrier-free environment in which everyone will fully benefit. To that end, the [Ferguson Florissant Equity Lens](#) was developed to assist district staff and leaders when making decisions.

To maximize student excellence and social justice, Ferguson-Florissant School District is on its journey to becoming an anti-racist organization that furthers educational equity for all students, especially our most marginalized students. FFSD Standards for Social Justice in Anti-Racist Schools will further our progress in this journey, challenging us to understand and correct the inequities that may unintentionally exist within our district, to proactively act in ways that promote anti-racism, and to build on the strengths that have enabled our past progress around race and bias. Similar to educational standards, FFSD Standards for Social Justice in Anti-Racist Schools represent the vision and goals that we will achieve as we move towards becoming an anti-racist organization. [FFSD Anti-Racism Standards](#)

The standards focus on seven areas:

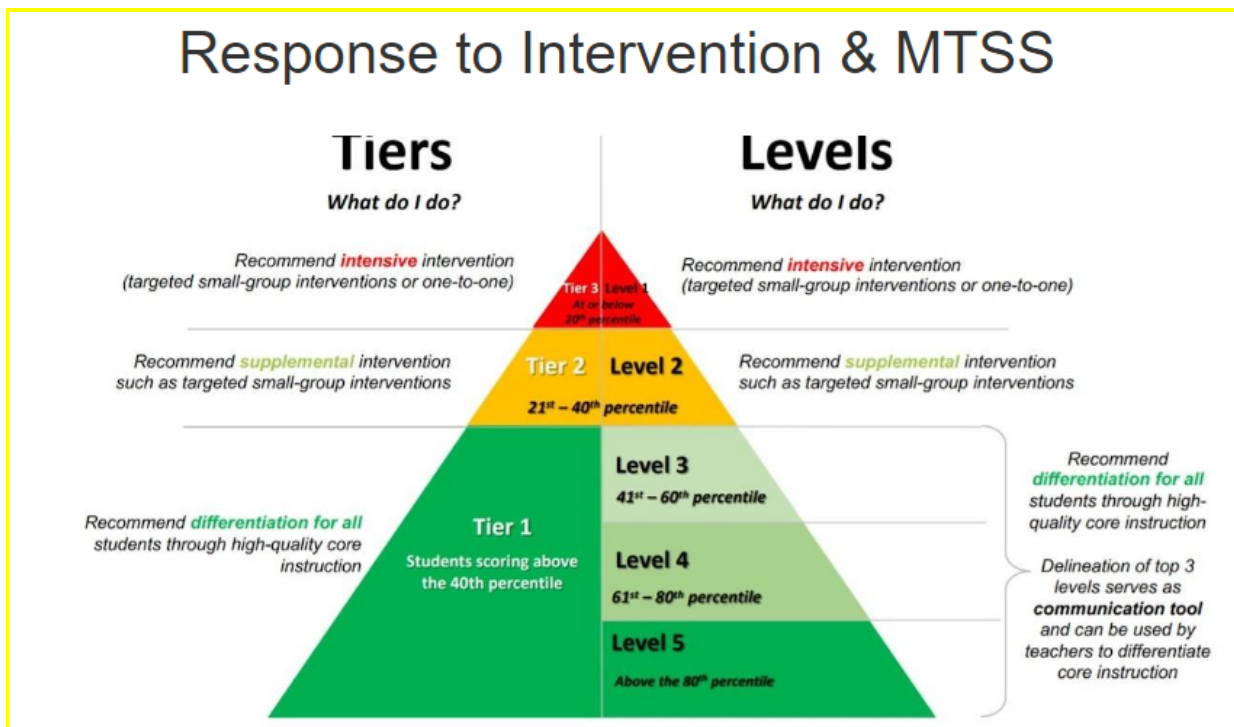
- Student and Family Empowerment Rights
- Student Development and Progress
- Communication, Dialogue, and Community Engagement
- Leadership
- Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Assessments
- Policy Governance, Procedures, Administration
- Adult Learning and Recruitment

# Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework: Academic Supports

## ***Academic Supports: Response to Intervention***

What is Academic Response to Intervention (RTI)?

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. [RTI Action Network](#)



[Response to Intervention and MTSS](#)

### Four Essential Components of RTI

1. High-quality, evidence-based differentiated classroom instruction for all students
2. Ongoing student assessment: universal screening and progress monitoring for all students to measure progress toward standard mastery and identify students in need of additional support
3. A multi-tier approach that incorporates increasing intensities of instruction offering interventions matched to student needs.
4. Parent involvement and communication of student progress, goals, and interventions

**Academic Universals**

Academic Universals	Elementary Schools (K-5)
<p><b>Core Curriculum:</b></p> <p>Explicit standards-aligned differentiated instruction in grade level/ content area content and skills</p>	<p><b>Reading/English Language Arts:</b> Being a Reader, Making Meaning</p> <p><b>Math:</b> Eureka</p> <p><b>Science:</b> MySci</p>
<p><b>Academic Data/Assessment:</b></p> <p>Measurement of content mastery and foundational skills that are administered to all students in a given grade level or course</p>	<p>Benchmark Assessments: (progress toward mastery of grade/content standards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Galileo ELA</li> <li>● Galileo Math</li> <li>● Galileo Science</li> </ul> <p>Placement Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Imagine Lit/Lang</li> <li>● Imagine Math</li> </ul> <p>Screeners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dyslexia</li> </ul> <p>Classroom Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Common Formative Assessments</li> <li>● Standards-based grades</li> </ul>

## Responses to Intervention–K-5 Reading Programs

Tier Component Guidelines for Elementary School

TIER COMPONENTS	TIER ONE Core	TIER TWO Strategic	TIER THREE Intensive
<b>Focus of Instruction</b>	Making Meaning Reading (3-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regular reading instruction with differentiated instruction embedded</li> </ul>	SIPPS and Imagine Language and Literacy targeted to student needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regular core reading instruction</li> <li>● Supplemental interventions which includes review of prerequisite skills</li> <li>● Small group assistance outside of regular reading instruction</li> </ul>	SIPPS and Imagine Language and Literacy targeted to student needs  Intensive intervention targeted to student needs, included special services
<b>Grouping</b>	Whole group and small group	Whole group with small group supplemental intervention	Differentiated small group (3 or less) and individual intensive intervention
<b>Academic Engaged Time</b>	60 minutes per day	60 minutes per week of work in Imagine Language and Literacy  Additional small group instruction time	Highly increased systematic explicit instruction and practice
<b>Frequency of Assessment</b>	3 benchmarks per year to monitor student progress	3 Imagine Language and Literacy benchmarks per year to assess student growth	



## Responses to Intervention–K-5 Math Programs

Tier Component Guidelines for Elementary School

TIER COMPONENTS	TIER ONE Core	TIER TWO Targeted	TIER THREE Individualized
<b>Focus of Instruction</b>	Eureka Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular math instruction with differentiated instruction embedded</li> </ul>	Eureka Math and Imagine Math targeted to student needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular core math instruction</li> <li>Supplemental interventions which includes review of prerequisite skills</li> <li>Small group assistance outside of regular math instruction</li> </ul>	Eureka Math and Imagine Math targeted to student needs  Intensive intervention targeted to student needs, included special services
<b>Grouping</b>	Whole group and small group	Whole group with small group supplemental intervention	Differentiated small group (3 or less) and individual intensive intervention
<b>Academic Engaged Time</b>	60 minutes per day	60 minutes per week of work in Imagine Math  additional small group instruction time	Highly increased systematic explicit instruction and practice
<b>Frequency of Assessment</b>	3 benchmarks per year to monitor student progress		

## Responses to Intervention–Science Programs

### Tier Component Guidelines for Science

TIER COMPONENTS	TIER ONE Core	TIER TWO Targeted	TIER THREE Individualized
<b>Focus of Instruction</b>	Core Science Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-8 MySci</li> </ul>	Core Science Program with embedded supplemental program interventions targeted to student needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular science courses</li> <li>• Supplemental interventions include review of basic concepts during class or individual/small group assistance scheduled outside of class time.</li> </ul>	Core Science Program with embedded supplemental instruction and intensive interventions targeted to student needs.
<b>Grouping</b>	Large and Differentiated Groups	Large group with small group supplemental interventions.	Differentiated small group and individual intensive intervention  Intensive science class of 15 or less.
<b>Academic Engaged Time</b>	One Class Period	24/7 tutor me.  Increased systemic explicit instruction and practice.  One class period with thirty minutes of intervention scheduled once a week.	One class period with an additional one intensive class period once a day.  Highly increased systemic explicit instruction and practice.
<b>Frequency of Assessment</b>	Three to four screening per year to monitor student progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galileo benchmark</li> <li>• District unit assessment</li> </ul>	Three to four screening per year to monitor student progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galileo benchmark</li> <li>• District unit assessment</li> <li>• Formative assessments to monitor identified student and standard</li> </ul>	Twice a month minimum progress monitoring of all participating students.

## ***Academic Data and Assessment Systems***

### Student Benchmarks

**Galileo:** Galileo benchmarks measure progress toward mastery of grade/content standards in ELA, Math, and Science for students (K-12).

- Achievement Level: predicts end of year performance on standardized state assessments
- Growth: measures progress between first and last assessment

### Placement Assessments:

- Imagine Language and Literacy
- Imagine Math
- Being a Reader Book Set
- SIPPS (*Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words*)

### Screener:

- Dyslexia (K-3): screener for potential risk for dyslexia

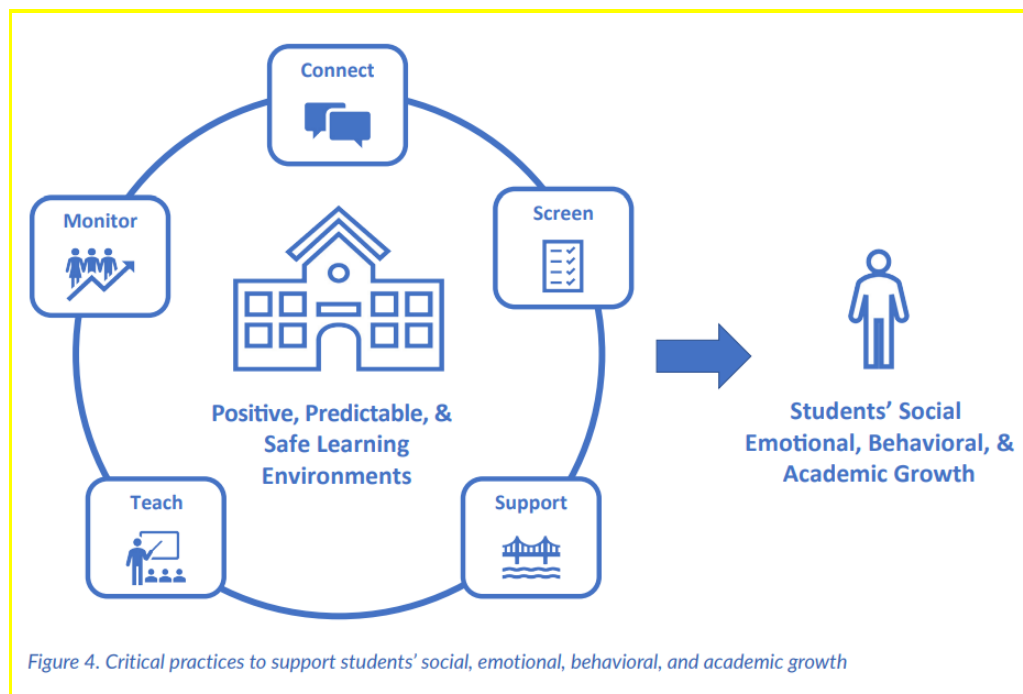
### Classroom Assessment:

- Letter Identification (K)
- Standards-based grades (K-5)
- Common Formative Assessments

## Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework: Behavioral Supports: PBIS

### What is PBIS?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based three-tiered framework to improve and integrate all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed. (Center for PBIS)



[The Center for PBIS](#) recommends a “back to basics” approach to address the significant disruptions to students’ educational access and experiences. The PBIS framework has been historically focused on systems to promote appropriate behavior in schools on all aspects of student success, including academic achievement. The Center for PBIS resources increasingly include wider comprehensive MTSS resources. At FFSD, PBIS generally refers to the behavioral components of a MTSS framework, which has been implemented in the district for many years. The Ferguson-Florissant School District recognizes the value of these evidence-based and culturally relevant practice for equitable and high impact:

1. Connect: Enhance relationships among educators, students, and families
2. Screen: Identify students who need additional support
3. Support: Establish a safe environment
4. Teach: Effectively teach, prompt and reinforce expectations and social emotional/behavioral skills
5. Monitor: Monitor implementation to enhance supports for all students and those who require more support

[Center for PBIS: "A District Guide for Returning to School"](#)

<b>Tier 1 Behavioral Universals</b>			
<b>Mission Statement</b>	The mission of the Ferguson-Florissant School District is to provide high-quality instruction to every student in every neighborhood while prioritizing equity and compassionate relationships.		
<b>Core Values</b>	+ Student Centered + Innovation	+ Excellence + Relationships	
<b>School-Wide Expectations</b>	1. Safe 2. Perseverance 3. Responsible 4. Cooperative 5. Kind		
<b>Student Responsibilities</b>	<b>Teacher/Staff Responsibilities</b>	<b>Administrator Responsibilities</b>	<b>Family Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Attend school daily</li> <li>+ Meet school-wide expectations as stated in the Behavior Expectation Matrix</li> <li>+ Take responsibility for their own actions and their effect on others</li> <li>+ Respond to conflict appropriately</li> <li>+ Participate and complete all work assigned to the best of their abilities</li> <li>+ Set and maintain goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Foster a safe climate, culture, and environment for students</li> <li>+ Teach School-wide Expectations in all school settings</li> <li>+ Post and model school-wide expectations</li> <li>+ Reteach and Reinforce School-wide Expectations throughout the day</li> <li>+ Provide praise and reinforcement to students who display expectations using a 4:1 ratio of positive to negative</li> <li>+ Implement acknowledgment plans to reward positive behaviors</li> <li>+ Implement the reactive plan at the classroom level:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- classroom -managed behaviors</li> <li>- continuum of consequences</li> </ul> </li> <li>+ Conduct, report, and use screening assessments (see Assessment Schedule)</li> <li>+ Help students set individual and class goals</li> <li>+ Engage students in Circles to build community</li> <li>+ Facilitate restorative conversations</li> <li>+ Build positive relationships with all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Teach, post, model, and reinforce School-wide Expectations in common areas and school-wide communication to students, staff, and families</li> <li>+ Implement the reactive plan at the school level:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Office managed behaviors</li> <li>+ Continuum of consequences</li> <li>+ Consistently follow the Student Expectations Code (SEC)</li> <li>+ Provide professional development opportunities for staff and teachers</li> <li>+ Provide time in the schedule for teaching and re-teaching School-wide Expectations</li> <li>+ Share screening data with staff and support staff with analyzing the data</li> </ul> </li> <li>+ Recognize students and classes for meeting attendance, behavior, and academic goals</li> <li>+ Recognize students and classes for improvement towards attendance, behavior, and academic goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Ensure that students arrive to school daily and on time</li> <li>+ Review and reinforce School-wide Expectations at home</li> <li>+ Communicate with teachers and administrators on a regular basis</li> <li>+ Review and sign the Student Expectations Code</li> <li>+ Support and/or participate in school activities designed to foster school community and acknowledge appropriate behavior</li> <li>+ Participate in conferences/ meetings related to their student's progress and needs</li> </ul>

## Combs Elementary Expectations Matrix

I will be...	Classroom	Restroom	Hallways	Playground	Cafeteria	Bus	Gym/Assemblies
<b>Safe</b>	Use KHFOOTY Walk Use materials appropriately Ask for help Ask for permission before leaving the classroom Sit in chair appropriately	Use KHFOOTY Use facilities appropriately Wash hands, keep water in sink	Use KHFOOTY Walk Face forward Walk on the right side Allow for personal space	-Use KHFOOTY Use equipment appropriately Stay in designated areas Line up carefully and quietly Advocate for self or someone else Keep gates closed Sticks, mulch, and snow stay on the ground	Use KHFOOTY Walk Chew food slowly Keep food on tray Use voice level as instructed (0-2) Eat only your food	Use KHFOOTY Keep aisle clear Sit back to back, seat to seat, Feet to floor Use level 1 voice	Use KHFOOTY Use equipment appropriately Follow directions Wear tennis shoes Sit in assigned area/seat Walk when entering and exiting
<b>I will... Persevere</b>	Take a risk Make mistakes and learn from them Stay motivated to complete work	Patiently wait your turn	Go directly to your destination	Initiate conversations Join a group Keep your head up Make eye contact Use good sportsmanship	Initiate / join in the conversation. Wait in line quietly	Go directly to your seat and stay in your seat	Praise effort Keep trying
<b>Responsible</b>	Be on time Have your supplies/ homework Participate Allow others to resolve their own problems Accept the outcomes of your behavior Be honest	Flush the toilet Wash your hands Throw paper towels in the trash Use scheduled breaks 2 pumps of soap, 2 towels	Keep your backpack area clean and free of food Always have a hallway pass Keep belongings in your bookbag	Follow directions Be fair and honest Report problems to an adult Play by the rules	Wait to be dismissed Clean your area, dump your tray and line up	Sit in assigned seat Stow book bags and instruments under seat Take belongings when you get off the bus	Take turns Use equipment appropriately Enter gym quietly and be ready to participate Stay with assigned adult
<b>Cooperative</b>	Follow directions first time given Take turns Share with others Solve problems with peaceful words Be a team player	Do your business quickly and quietly Put trash in trash can	Voice level zero Walk on the right side and around the bell.	Use equipment appropriately Stay in designated areas Line up carefully and quietly Follow game rules Take turns Agree on rules/teams before starting the game	Follow adult directions Clean up after yourself Only eat <u>your</u> food Wait your turn	Follow adult directions Take your trash with you Remain in your seat	Use positive words/praise effort Follow directions first time given Take turns and share with others Solve problems with words Be a team player Listen attentively to the speaker Applaud appropriately
<b>Kind</b>	Include others Use polite words (thank you, please, excuse me) Be a friend	Honor others' privacy Alert teacher to concerns	Acknowledge others with a smile or wave Honor the work and belongings of others	Invite others to join your game Use polite words (thank you, please, excuse me) Accept skill differences	Wait your turn Use polite words (thank you, please, excuse me) Help younger peers Empty tray, clean area	Use polite words Wait your turn	Use positive words/praise effort Accept different skill levels Be respectful to the speaker/performer and others around you

## Effective Classroom Strategies

### Effective Classroom Strategies Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for the start of school.

Effective Classroom Practices	Staff Expectations to Support Student Behavior
1. Classroom Expectations	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have created and posted <b>classroom expectations</b> aligned with school and district matrix and universals.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have made a plan to teach and practice the <b>classroom expectations and rules</b>.</p> <p>OPTIONAL READING: Click <a href="#">here</a> for an infographic about expectations.</p>
2. Classroom Procedures and Routines	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have created and posted <b>classroom procedures and routines</b>.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have made a plan to teach and practice the <b>classroom procedures and routines</b>.</p> <p>EXAMPLES: restroom, moving around the room, pencil sharpening, transitions, passes, etc.</p>
3. Behavior Specific Praise	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a plan to use a variety of strategies to give <b>behavior specific praise</b> to all students.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a method for providing <b>behavior specific praise</b> at a ratio of 4: 1.</p>
4. Pre-corrects	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have planned a variety of ways to review my expectations daily including using student voice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a plan for how <b>pre-corrects</b> are being used at the beginning of each transition.</p>
5. Active Supervision	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have designed the classroom floor plan to allow for ease of movement for <b>Active Supervision</b> and allow for safety precautions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have created a classroom space where all areas of the room are accessible by scanning, moving, and interacting frequently and strategically.</p>
6. Opportunities to Respond	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I use a variety of strategies to increase student <b>Opportunities to Respond</b> (examples: turn and talk, wait time, guided notes, response cards).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have determined a strategy to use to track students being called on.</p>

## ***Acknowledgement Systems for Reinforcement and Rewards***

Acknowledgement puts the **positive** in Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS). It shifts the focus from negatively responding to unwanted behaviors with discipline, to positively responding to desired behaviors with praise or even rewards. An acknowledgement system provides immediate, intermittent, and/or long-term rewards to any student or group who displays desired school-wide expectations for behavior. Staff use the school-wide and classroom expectations as the common language of acknowledging behaviors. This not only provides consistency among staff, but also continuity for students as they progress throughout the school as well as through the grades. Often staff name the umbrella expectation as well as the specific behavior when they acknowledge student behavior positively. Each school has a unique Acknowledgement System.

### **Types of Acknowledgement**

- **High Frequency**
  - Paw Prints- given to students daily (by any teacher/staff including their homeroom) whenever they are meeting school-wide or classroom expectations.
    - Paw Prints are then used to purchase items from the School-Store.
  - High Fives- given to whole classrooms daily (excluding their homeroom teacher/staff member) when the entire class exhibits or meets school-wide or classroom expectations.
  - Positive Specific Verbal Praise in a ratio of 4:1 (positive to negative/non-specific) given daily.
  
- **Intermittent**
  - Weekly PBIS reward- Students that met 80% of their behavior goals for the week attend Fun Friday with their classroom teacher.
  - Monthly PBIS reward- Students that met 80% of their behavior goals for the month attend monthly incentive with grade level or classroom teacher.
  - Monthly PBIS Assemblies- Classrooms are recognized each month for outstanding effort in the areas of Achievement, Attendance and Attitude. Classrooms receive trophies for the highest amount of high-fives for the month and the highest classroom attendance for the month.
  - Student of the Month Recognition- Students are nominated by staff for their positive behavior and effort each month during the PBIS Assembly and celebrated on a bulletin board all month.
  - PBIS Quarterly Rewards- Students that are referral free for the quarter and meet 80% of their behavioral goals for the quarter are eligible to attend quarterly field trips (Skating, Movies, Flying Spider, Carnival).
  - Quarterly Honor's Assembly- Individual students are honored each quarter for their outstanding work in the areas of Achievement, Attendance and Attitude.
  
- **Long-term**
  - End of the Year PBIS Reward- The class with the most high fives for the year receives a bowling field trip to Crest Bowl.

### **Who Can Be Acknowledged for Meeting Expectations?**

- Individual students
- Whole Classrooms



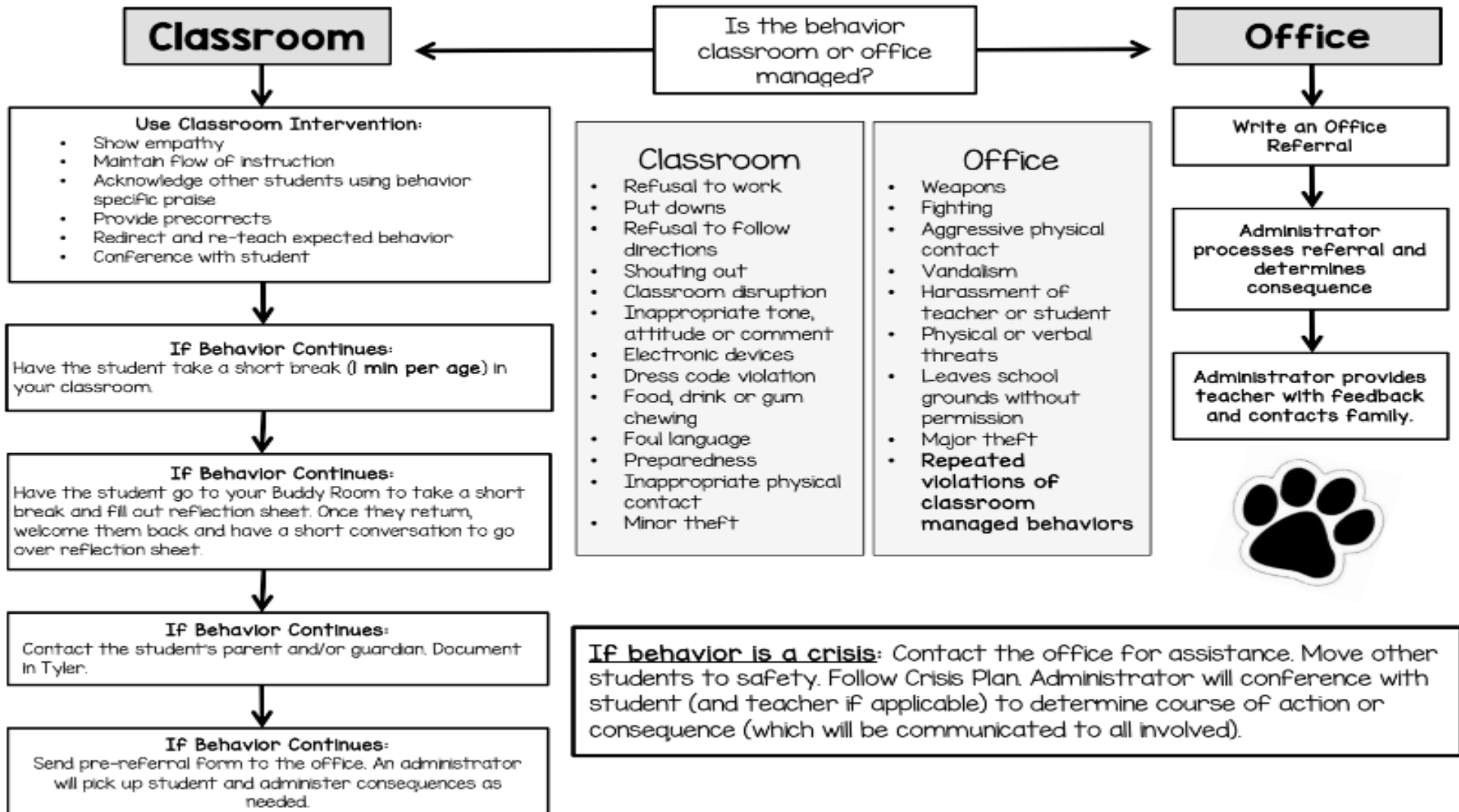
## Teaching, Reteaching & Reinforcing Expectations

Procedures for Teaching	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schedule a day during orientation week staff will be informed in detail of the MTSS plan.</li> <li>● Follow the pacing guide and curriculum for Math, ELA, Writing, Science and Second Steps</li> <li>● During the first 2 weeks of school, explicitly teach students the district, building, and classroom expectations.</li> <li>● Behavior Expectation Matrix Posters in the Classroom and common areas</li> <li>● Anchor charts for academic and social skills</li> <li>● Weekly Memo -Testing Schedules, Meetings, Screeners, Second Step Goals and PBIS talking points.</li> <li>● Keep faculty updated during building staff meetings and professional development</li> <li>● Teachers explicitly teach and practice expectations in the classroom and common areas</li> </ul>	
Procedures for Re-Teaching	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Behavior Expectation Posters in each setting</li> <li>● Practicing routines and procedures regularly</li> <li>● After every break (at least one week), reteach building PBIS expectations/lessons</li> <li>● Restorative Circles</li> </ul>	
Procedures for Reinforcing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shout Outs on announcements</li> <li>● Students of the Month bulletin board</li> <li>● Dojo points</li> <li>● Incentive tickets (paw prints)</li> <li>● High-Fives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Honors Certificates</li> <li>● Assembly recognition</li> <li>● Fun-Friday Incentives</li> <li>● Monthly Classroom Incentives</li> <li>● Quarterly PBIS Incentives</li> </ul>

### Reactive Plan for Minor and Major Behaviors

A Reactive Plan outlines the flow-chart of adult responses to minor and major behaviors. We differentiate between Classroom-Managed and Office-Managed Behaviors and follow a Continuum of Consequences for each. A teacher may address minor inappropriate behaviors without writing an office referral, which elevates the incident to the attention of the school administrator. An administrator or dean addresses more serious discipline incidents. Administrators reference the Student Expectations Code when making decisions about consequences. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to utilize Restorative Practices, rather than a punitive approach. The commitment to teaching, reteaching and reinforcing universal student expectations is rooted in the responsibility of schools to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. There are consequences for behavior that disrupts that environment laid out in the SEC.

# Classroom vs. Office Managed Behaviors



Updated 10/22/19

## Behavioral Interventions

Evidence-based academic interventions are provided throughout the district, however not every intervention listed here is available at every grade span or school. Student data is used to identify students who may need targeted interventions. School MTSS Comprehensive Guides contain information as to the specific Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic interventions and strategies utilized to support students at each school. These are some of the behavioral interventions in place at schools.

<b>Research-based Behavioral Interventions</b>		
<b>Low Level Strategies</b> (Available Universally)	<b>Tier 2: Targeted</b> (Teach, Reinforce, Feedback)	<b>Tier 3: Intensive/Individualized</b> (T2 with increasing intensity)
Alternatives To Suspension Behavior Specific Praise <a href="#">Effective Teaching Practices</a> Individual & Visual Schedules Newcomers Club Non-Verbal Cues & Signals Peer Tutoring Reward System Self Monitoring Sensory Tools	Behavior Contract Structured Breaks Check In Check Out (CICO) Counselor Referral Daily Behavior Charts Individual & Visual Schedules Newcomers Club Peer Tutoring Reteaching Clinics Self Monitoring Sensory Tools Social Stories Social Skills Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teach Conflict Resolution</li> <li>● Teach Coping Skills</li> <li>● Teach Organizational Skills</li> <li>● Teach Relationship Skills</li> <li>● Teach Relaxation Techniques</li> <li>● Teach Social Skills</li> </ul>	Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) Collaboration With Student's Physician And/Or Mental Health Provider External Partners (for example) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Great Circle</li> <li>● Pinocchio</li> <li>● Red Circle</li> </ul>

## ***Student Expectations Code (SEC)***

The Ferguson-Florissant School District has created the [Student Expectation Code](#) to assure all stakeholders have direct access to the guiding principles and consistent procedures applicable to the administration of student discipline within all schools. All children have different needs, and our mission is to ensure that all children succeed. Towards that end, this document serves as a lens through which to view how the district will utilize preventative and restorative approaches to support students equitably even when they may make choices that negatively impact themselves or others. In order to promote equitable outcomes for students, this document identifies areas where interventions to support students in preventing negative behaviors are included or required and defines ranges and maximums for consequential actions. The Ferguson-Florissant School District intends to make plain the thought and care used to assure administrative procedures and disciplinary consequences are learning experiences for student growth and to ensure that our families are informed partners throughout the process of supporting students in being at their very best each and every day.

### **Suspension Practices**

FFSD works to decrease the number of out of school suspensions through implementation of an MTSS framework that provides tiered behavioral and SEL supports to students aimed to prevent major infractions. The Student Expectations code lays out the circumstances under which suspension is an appropriate consequence for a Level 4 or Level 5 infraction. Families are encouraged to become familiar with the SEC and understand their students' rights and responsibilities. Whenever possible, school principals try to provide effective alternatives to suspension. Alternatives to suspension vary by grade span and school.

#### **Alternatives to Suspension (examples)**

- Reteaching of expectations
- Restorative conference
- Counseling
- School service (for example, assisting with clean-up or special projects)
- Behavior monitoring
- Restitution
- Problem solving or behavior contract (BIP)
- Alternative programming
- Loss of privileges (like recess, social time, incentives)
- Time out/Buddy Room
- CICO Mentoring
- Referral to community mental health services
- Loss of bus privileges for bus-related incidents
- Conference with parent/guardian


## School-Based Teams for PBIS Tiered Systems

Teams of educators meet to develop and monitor PBIS practices in each school. Highly effective teams have the following characteristics. The MTSS District Leadership Team seeks to support these school-based teams by providing district-wide direction, training, and coaching.

### Members:

Role	Responsibility
Principal	School Administrator and School Operations
SELT Chair/Counselor	Systems Coordinator/ Tier 3 Interventions
SSD Teacher	Applied Behavioral Expertise
ISL	Coaching Expertise and Academic Patterns
Grade 3 Teacher 1 Grade 4 Teacher 1 Grade 5 Teacher 1 Specialists 1 and 2	Knowledge of Student Academic & Behavior Patterns
Grade 4 Teacher 2	School-wide Acknowledgment System (High-fives)
Grade 5 Teachers 2 and 3	Tier 1 Incentives (Rewards and School Store)
SLP	Tier 2 Interventions

**Meetings:** School team meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 3:55-4:50 and follows an agenda, and keeps minutes that are available to all staff. Meeting Notes are shared via email with staff within 5 days of the meeting and again during the following staff meeting.

Example)  Blank SELT Agenda  SELT Agenda-9/15/22

**Systems Development:** Teams develop and monitor systems for behavioral expectations, teaching expectations, classroom procedures, effective use of FFSD PBIS Matrix and procedures for addressing office-managed and classroom managed behaviors, alignment of school systems with the [FFSD Student Expectations Code](#), and acknowledgement and rewards.

**Data Driven Decision Making:** Teams participate in data-driven decision making monthly: analyze and respond to formal and informal discipline data, review school-wide attendance data, CARE Team referrals, and other data sources as appropriate. The team also reviews current universals to ensure implementation is beneficial to students and staff.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Information is shared with stakeholders (parents) via weekly parent newsletters, and throughout the year during Title 1 events. Quarterly family activities are planned and implemented to increase parental involvement and strengthen the home-school connections. Stakeholders are always welcome to provide feedback at any time during the school year.

**Evaluate Effectiveness:** Teams evaluate the effectiveness of PBIS systems at least annually using the Tiered Fidelity Inventory tool (TFI). Results are shared with staff and SELT team prior to O-Week to assist with implementation of required or necessary changes.

## ***Behavioral Data/Assessment Systems***

**BIG 5 + 1:** Teams analyze school behavior: average referrals per month, top referral incidents, top referral locations, top times of day incidents occur, out of school suspension incidents/days.

**Referrals:** Office referrals are tracked and monitored to identify (1) trends in student behavior and (2) individual students who would benefit from targeted interventions. When students struggle to meet behavioral expectations, adults must support them in learning appropriate behaviors and addressing root causes.

**School-based Internal Behavior Systems (pre-referral):** Schools have systems for tracking behaviors, especially classroom-managed behavior, prior to the need for an office referral that is entered in the Student Information System (Tyler SIS K-12) and Class Dojo. Students receive interventions in response to these pre-referral behaviors. Behavior data is discussed weekly during PLC meetings and monthly during SELT committee meetings.

**School-based Behavior Progress Monitoring:** Schools have systems in place to progress monitor interventions that support students who have demonstrated behavioral challenges. Progress monitoring information is collected and analyzed, usually every 6-8 weeks. Progress monitoring is often a process implemented by Care Teams, but may be carried out by any educator who is supporting a student individually or in a group setting.

# Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Supports

## ***Social Emotional Learning (SEL)***

What is Social Emotional Learning?

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) concepts provide an extra dimension to education, focusing on improving cooperation, communication, and decision-making. In a world where emotional intelligence is critical for lifelong happiness, successful careers, and healthier relationships, SEL gives students a framework for developing these skills.

## ***Social Emotional Universals***

Social Emotional Universals	Elementary Schools (K-5)
<p><b>SEL Curriculum:</b> Explicit instruction and reinforcement of Castle competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Self-awareness</li> <li>● Self-management</li> <li>● Social awareness</li> <li>● Relationship skills</li> <li>● Responsible decision-making</li> </ul> <p>Counselor Lessons</p>	<p><b>Second Step</b></p> <p>Second Step focuses on promoting self-regulation through the development of executive functions and emotion management skills, and social-emotional competence. It is aligned to CASEL standards</p> <p><a href="#">More information</a></p>
<p><b>SEL Data/Assessment:</b></p> <p>SEL Universal Screener/Survey to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in social emotional competencies to identify students in need of Tier 2/3 intervention</p>	<p><b>DESSA Screener</b></p> <p><b>SECA Student Survey</b> (5th grade only)</p>

## Social Emotional Learning through CASEL Alignment

Ferguson-Florissant School District’s SEL core curriculum, tiered resources, surveys, screeners, and MTSS student data management system are aligned to the CASEL framework. Additionally, promoting social emotional learning is a key element in building a just, equitable, and anti-racist school district.

### Social Emotional Core Curriculum

What is our approach to Social and Emotional Learning ?

- A focus on the following competencies: (1) self-awareness, (2) self-management, (3) social awareness, (4) relationship skills, and (5) responsible decision making.
- Skills are reinforced, extended, and applied to age-appropriate situations at each grade level.
- Schools strive to establish classroom and school routines to offer students the opportunity to practice and receive feedback and reinforcement on their use of the skills
- School leaders act to shape a school culture that will provide a safe place for students to practice skills and where adults model the skills



### Second Step (K-5)

The social-emotional learning curriculum for Pre-K through grade 5 approved by the district is Second Step. The curriculum focuses on promoting self-regulation through the development of executive functions and emotion management skills, and social-emotional competence.

- **Expectations:** Teachers will teach one 30 minute lesson per week from the Second Step curriculum and reinforce the concepts throughout the week
- **Optional:** Teachers may provide extension activities from the Second Step curriculum throughout the week
- **School-wide Reinforcement:** Second Step SEL concepts and language are used throughout the building, including morning announcements
- **Additional Resources:** Anti-Bullying, anti-racism, and other SEL resources available through the Second Step program are used by some schools



## Social Emotional Learning and Restorative Practices

What are Restorative Practices?

Restorative practices is an emerging social science that studies how to strengthen relationships between individuals as well as develop social connections within communities. In schools, restorative practices help to create a trusting environment by giving both students and adults an opportunity to make positive choices and interact respectfully in the classroom and throughout the school. ([CASEL Guide to Schoolwide SEL: Restorative Practice and SEL Alignment](#))

Restorative Practices (RP) include both proactive and responsive practices to build community and restore relationships when harm has occurred.

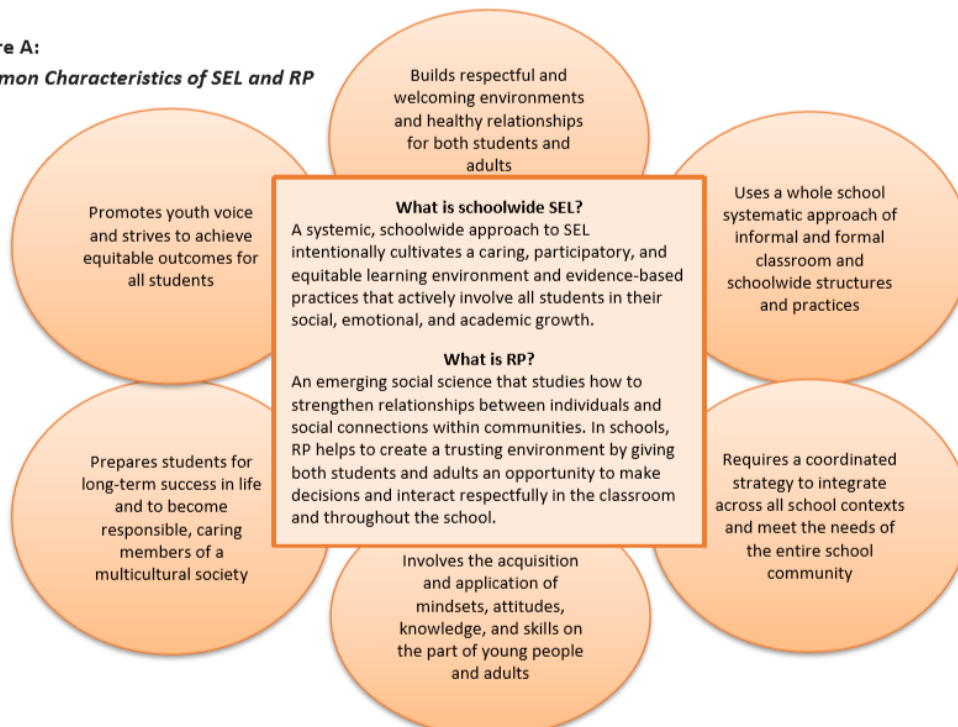
Proactive practices: practices that proactively build healthy relationships and develop community

- Affective language (e.g., “I statements,” empathetic listening, affective questions, nonverbal affirmation)
- Small impromptu conversations or “restorative chats”
- Community-building circles (e.g., talking circles)

Responsive practices: practices that respond to conflict and wrongdoing with the goal of repairing harm, rebuilding relationships, and restoring community. Responsive practices involve both the person who caused harm and those who are impacted.

- Responsive conversations or restorative conferences
- Responsive circles (e.g. restorative problem-solving, peace circles, and reintegration circles)
- Peer-based conferences, peer juries, justice panels

**Figure A:**  
*Common Characteristics of SEL and RP*



## Role of School Counselors in SEL

### Who are School Counselors?

School Counselors work within schools to fully implement a comprehensive school counseling program that supports the academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students through the delivery of counseling curriculum, individual student planning, and responsive services. The program is managed and evaluated through system support activities that also support the on-going mission of the school.

Effective comprehensive school counseling programs are vital to the school climate and a critical element in the development of success ready students. Comprehensive school counseling programs have a positive impact on students, parents, schools and communities.

School Counseling Curriculum Description: lessons presented to help students attain the desired Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in the areas of social/emotional, academic and career development. The school counseling curriculum is systematically presented by school counselors in collaboration with teachers through K-12 classroom lessons or other learning activities.



*Counseling Program services and programs: Peninsula School District*

### Examples of MTTs School School Counselor Duties/Interventions to support SEL

<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <a href="#">School Counseling Lessons</a></li> <li>◆ Coordination of SEL Curriculum</li> <li>◆ Management of SECA/DESSA data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <a href="#">Small Group Counseling</a></li> <li>◆ Restorative Circles/Meetings or Mediation</li> <li>◆ Coordinate/Facilitate CICO</li> <li>◆ Care Team Meeting Facilitation</li> <li>◆ Crisis Intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Individual Counseling</li> <li>◆ Suicide Risk Assessments</li> <li>◆ Referrals to outside agencies</li> </ul>

## ***Social Work Services: Social Emotional Tiered Supports***

### Who are School Social Workers?

School Social Workers provide a focused reach to support all students specifically in areas of social-emotional learning and mental health needs, and are uniquely trained to integrate the school, community, and family context into interventions and resource referrals. School social work interventions reduce barriers to learning enabling students to be physically, mentally, and emotionally present and ready to learn in the classrooms ([School Social Workers Association of America](#)). Ferguson-Florissant School District (FFSD) School Social Workers serve as the link between students, families, the community, and the school.

### Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

In an effort to improve academic and behavioral outcomes, FFSD School Social Workers partner with staff within the LEA to systematically address concerns from a context that is preventative, yet team and data-driven. Through a tiered model of support, school social workers provide a multitude of direct and indirect intervention/support services with the goal of increasing student outcomes on an individual and district-wide level. Tiered interventions align and support outcomes within the school based social work practice model. Those student directed outcomes include evidence-based practices in mental health, promoting a positive school culture/climate that is conducive to student learning, and maximizing access to community and school based services for students district-wide.

### Examples of MTSS School Social Work Duties/Interventions

#### **Tier 1: Universal Prevention Services (All Students)**

Conduct School-Wide needs and risk assessment · review school-wide data collection · Collaboration and consultation with teachers and administrators · Crisis intervention and prevention · Provide professional development for school staff and families · Student and Family engagement activities · Leadership and accountability for systems wide mental health initiatives · Education policy advocacy · systems of care coordination · McKinney Vento · Foster care · Foster community partnerships · Support current Universal services

- Development of new Universal programs/services
- Available to provide support to all students (e.g. resources, crisis counseling, conflict mediation)
- partner with Home-School-Community Liaison
- partner with Parent education & support programs
- Provide In-service for students, parents, and school staff

#### **Tier 2: Selective Early Intervention Services**

Classroom and small group practices to address Social Emotional Learning · Behavioral and mental health needs

- Group counseling and skill building
- Attendance
- Engagement
- Conduct functional assessments for individual case management planning
- Create self-management tools for students
- Support Check-In/Check-Out (CICO) program
- Small group instruction using evidence-based interventions (e.g. social competence, self-regulation, etc.)
- Teacher/classroom consultation
- Other Universal supports

#### **Tier 3: Intensive individualized support (Wrap-around/Case Management Services)**

Family support · Implementation and review of Functional Behavioral Assessments · Behavioral Intervention Plans · IEP participation · Intensive case management that may include: social assessments, development of individual treatment plans, referrals to services, student monitoring and collaboration with interdisciplinary teams.

**Social Emotional Tiered Supports: External Partnerships**

<b>External Partner</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>
UMSL- Community Psychological Services			Comprehensive psychological assessment and evaluation services
CHADS	Signs of Suicide Presentations (Gr. 5-9) Mental Health Presentations		
Compass Health Network-Pinocchio		Pinnocchio (K-3)	Pinnocchio (K-3)
ConnectED (formerly NCADA)	Resiliency-skill curricula; peer programming		
FACE department	MS Speaker Series		
Great Circle/Student Support Therapists			School Based Therapy
Jewish Family & Children's Service			Psychological Evaluations
Preferred Family Healthcare			Substance Abuse treatment, early intervention and outpatient counseling
SSM Health Behavioral Health			Intensive Outpatient Program
St. Vincent Home for Children			Therapeutic support, residential treatment, substance abuse and transition services
Girl Scouts of America	PAVE Program (social skill lessons)		
Red Circle		Student Advocates- SEL and Academic	Student Advocates- SEL and Academic

[District External Partnerships](#)

## SEL Data and Assessment Systems

### Student Screeners and Surveys

**DESSA:** The DESSA is a nationally standardized, strength-based behavior rating scale that assesses students' social and emotional competence with editions that support students K-12. It has been used by districts across the country to support social and emotional learning. It is aligned to CASEL standards. We use the DESSA Mini to identify students who may need support. We use the DESSA Comprehensive Screener to drill down into exactly what would benefit each student who demonstrates a need for additional support. A team of professionals individualize support in a Care Team process. [More Information about the DESSA](#)

**SECA:** The SECA is a research-based, student-facing survey that measures self-reported social and emotional competencies of students in grades 5-12. Students respond to questions that measure their confidence in 8 social-emotional domains. We use the SECA result to identify areas we can address school-wide to help all students gain confidence in certain competencies. We can also support smaller groups of students in Tier 2 interventions. [More information about the SECA and SEL screeners](#)

Both DESSA and SECA are aligned to the CASEL Standards:

1. Self-awareness of strengths and weaknesses
2. Self-awareness of emotions
3. Self-management of emotions
4. Self-management of goals
5. Self-management of school work
6. Relationship skills
7. Social awareness
8. Responsible decision-making



[More information about the Casel SEL Framework](#)

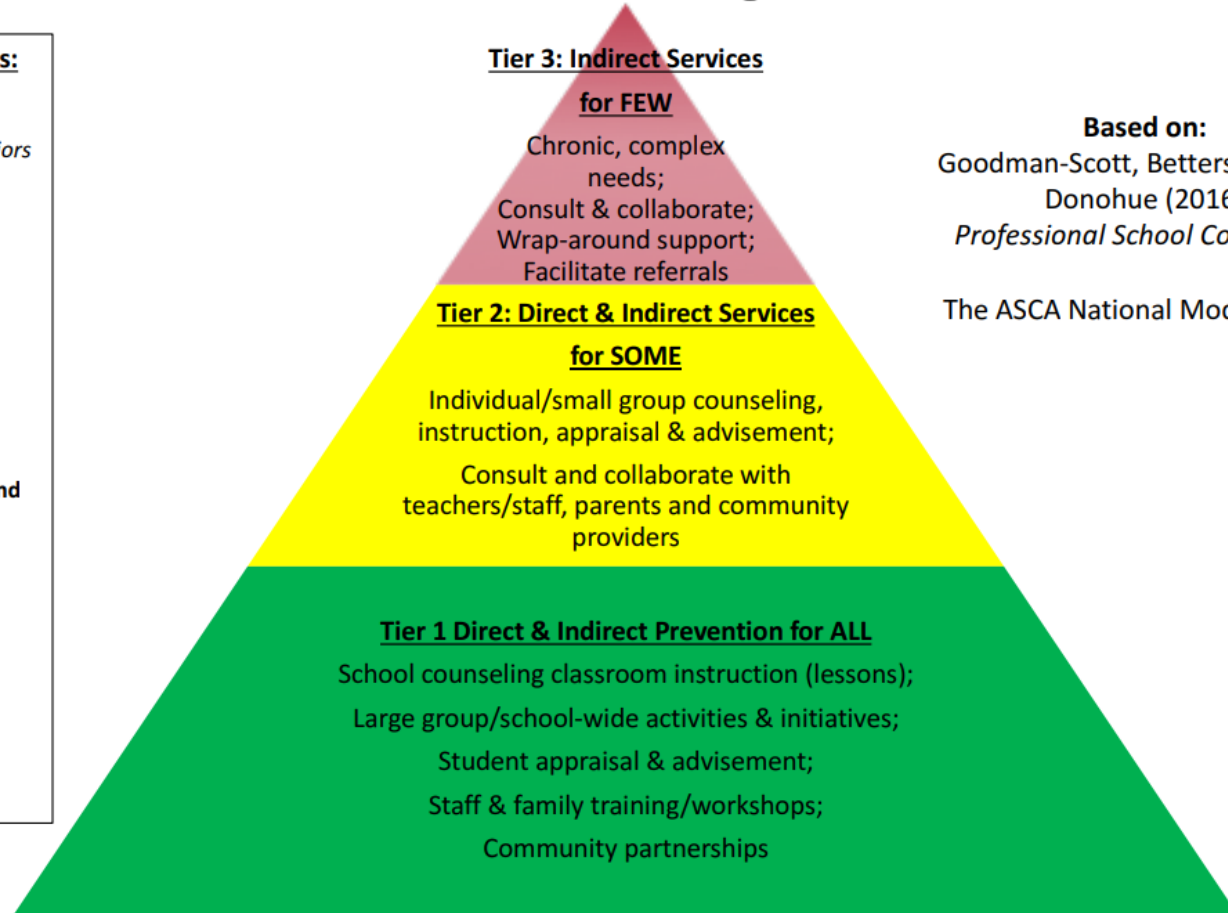
**Culture and Climate Surveys:** The School Climate Surveys are a set of four multidimensional surveys to measure student, teacher, administrator, faculty, and family perceptions of school climate: elementary, middle/high, school personnel, and family. The surveys are brief, reliable, and valid for assessing perceived school climate among students in Grades 3-12. We use climate surveys to determine how members of our FFSD community view the culture and climate of our schools. This information helps us plan for continuous improvement. [More information about School Climate Surveys](#)

# Additional MTSS Programs and Resources

**COUNSELING SERVICES TIERED SUPPORTS**

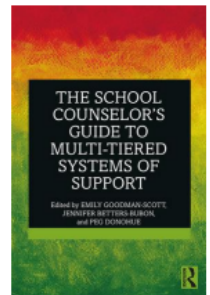
# 2019 ASCA National Model Aligned with MTSS

- Across all Tiers, School Counselors:**
- **DEFINE** MTSS and SC program:
    - Grounded in *Mindsets & Behaviors* and professional standards
  - **MANAGE** MTSS and SC program:
    - Belief, vision, mission, goals
    - Program planning tools
    - Data and action plans
  - **DELIVER** prevention and intervention activities that are:
    - Culturally-responsive
    - Evidence-based
    - Focused on **academic, career and social/emotional domains**
  - **ASSESS** MTSS and SC programs:
    - Program/SC assessment & appraisal
  - Incorporate **ASCA THEMES**:
    - **Collaboration**
    - **Leadership**
    - **Advocacy**
    - **Systemic Change**



**Based on:**  
Goodman-Scott, Betters-Bubon & Donohue (2016)  
*Professional School Counseling*  
The ASCA National Model (2019)

For more information (Routledge, 2019):



@SchCouns4MTSS



Tiered Supports for Attendance/Engagement			
	General Strategies	Specific Actions	
<b>Tier 1</b>	Family Engagement	Clear communications about expectations Clarity on when NOT to send a child to school Outreach when students are absent	Education on importance of attendance/engagement Emphasize home/school partnership
	Prevent: Remove Barriers	Transportation Address homelessness Wellness checks: health and SEL	Free lunch/breakfast Alternatives to suspension Access to technology/WiFi as needed
	Teach Expectations/ Relevance	Clear communication about expectations Clarity on when it's not safe to come to school	Education on importance of attendance/engagement
	Reinforce/Reward	Focus on engagement Recognition for high engagement and improvement	Positive reinforcement for attending
	Relationships/ Connections	Community building in class and building Teacher outreach when students are absent/ return Greeting students entering building and classroom Opportunities for student voice	Taking attendance in a caring manner Connection to 1+ adult in school Increased peer engagement
	Monitor Accurately	Follow attendance protocols	
<b>Tier 2</b>	Attendance Teams	Use absenteeism data to activate targeted supports Individualized attendance planning	Investigate reasons for absenteeism
	Targeted Intervention	Parent phone calls/meetings Address specific barriers to attendance/engagement Group support by similar reasons for absenteeism	Student mentoring re: attendance Priority participation in expanded learning (home/school)
	Relationships/ Reinforcement	Recognize attendance/engagement improvement Develop incentives with students	
<b>Tier 3</b>	Intensive Intervention	Intensive outreach to locate student and family and assess situation Coordinated case management: including child welfare, mental health, health, housing/homelessness and CPS (last resort)	



<b>STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
<b>Students have the right to:</b>	<b>Students have the responsibility to:</b>
To attend school in the district of residency or in accordance with one of the legally recognized exceptions, and receive a free and appropriate public education from age 7 to 21, as provided by law.	All enrolled students will attend school daily, regularly, and on time, perform assignments, strive to do the highest quality work possible, and be prepared to learn
To expect that school will be a safe, orderly, and purposeful place for all students to obtain an education and to be treated equitably	To be aware of all rules and expectations regulating student's behavior and conduct themselves following these guidelines
To be considered as an individual and treated courteously, equitably, and civilly by other students and school staff	To consider everyone in the school community and to treat others in the manner that one would want to be treated
To express one's opinions verbally or in writing	To express opinions and ideas civilly so as not to offend, slander, or restrict the right and privileges of others
To dress in such a way as to express one's personality following the dress code	To dress appropriately following the dress code so as not to endanger physical health, safety, limit participation in school activities, or be unduly distracting while expressing one's personality
To be afforded equal and appropriate educational opportunities.	To be aware of available educational programs to use and develop one's capabilities to their maximum
To take part in all school activities on an equal basis regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family/parental status, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, poverty socio-economic status, and language	To work to the best of one's ability in all academic and extracurricular activities, as well as being cooperative and supportive of others
To have access to relevant and objective information concerning drug and alcohol abuse, as well as access to individuals or agencies capable of providing direct assistance to students with serious personal problems	To be aware of the information and services and to seek help in dealing with personal problems when appropriate
To be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family/parental status, marital status, age, physical or mental disability, poverty socio-economic status, and language by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity	To be considerate of one another and treat others equitably following the Student Expectation Code. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination. To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination

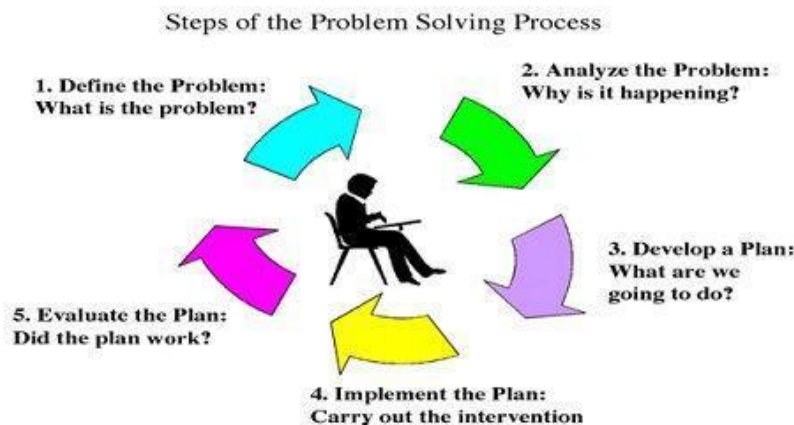
## Care Team Individualized Intervention Process

### Care Team

The Care Team is a group of professional staff representing a variety of disciplines which may include general education, guidance and counseling, administration, school health/nursing, special education, speech/language pathology, school social work, school psychology and parents that work together to support a student in areas of academic, social emotional and behavioral needs. This team uses current information to develop and recommend research-based interventions to support the student.

### Process

The Care Team is designed to support teachers and staff with suggestions of research based interventions to support students who are struggling with Tier 1 instruction. Students who are referred to the Care Team have not shown the expected academic, behavioral or social-emotional growth in spite of having received support from the classroom teacher. Teachers should first attempt to eliminate concerns by implementing strategies in the classroom prior to making a referral to the Care Team. Once the Care Team referral is made, the counselor (as facilitator) will gather some basic information about the student and schedule the meeting. During the meeting, the Care Team members will discuss the strengths and opportunities for growth for the student and develop a plan to support the student. The team will schedule a follow-up meeting in 4-6 weeks to review progress.



### Care Team Procedures

Each building has a Care Team with a designated day/time for Care Team meetings. The makeup of this team may look different at each building and based on the concern of the referring teacher. Mandatory team members include: referring teacher, general education teacher, school counselor and a building administrator. Some other members of the team might include: special education staff member, school psychologist, school/district social worker, school nurse, speech/language pathologist, ISL, student and/or parent.

## Care Team Members and Roles

Team members should have designated roles to help the meeting run smoothly.

- Facilitator - The facilitator schedules the meeting and leads the discussion
- Time Keeper - This person keeps the meeting progressing. This is a very important role as many times, so much time is spent on the problem, that there isn't enough time to discuss the interventions.
- Recorder - This person keeps the notes of what is said and decided in the meeting.
- Support Team Members - Recommend interventions. Sometimes things are so clear to those who aren't directly involved in the situation.

*Some members might fill multiple roles.*

As the facilitator of this meeting, counselors should use the agenda/notes document to guide the meeting. During this meeting the team will review various information (problem/concern, interventions tried, goals to work toward and interventions to put in place as well as who is responsible for implementation, etc.) A follow up meeting will be scheduled at this time as well - Some of this can be filled in on the agenda/notes document before the meeting based on the information from the referral.

If there are speech/language concerns, the SLP should be invited. Based on the concern, you might invite a member of your SELT team or ISL. If possible, invite the previous year teacher as they might have some insight as to what worked for them. This is not always possible, especially at the secondary level.

Over the next 4-6 weeks, the interventions that were discussed during the meeting need to be implemented with fidelity. If it was decided that the student would receive one-on-one tutoring for 30 minutes, each day, then that is what would need to be done in order for the intervention to be considered implemented with fidelity.

At the following meeting, the team will review the data collected over the last 4-6 weeks and discuss how the student is doing. If the intervention is working, continue with this intervention and begin to discuss any other areas the student might need to improve and start the process over with this new intervention. If the intervention is not working, discuss fidelity and other options of what might work better. Schedule another follow up meeting.

## Care Team Resources

Care Team Training Module - [Video](#)

[2022-2023 Care Team Referral Links](#)

[Care Team Agenda/Notes Sheet](#) (forced copy)

## Special Education and MTSS

The Ferguson-Florissant School District has developed an MTSS Framework which addresses goals related to Special Education programs in partnership with the Special School District. Strong multi-tiered support for all students eliminates practices which have historically resulted in the over-identification of students with disabilities. By serving our students effectively in the general education setting, we are able to reduce special education referrals and improve student outcomes.

The objective is to reduce disproportionality in the identification of students with disabilities, decrease suspension rates of students with disabilities, and be an inclusive setting which increases access of students with disabilities to the general education setting (Least Restrictive Environment).

*Students with disabilities, like all students, benefit from school-wide implementation of a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). Most students with disabilities (95%) receive at least part of their instruction in general education, and 63% spend most of their time in general education (i.e., 80% or more of their time in general education). As a result, they benefit from the positive MTSS outcomes found in numerous studies, including sustained academic performance, reduced behavior problems, reduced inappropriate referrals to special education, and improved graduation rates.*

*When schools implement individualized education programs (IEPs) within a larger school-wide MTSS, students with disabilities are able to receive intensive intervention through data-based individualization at Tier 3 while ensuring access to aligned Tier 1 programming as well as Tier 2 intervention in other areas of identified need. Data collected through MTSS support IEP teams in developing and implementing the IEP [Sec. 300.320]. [Center on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#)*

### Key Terms:

SPED - Special education is specialized instruction targeted for the individual needs of students who have been identified as needing special education services as a result of a disability.

Individual Education Plan (IEP) - A written plan that describes the individual learning needs of a student with disabilities and the SPED services, supports, aids, accommodations, and modifications that will be provided to that student

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) - The school setting (placement) which allows a child with a disability to be educated to the greatest extent possible with children who do not have disabilities

[Accommodation/Modification](#) - Accommodations / modifications are amendments to curriculum so barriers are effectively removed which prevent a student from demonstrating content mastery. This support allows a student to have equal access to learning.

Disproportionality in Special Education: unequal or out of proportion identification, placement, and discipline of students with disabilities. Disparities may exist in race, ethnicity, or gender.

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) - The process of gathering data about problem behaviors of students with disabilities. Information about when, where, and under what conditions the behaviors occur is included.

[Guide](#): How Does MTSS Support SPED?

## ***Important Terms in MTSS***

**Baseline Data:** Data that is collected before an intervention or program change begins

**Care Team:** Group of professional staff representing a variety of disciplines that work together to support a student in areas of academic, social emotional and behavioral needs. This team uses current information to develop and recommend research-based interventions to support the student.

**Differentiated Instruction:** Way a teacher responds to a variety of student needs in the classroom in Tier 1 Universal Core Instruction by modifying the content, process, or product

**Evidence-based:** Research-based programs, assessments, and strategies shown to have had positive outcomes on student achievement or behavior

**Fidelity:** Occurs when strategies, content, and systems are implemented in the way they were designed to be used

**Interventions:** Evidence-based instruction designed to improve student performance relative to specific, measurable goals in a targeted area of need

**MTSS District Leadership Team:** District team of representatives across all facets of academic, behavioral, and social emotional supports for students who work together to drive implementation of the MTSS framework throughout the district (PK-12).

**Progress Monitoring:** Ongoing assessment conducted more frequently to guide instruction, monitor progress, and evaluated effectiveness of instruction/interventions

**Targeted Support:** Additional evidence-based academic or behavioral support to ensure all students achieve success at school (help)

**Tiers:** Layers of support students receive. An MTSS Framework has three tiers, or layers, of support. All students receive Tier 1 Universals; some students receive Tier 2 targeted support, and a few students receive Tier 3 individualized intensive support.

**Universal Screening:** Assessments for all students focused on target academic skills or social emotional competencies that are highly predictive of student outcomes and can be used to identify students for additional support.

Resource: [Lake County Schools Parent Guide to the MTSS Framework](#)