A multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) is a proactive framework designed to ensure that students are given the tools they need to be as successful as possible. A multi-tiered system of supports utilizes a holistic approach to aid students. In addition to helping students meet their academic goals, a MTSS provides students with support for addressing their social, behavioral and emotional needs as well. A MTSS includes a continuum of three different levels of support that can be granted to students when appropriate.In a MTSS the level of support a student receives is determined by data and evidence. Furthermore students are continually monitored so that educators can make informed decisions about whether or not the level of support a student is receiving should be changed (Essential components of MTSS).

In a MTSS all students receive the first tier of support. The majority of students will only require the support provided to them at this level. Students that require more support may receive the second tier of support in addition to the first tier of support. In the second tier of support schools may provide smaller group sizes as well as targeted mental health and behavioral support. Students for whom tier two support also proves to be insufficient may be given access to tier three support as well. Interventions in this tier are the most intense and are tailored to the individual (Multi-level prevention system).

Ultimately a MTSS will only be effective if students are being provided support at the levels that are appropriate for them. In order to make a great decision about the most effective support to give to students, educators need easy access to good data. The product that ion is developing can help educators organize and sort through the data to help them make informed, evidence based decisions. As a result ion is a key piece in establishing an effective MTSS.

References

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