



Hello ORSPN Community of Practice!

The recent ORSPN Update (October 28) contained a Q&A regarding MTSS and PT and a response from the PT Section of the OTPTAT Board. With the launching of Ohio's IMTSS, there has been renewed interest in understanding MTSS and the role of RSPs. Below is an overview and resources that may provide you more information and guidance as RSPs discuss MTSS at the district level.

On 8/20/25, ODEW launched Ohio's Integrated Multi-tiered System of Supports. It is a framework for student success and is designed to assist districts and schools in developing a local multi-tiered system of supports. IMTSS was briefly discussed at the 2025 ORSPN meetings and links provided for more information. Ohio's Integrated MTSS is the collective, shared responsibility of all levels of the educational system, through collaborative leadership and teaming, focused professional learning, and consistent communication and collaboration. Send your questions about MTSS to IntegratedMTSS@education.ohio.gov.

For more ODEW information and graphic go to:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/OLS-Graphic-Sections/Resources/I-MTSS>.

For resources published by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities go to: [MTSS Data Drives Decisions](#). A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework supports ALL STUDENTS, including English Language Learners (ELL), Gifted, and Special Education students.

<https://www.ocecd.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6Y2230B&dasi=1B>

A Parents Guide - MTSS. This guide explains the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) as a framework designed to help all students succeed academically, behaviorally, and in terms of overall well-being.

<https://www.oeecd.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6Y2IA02&dasi=1B>

History: MTSS has been around "in concept" since 1997, when language was included in IDEA amendments focusing on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). No Child Left Behind (NCLB) also included language about prevention, for schoolwide and targeted programs. When IDEA was reauthorized in 2004, Response to Intervention (RTI) was introduced which emphasized providing supports to students, rather than waiting to refer a student for a special education evaluation to identify an educational disability.

Then in 2015, the term "multi-tier system of supports" was actually included in the federal legislation as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). MTSS is considered an umbrella term which includes previous frameworks such as RTI and PBIS. Over time, Ohio has had a variety of Strategic Plans focusing on the whole child, whole system approaches to improve student outcome success.

More information about ESSA on the ODEW website can be found here:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-ESSA>.

This link will take you to the website for the *Center on Multi-Tiered System of Supports*, which contains publications, resources, and expert supports for state/districts/ schools. (The Center is primarily funded by the US Dept of Education, grants through OSEP: <https://mtss4success.org/>).

Under ESSA (2015), the definition and role of the related service personnel as *Specialized Instructional Support Personnel* (SISPs) were described. As part of a comprehensive school program, in addition to and beyond core academic instruction, SISPs are to be involved in promoting student health (both mental and physical), student well-being, and positive learning environments. Examples of SISP professions include (but are not limited to) school-based counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, and speech pathologists. Go to the website for the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel to obtain more information and resources: <https://nasisp.org/> A Fact Sheet for SISPs can be found here:

https://nasisp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NASISP-SISP-Fact-Sheet_2019.pdf

Next Steps for RSPs:

Use the above links to learn more about MTSS/IMTSS--what it is and what it is not.

Find ways (and time) to engage in discussions at the district level so you are aware of local efforts to implement a comprehensive system which supports general education successes for all students.

Contact your respective professional licensing board and national association to learn more about how to navigate discipline specific laws and rules. For example:

- The OT Section has an FAQ under scope of practice which contains guidance for OTs when providing tiered intervention services (RTI). Go to: <https://otptat.ohio.gov/occupational-therapy/scope-of-practice>
- Speech Pathologists and Audiologists may want to check this link on the ASHA website: <https://www.asha.org/slp/schools/prof-consult/rtoi/?srsltid=AfmBOophYUXAPo750W1Rwu3waEkGxtu9z0Lz02KmnMdHUG32lzwBDPP2>

Please take time as a member of your School Team to learn more about how RSPs can support your local MTSS.

Brenda M. George, MS, Consultant
Ohio Related Service Personnel Network (ORSPN)