

# December MTSS Newsletter

“Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system.” Sidney Hook

## Clarifying MTSS Misconceptions

What MTSS is...

- A **prevention** framework for school improvement made up of core components and features
- For **all** students, including those students in need of enrichment
- Flexible for schools and districts to customize to meet their unique circumstances
- Collaborative and incorporates a team-based approach of representative stakeholders
- Data driven, using multiple valid and reliable data sources
- A framework that can be used to assist with special education decisions

What MTSS is NOT...

- A program or curriculum
- Just for struggling students or students with disabilities
- A one-size-fits-all prescriptive model
- The responsibility of one teacher or one specialist
- Pre-referral process for special education

AIR. (2019, April 9). ESSA | Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)/Response to Intervention (RTI). Retrieved from <https://www.air.org/resource/essa-multi-tiered-systems-support-mtss-response-intervention-rti>.

## The Importance of Relationships

If we want to design schools that promote student ownership of learning, one underlying principle must come to the fore: Relationships are essential for learning.

Learning is best done *with* people, not for them. It is most effective when learners are participants rather than recipients. The central element in promoting learning, therefore, is

promoting relationships—teacher-pupil relationships; peer-to-peer relationships; and children's relationships with siblings, mentors, and role models.

### **Build Participation**

Authentic learning relationships build participation.

### **Offer Recognition**

Children need to be recognized for who they are, where they come from, and what they achieve.

### **Make Students Feel Cared For**

Children need relationships that help them feel cared for and secure.

### **Instill Motivation**

Perhaps most important, students need relationships that motivate them to learn. Understanding what motivates (or demotivates) any individual is a highly personal undertaking. Motivating someone requires building up confidence and capability, setting realistic but "stretch" goals, widening aspirations, creating structured challenges, and offering relevant rewards and recognition.

ASCD. (2008, November). It's All About Relationships. Retrieved from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/nov08/vol66/num03/It's-All-About-Relationships.aspx>.

As we move into the holiday season, it is important to take a moment and thank each of you for the hard work and dedication you bring to your job daily. May your holidays be joyful, peaceful, and restful.



