



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

When a child has trouble learning, the child might have a physical or medical challenges that makes it hard to learn at school. The child might also have behavior challenges that could make it hard to learn.

Your school can help. The school has many different tools to support your child. Schools may call these tools their **Multi-Tiered System of Supports** or **MTSS**.

What are the MTSS tools?

The tools that schools may use depend on your child's needs. They can include tutoring, special equipment, smaller classes, and even setting up steps for school staff to avoid negative behaviors. Schools have other tools as well.

The school places its tools in three levels or "tiers" in the school's multi-tiered system of supports. Some children only need tools from level one. Other children might need tools from level two or level three.

Level One Tools

Level one tools are for all children. School teachers and staff teach children the school rules and behavior that the school wants. A teacher may give the student special attention but not create a special plan for the student or move the student to a special classroom.

Level Two Tools

Level two tools are for children who need special help. Parents and caregivers can ask the school for tests called "screenings" to find out whether a child has physical challenges like trouble seeing, speaking, or hearing. They can also ask the school for "educational assessments" to find out whether the child has trouble learning.

If there is a physical or learning challenge, the child might need level two help. The school should create a plan for these children. The school should also check to make sure that the plan is helping. The school will call its plan a **Response to Intervention** strategy. Schools will also call the plan an **RTI**.



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Level Three Tools

Level three tools include even more help for students when level one and level two tools are not enough. These students may need special teachers or classes.

For example, a child might speak English as a second language and need special classes. Another child might have a medical challenge that makes it hard to learn. This child may need extra school staff for support and an IEP.

You can find more information in our guides on [Section 504 Plans for Children with Disabilities](#) and [Special Education and IEPs for Children with Learning Disabilities](#).