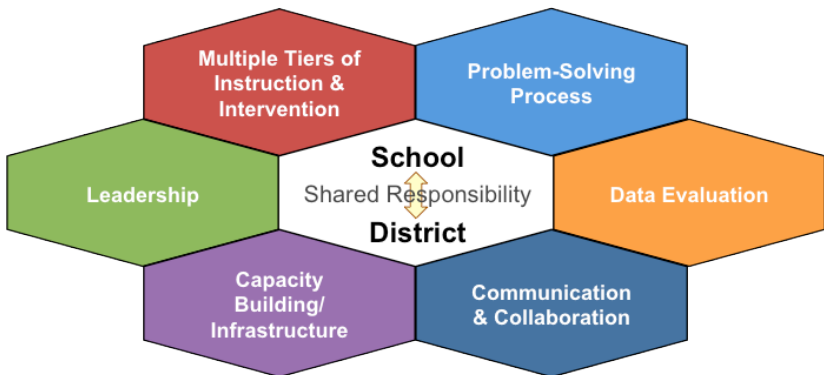


*A collaborative project between the Florida Department of Education and the University of South Florida, Institute for School Reform*

The Florida Department of Education partnered with the University of South Florida in 2006 to create the Florida Problem Solving and Response to Intervention (PS/RtI) Project to help facilitate and inform implementation of a PS/RtI model in the state. Over time, the mission of the Project has evolved, through a partnership with the Florida Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) and the PS/RtI Technology Learning Connections (PS/RtI-TLC) projects into a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) initiative.

MTSS is an evidence-based framework designed to educate **all** students in an efficient and effective manner. MTSS uses a data-based problem-solving process to develop, implement, and evaluate academic and behavior instruction and interventions delivered in varying intensities (tiers), based on student need, that are aligned with state standards. The implementation of MTSS draws upon existing resources, skills and culture within a district. The MTSS structure enables a district to maximize the impact of its existing resources by increasing its capacity of to use data-based evaluation, strategic leadership, and efficient and effective communication and collaboration.



## Project staff work to build the capacity of school districts to implement MTSS through the initiatives described below.

### Statewide Professional Development, Technical Assistance, and Support for MTSS Implementation

One of the main goals of the Project is to provide professional development, technical assistance and support to increase district capacity to implement and sustain a multi-tiered system of supports. This initiative is primarily

**“Your expertise and the resources shared help us build the capacity of our district!”**

Adrienne T. Dixon  
Specialist, Response to Intervention  
Broward County Public Schools

supported by Regional Coordinators (RCs) located in the northern, central, and southern areas of the state. The RCs increase the capacity of districts to implement MTSS through training, technical assistance, and support.

Professional development modules and materials are created to support

MTSS implementation across the state. In addition, Project staff support the Florida Department of Education in their work with districts to improve the performance of student with disabilities.

### PK-12 Alignment

This initiative focuses on the implementation of data-based problem solving within an MTSS designed to support students as they transition from PreK through 12th grade. Training and technical assistance is provided to districts to use data-based problem solving, and encourage the development and delivery of multi-tiered evidence-based instruction/intervention within the context of an MTSS. Support for the use of Early Warning Systems, Supplemental and Intensive Interventions in Reading and Math, Integrating Specially Designed Instruction for students with disabilities and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) across the tiers, Standards-based IEPs and Lesson Study help districts and schools to meet the needs of all students.

### Differentiated Accountability (DA) Support for MTSS

The Florida Department of Education adopted the DA model to improve student performance in the state’s most struggling schools. Differentiated Accountability MTSS Specialists support the work of the regional DA teams to provide training, technical assistance, and evaluation support for the use of a data-based problem-solving process within a multi-tiered delivery system. This support is part of a comprehensive school improvement process. MTSS Specialists provide support to their regional teams on MTSS and collaborate with other content (e.g., reading, math) specialists to improve the performance of all students.

### Technology to Support Improved Outcomes for All Students

The Technology and Learning Connections (TLC) team supports districts and schools in the development of a universally designed, differentiated core curriculum that meets the learning needs of all students and ensures that students with disabilities have equity in access to instruction aligned with the Florida Standards. Professional development, resources, and materials are available on the integration of assistive technology (AT), accessible instructional materials, and universal design for learning (UDL) to support appropriate and effective instructional decisions within an MTSS. The TLC team maintains five regional technology support centers and an online AT and UDL Loan Library.

### Integrated MTSS Model for Academic and Behavior Supports

Instruction and interventions that integrate both academic and behavior content accelerate the performance of *all* students. This initiative focuses on developing and supporting the statewide implementation of an integrated MTSS model of academic, behavior, and technology supports in Florida’s schools. The Project collaborates with the Florida PBS: MTSS Project to support districts to implement a model that uses evidence-based practices to integrate academic and behavior instruction/interventions. The two projects also continue to develop relationships with and gather information from school districts to plan for systematic support of statewide implementation of an integrated MTSS.

### Evaluation of MTSS Implementation

Support is provided to stakeholders who want to improve their program evaluation processes and procedures to assess the impact of the implementation of MTSS. We also provide support in terms of the development and delivery of professional development and products designed to facilitate effective program evaluation in an MTSS.

**“The Florida PS/RtI Project’s support in developing the needed infrastructure, sustaining implementation, and evaluating data is paramount to improving academic and behavioral outcomes for students in our district.”**

Susan W. Voorhees  
Director, Accountability & Special Programs  
Baker County School District

## Connect with us!



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*Technology  
and Learning  
Connections*

[www.tlc-mtss.com](http://www.tlc-mtss.com)

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## Connect with a couple of our partners!

**Florida's Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

[www.florida-rti.org/](http://www.florida-rti.org/)

**Florida's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Project**

[flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/](http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/)