

Success of all Students Central in Inclusive Education Report

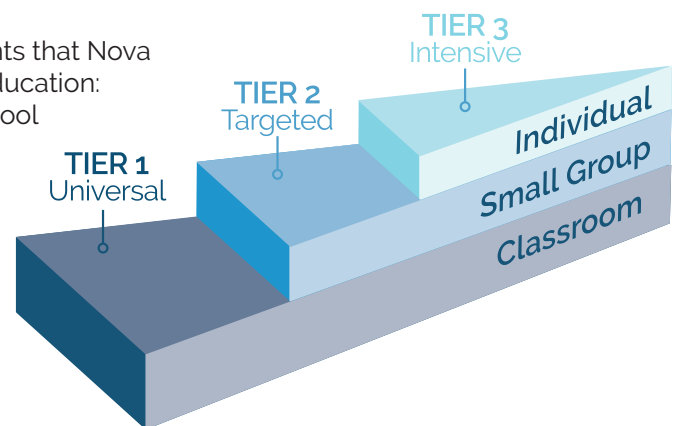
BACKGROUND

MARCH 26, 2018

What is MTSS?

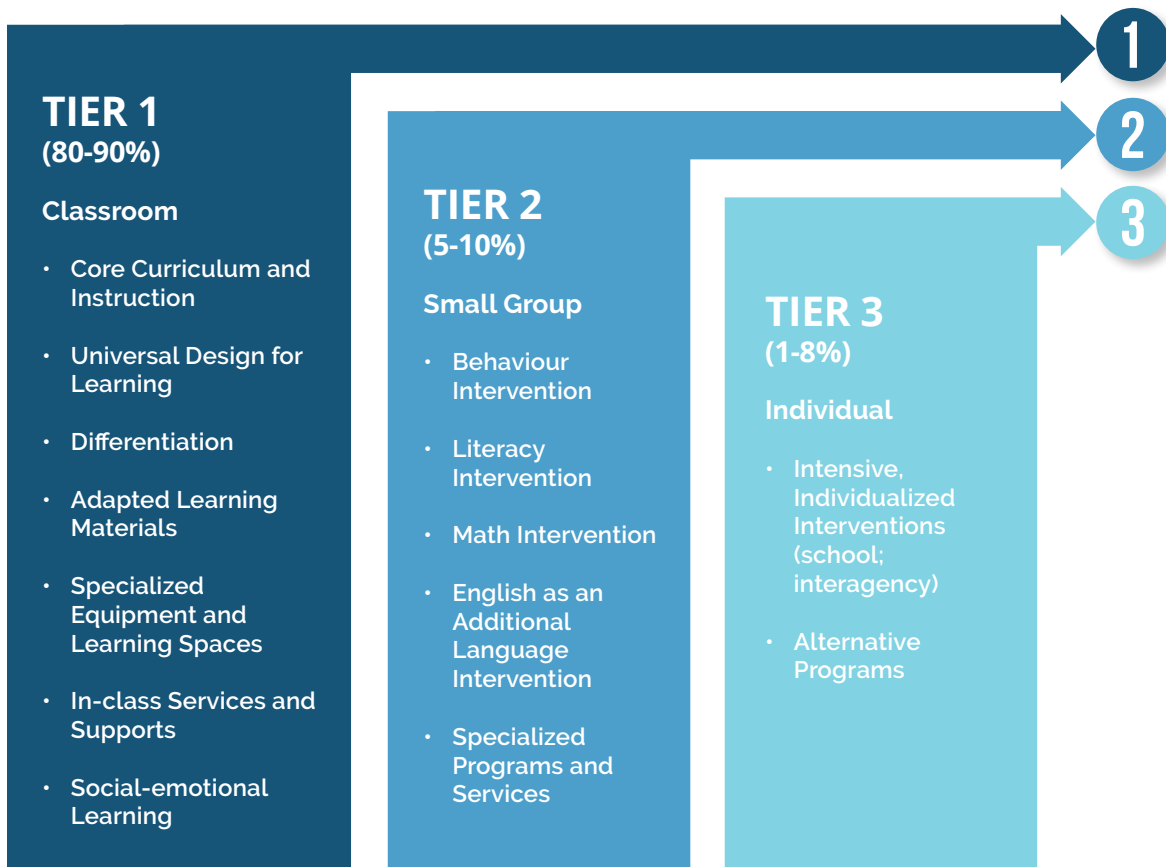
MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Support. It provides students with three levels or tiers of support at school for academics, behaviour and social-emotional development: classroom, small group and individual. Rather than having multiple programs and services operating independently in the school system, MTSS blends and coordinates education programs and services in one unified framework that is focused on student success. MTSS fundamentally changes public education from trying to fit students into traditional programs and placements, to fitting school programs, services and settings to the students.

Nova Scotia model of MTSS includes the five main components that Nova Scotians told us were essential to a new model of inclusive education: funding, staff education, interagency collaboration, home-school partnerships and a new set of policies. For each of these elements, we examined what we currently have in our province and recommended improvements. The MTSS model also reflects the findings of an extensive research literature findings of Nova Scotia university professors regarding successful models of inclusive education. The MTSS model reflects the input and research of Nova Scotians and is tailored to our public-school system.



The new model of inclusive education

| Is: | Is Not: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom, small group and individual supports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional programs and placement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible option: programs, services & settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streaming |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-centered: focused on prevention and early identification and intervention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program-centered |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blended academic, behaviour and social-emotional support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate approaches to student learning, behaviour & social-emotional development |



The vast majority of students will experience school success in the classroom through the core curriculum and core instruction. Some will require additional educational programs, services, interventions, and settings in small groups or a one-to-one basis at various points in their schooling to meet their identified strengths and needs.

What is an example of how MTSS works in the classroom?

A good example would be reading instruction in early elementary grades. With MTSS, the reading curriculum, books, learning activities and materials are all designed to meet a wide range of diverse student needs: they are inclusive by design. The teacher uses proven methods for teaching reading and differentiates lessons to address differences in students' learning styles, interests and readiness for reading. The classroom is

organized to provide varied learning spaces for small group work, one-on-one teaching, and whole class lessons. MTSS emphasizes early identification and intervention for learning challenges as soon as they appear, so the teacher constantly monitors how the students are progressing with their reading. Specialists come into the classroom to work directly with students and assist the teacher with the reading program. These may include reading specialists, resource teachers, or speech-language pathologists. When students struggle with their reading, the teacher and specialists try different proven strategies to support the student in class. If more reading intervention is required, the student may receive small group or individual reading intervention, depending on their needs. By concentrating teaching time and attention on providing all students with strong reading skills in the early grades, the stage is set for student success as they progress through school.