



Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS): Talking Points

These points can help you talk with your child's principal, a local school board member or a local teachers' group about the need for professional development (PD) in MTSS.

“I’d like our school/district to get PD in MTSS because...”

- MTSS helps schools improve the performance of all students by identifying needs early and modifying instruction quickly. But many schools struggle with key aspects of MTSS, like faithfully following timelines for interventions and frequently monitoring student progress.
- If done well, MTSS can increase academic achievement and decrease disciplinary incidents.
- More training could make a big difference in my child’s education.
- *Describe a recent situation at your child’s school and how getting more support sooner might have improved your child’s experience:* _____

“Has our school/district provided teacher training on...”

- RTI (response to intervention) or PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports)? PD can help make these elements of comprehensive MTSS more robust and effective.
- Scheduling interventions to help ensure that struggling students don’t miss core instruction?

“MTSS doesn’t cost a lot, but it does take time to learn.”

- MTSS doesn’t require expensive technology. But teachers need time to learn how to provide these supports. PD can be a big help here.
- PBIS.org provides free, in-depth resources and is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). (Pro tip: OSEP is pronounced *Oh-sep*.)

“ESSA provides funding for PD.”

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced No Child Left Behind in 2015, sets aside funding for PD in all states and local districts. (Pro tip: ESSA is pronounced *Ess-uh*.)
- Schools don’t have to receive Title I funding to receive Title II PD funding or Title IV funding, which can be used for PD to help create safe learning environments.

“I want to ask about the PD planning process.”

- How much control do you have over the school’s/district’s PD? Who else do you recommend I contact about this?
- When are decisions made about PD?
- ESSA and several states are encouraging schools to use MTSS. How can we make this a priority for our school/district?