

# MTSS Introduction and Scoring Guide

## Introduction

Educational researchers have proven the need for a system of prevention and intervention to improve outcomes for all learners. In Arizona, we refer to this systemic approach to supporting the learning of all students as the *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS). MTSS is a coherent continuum of evidence-based, system-wide practices to support a rapid response to academic and behavioral needs. It includes ongoing data-based monitoring of the effectiveness of all instruction and behavioral supports provided. The outcome is that each Arizona student achieves to high standards.

## The Components of MTSS

Arizona's MTSS implementation rubric was developed to define the six components of MTSS. The six components are:

- Leadership
- Assessment
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Evidence-Based Decision Making
- Integration and Sustainability

## Purpose

The MTSS implementation rubric is designed to assist leadership teams with the implementation of MTSS. The rubric serves three primary purposes:

1. **Self-assessment** – to help guide understanding and discussion of current practices related to the six essential components of MTSS
2. **Implementation monitoring** – to help plan, set priorities, and monitor progress for the six essential components of MTSS
3. **Inform planning** – to help create an implementation plan or a continuous improvement plan

## Intended Use

The MTSS implementation rubric is intended to be used by a team of individuals, who base their ratings on open, honest discussions and include multiple perspectives; the consensus rating should reflect the most conservative judgment of your current status (in order to most accurately reflect your actual practices and for you to develop continuous improvement plans). Ratings are made on **levels of implementation** for the six essential components, reflecting a continuous improvement, growth-based model of development (from “not implementing,” to “emerging understandings,” to “transitioning,” and then to “innovating and sustaining”).

### **Directions for the MTSS Implementation Rubric**

1. Determine if you're going to focus on one component, several, or all of them.
2. Read the guiding questions, along with the levels of implementation for each component.
3. Work your way through the rubric and highlight or circle the cells that best describe your site.
4. Once you have completed analyzing the components of the rubric, complete the *Scoring Summary*. **Directions for the Scoring Summary**
  1. For each component you analyzed, identify the appropriate level of implementation by putting an "X" in the corresponding box.
  2. Provide evidence for each question and level of implementation.
  3. Create an action plan for the next steps that includes who is responsible, due date, and priority level (high, medium, or low).
  4. Check on progress throughout the school year.