

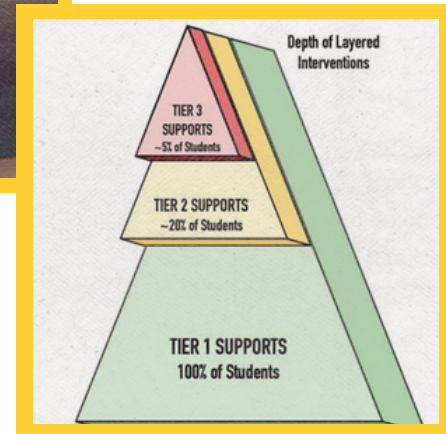
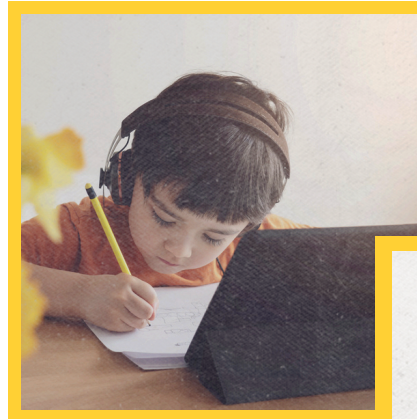
Special Education Technology Center

inclusive insights & access tips

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Technology Infused MTSS

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a framework that provides varying levels of educational support to ensure student success through necessary interventions. Defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), MTSS encompasses a continuum of evidence-based practices, addressing students' needs through regular monitoring and data-driven decision-making. While the MTSS framework has primarily focused on academic and behavioral interventions, there is growing interest in how technology can optimize learning and support. Incorporating supportive technologies into the MTSS framework offers a promising strategy to enhance student engagement, overcome learning barriers, and provide tailored support across different levels of need. By leveraging technology effectively, educators can improve educational outcomes and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed. Supportive technologies within MTSS are categorized into three types: Information Technology (IT), Educational Technology (EdTech), and Assistive Technology (AT). IT is used for data management and analysis to inform decisions, EdTech supports academic and behavioral interventions with tools for intensive instruction, and AT provides individualized support for students with special needs. Each technology type enhances student learning and fosters an inclusive educational environment.



Compensatory Function of Technology

The compensatory function of technology addresses skill gaps that prevent students from meeting grade-level expectations while they receive interventions. This approach ensures that students remain engaged and can access the curriculum, even as they work on foundational skills. For instance, a student struggling with reading decoding skills might use text-to-speech technology to participate in grade-level comprehension activities, thereby reducing the resources required for intensive reading support in the long run.

Supportive Technologies

Supportive technologies should address various academic, behavioral, and social/emotional needs by aligning with the MTSS tiers. For Tier 1 (Universal Supports), general features on mainstream devices help all students with basic engagement and access to learning. Tier 2 (Targeted Supports) involves more specific tools for groups needing extra help. Tier 3 (Individualized Supports) provides highly customized technologies for students with significant needs. The key is to match the technology support level with the required intensity and individualization.

Balancing Remediation and Compensation

Integrating supportive technologies within MTSS involves balancing remediation and compensation. Remediation focuses on building foundational skills, while compensation allows students to participate in grade-level instruction. This dual approach ensures that students do not fall behind while they are catching up. For example, English language learners might use audio-supported text in class while receiving targeted language instruction at another time.

new and notable

Resources: SLATE Concept Paper: Supportive Technology -Version 1 (<https://oercommons.org/courses/slate-concept-paper-supportive-technologies-version-1-0-may-30-2024>)

Learn More:

[Inclusive Technology in Multi-tiered Systems of Support - CITES](#)

[Comprehensive Literacy for All "Book Nook" featured book: Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming](#)

