

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students

District Fidelity of Implementation Rubric



Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students District Fidelity of Implementation Rubric is for use by individuals who are responsible for monitoring district-level fidelity of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students implementation. The rubric is aligned with the essential components of a tiered system of support and the infrastructure that is necessary for successful implementation. It is accompanied by a worksheet with guiding questions and score points for use in an interview with the leadership team.

1. Assessments ---Screening, progress monitoring, and other supporting assessments are used to inform data-based decision making.			
Measures	1	3	5
Screening ---- Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework accurately identifies students in need of enrichment/acceleration and students at risk of poor learning outcomes or challenging behaviors.			
A. Screening Tools	Insufficient evidence that the screening tools are reliable, correlations between the instruments and valued outcomes are strong, and predictions of risk status are accurate.	Evidence indicates that the screening tools are reliable, correlations between the instruments and valued outcomes are strong, predictions of risk status are accurate, but staff is unable to articulate the supporting evidence.	Evidence indicates that the screening tools are reliable, correlations between the instruments and valued outcomes are strong, and predictions of risk status are accurate, and staff is able to articulate the supporting evidence.
B. Universal Screening	One or none of the following conditions is met: (1) screening is conducted for all students (i.e., is universal); (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., all students are tested, scores are accurate, cut points/decisions are accurate); and (3) a process to screen all students occurs more than once per year (e.g., fall, winter, spring).	Two of the following conditions are met: (1) screening is conducted for all students (i.e., is universal); (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., all students are tested, scores are accurate, cut points/decisions are accurate); and (3) a process to screen all students occurs more than once per year (e.g., fall, winter, spring).	All of the following conditions are met: (1) screening is conducted for all students (i.e., is universal); (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., all students are tested, scores are accurate, cut points/decisions are accurate); and (3) a process to screen all students occurs more than once per year (e.g., fall, winter, spring).

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1. Assessments ---Screening, progress monitoring, and other supporting assessments are used to inform data-based decision making.			
Measures	1	3	5
C. Data Points to Verify Risk	Screening data are not used or are used alone to verify decisions about whether a student is or is not at risk or in need of enrichment/acceleration.	Screening data are used in concert with at least one other data source (e.g., classroom performance, curriculum-based assessment, performance on state assessments, diagnostic assessment data, short-term progress monitoring) to verify decisions about whether a student is or is not at risk or in need of enrichment/acceleration.	Screening data are used in concert with at least two other data sources (e.g., classroom performance, performance on state assessments, diagnostic assessment data, short-term progress monitoring) to verify decisions about whether a student is or is not at risk or in need of enrichment/acceleration.
Progress Monitoring ---Ongoing and frequent monitoring of progress quantifies rates of improvement and informs instructional practice and the development of individualized programs. Measures are appropriate for the student's grade and/or skill level.			
A. Progress Monitoring Tools	Selected progress monitoring tools meet no more than one of the following criteria: (1) have sufficient number of alternate forms of equal and controlled difficulty to allow for progress monitoring at recommended intervals based on intervention level; (2) specify minimum acceptable growth; (3) provide benchmarks for minimum acceptable end-of-year performance; and (4) reliability and validity information for the performance-level score is available.	Selected progress monitoring tools meet two or three of the following criteria: (1) have sufficient number of alternate forms of equal and controlled difficulty to allow for progress monitoring at recommended intervals based on intervention level; (2) specify minimum acceptable growth; (3) provide benchmarks for minimum acceptable end-of-year performance; and (4) reliability and validity information for the performance-level score is available.	Selected progress monitoring tools meet all of the following criteria: (1) have sufficient number of alternate forms of equal and controlled difficulty to allow for progress monitoring at recommended intervals based on intervention level; (2) specify minimum acceptable growth; (3) provide benchmarks for minimum acceptable end-of-year performance; and (4) reliability and validity information for the performance-level score is available and staff is able to articulate the supporting evidence.

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1. Assessments ---Screening, progress monitoring, and other supporting assessments are used to inform data-based decision making.			
Measures	1	3	5
B. Progress Monitoring Process	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) progress monitoring occurs at least monthly for students receiving secondary-level intervention and at least weekly for students receiving intensive intervention; and (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., appropriate students are tested, scores are accurate, decision-making rules are applied consistently).	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) progress monitoring occurs at least monthly for students receiving secondary-level intervention and at least weekly for students receiving intensive intervention; and (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., appropriate students are tested, scores are accurate, decision-making rules are applied consistently).	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) progress monitoring occurs at least monthly for students receiving secondary-level intervention and at least weekly for students receiving intensive intervention; and (2) procedures are in place to ensure implementation accuracy (i.e., appropriate students are tested, scores are accurate, decision-making rules are applied consistently).

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2. Data-Based Decision Making---Data-based decision making processes are used to inform instruction, determine movement within the multi-level prevention system, and for disability identification (in accordance with state law).

Measures	1	3	5
A. Decision Making Process	The mechanism for making decisions about the participation of students in the instruction/intervention levels meets no more than one of the following criteria: The process (1) is data-driven and based on validated methods; (2) involves a broad base of stakeholders; and (3) is operationalized with clear, established decision rules (e.g., movement between levels or tiers, determination of appropriate instruction or interventions).	The mechanism for making decisions about the participation of students in the instruction/intervention levels meets two of the following criteria: The process (1) is data-driven and based on validated methods; (2) involves a broad base of stakeholders; and (3) is operationalized with clear, established decision rules (e.g., movement between levels or tiers, determination of appropriate instruction or interventions).	The mechanism for making decisions about the participation of students in instruction/intervention levels meets all of the following criteria: The process (1) is data-driven and based on validated methods; (2) involves a broad base of stakeholders; and (3) is operationalized with clear, established decision rules (e.g., movement between levels or tiers, determination of appropriate instruction or interventions).
B. Data System	A data system is in place that meets two or fewer of the following conditions: (1) the system allows users to document and access individual student-level data (including screening and progress monitoring data) and instructional decisions; (2) data are entered in a timely manner; (3) data can be represented graphically; and (4) there is a process for setting/evaluating goals.	A data system is in place that meets three of the following four conditions: (1) the system allows users to document and access individual student-level data (including screening and progress monitoring data) and instructional decisions; (2) data are entered in a timely manner; (3) data can be represented graphically; and (4) there is a process for setting/evaluating goals.	A data system is in place that meets all of the following conditions: (1) the system allows users to document and access individual student-level data (including screening and progress monitoring data) and instructional decisions; (2) data are entered in a timely manner; (3) data can be represented graphically; and (4) there is a process for setting/evaluating goals.

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2. Data-Based Decision Making---Data-based decision making processes are used to inform instruction, determine movement within the multi-level prevention system, and for disability identification (in accordance with state law).

Measures	1	3	5
C. Responsiveness to Secondary and Tertiary Levels of Intervention	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) decisions about responsiveness to intervention are based on reliable and valid progress monitoring data that reflect slope of improvement or progress toward the attainment of a goal at the end of the intervention; and (2) these decision-making criteria are implemented accurately.	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) decisions about responsiveness to intervention are based on reliable and valid progress monitoring data that reflect slope of improvement or progress toward the attainment of a goal at the end of the intervention; and (2) these decision-making criteria are implemented accurately.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) decisions about responsiveness to intervention are based on reliable and valid progress monitoring data that reflect slope of improvement or progress toward the attainment of a goal at the end of the intervention; and (2) these decision-making criteria are implemented accurately.

3. Multi-Level Instruction/Prevention---The tiered system includes a school-wide, multi-level system of instruction and intervention for preventing school failure.

Measures	1	3	5
Primary-Level Instruction/Core Curriculum (Tier I)			
A. Research-Based Curriculum Materials	Few core curriculum materials are research-based for the target population of learners (including subgroups).	Some core curriculum materials are research-based for the target population of learners (including subgroups).	All core curriculum materials are research-based for the target population of learners (including subgroups).

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3. Multi-Level Instruction/Prevention ---The tiered system includes a school-wide, multi-level system of instruction and intervention for preventing school failure.			
Measures	1	3	5
B. Articulation of Teaching and Learning (in and across grade levels)	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) teaching and learning objectives are well articulated from one grade to another; and (2) teaching and learning is well articulated within grade levels so that students have highly similar experiences, regardless of their assigned teacher.	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) teaching and learning objectives are well articulated from one grade to another; and (2) teaching and learning is well articulated within grade levels so that students have highly similar experiences, regardless of their assigned teacher.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) teaching and learning objectives are well articulated from one grade to another; and (2) teaching and learning is well articulated within grade levels so that students have highly similar experiences, regardless of assigned teacher.
C. Differentiated Instruction	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) interviewed staff can describe how most teachers in the school differentiate instruction for students on, below, or above grade level; and (2) interviewed staff can explain how most teachers in the school use student data to identify and address the needs of students.	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) interviewed staff can describe how most teachers in the school differentiate instruction for students on, below, or above grade level; and (2) interviewed staff can explain how most teachers in the school use student data to identify and address the needs of students.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) interviewed staff can describe how most teachers in the school differentiate instruction for students on, below, or above grade level; and (2) interviewed staff can explain how most teachers in the school use student data to identify and address the needs of students.
D. Standards-Based	The core curriculum (reading and mathematics) is not aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).	The core curriculum (reading and mathematics) is partially aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).	The core curriculum (reading and mathematics) is aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).

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3. Multi-Level Instruction/Prevention ---The tiered system includes a school-wide, multi-level system of instruction and intervention for preventing school failure.			
Measures	1	3	5
E. Exceeding Benchmarks	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) the schools provide enrichment opportunities for students exceeding benchmarks; and (2) teachers implement those opportunities consistently at all grade levels.	One of the following conditions is met: (1) the schools provide enrichment opportunities for students exceeding benchmarks; and (2) teachers implement those opportunities consistently at all grade levels.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) the schools provide enrichment opportunities for students exceeding benchmarks; and (2) teachers implement those opportunities consistently at all grade levels.
Secondary-Level Intervention (Tier II)			
A. Evidence-Based Intervention	Secondary-level interventions are not evidence-based in content areas and grade levels.	Some secondary- level interventions are evidence-based in content areas and grade levels.	All secondary-level interventions are evidence-based in content areas and grade levels.
B. Complements Core Instruction	Secondary-level intervention is poorly aligned with core instruction and incorporates different topics, even though those topics are not foundational skills that support core program learning objectives.	Secondary-level intervention incorporates foundational skills, but these only occasionally align with the learning objectives of core instruction.	Secondary-level intervention is well aligned with core instruction and incorporates foundational skills that support the learning objectives of core instruction.

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3. Multi-Level Instruction/Prevention ---The tiered system includes a school-wide, multi-level system of instruction and intervention for preventing school failure.			
Measures	1	3	5
C. Instructional Characteristics	One or none of the following conditions is met: (1) interventions are standardized; (2) secondary-level interventions are led by staff trained in the intervention according to developer requirements; and (3) group size and dosage are optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.	Two of the following conditions are met: (1) interventions are standardized; (2) secondary-level interventions are led by staff trained in the intervention according to developer requirements; and (3) group size and dosage are optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.	All three of the following conditions are met: (1) interventions are standardized; (2) secondary-level interventions are led by staff trained in the intervention according to developer requirements; and (3) group size and dosage are optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.
D. Addition to Primary	Secondary-level interventions replace core instruction.	Secondary-level interventions sometimes supplement core instruction and sometimes replace core instruction.	Secondary-level interventions supplement core instruction.
Tertiary-Level (Intensive) Intervention (Tier III) ---Individualized with a focus on the academic and behavioral needs of recommended students.			
A. Data-Based Interventions Adapted Based on Student Need	Intensive interventions are not more intensive (e.g., no increase in duration or frequency, change in interventionist, change in group size, or change in intervention) than secondary interventions.	Intensive interventions are more intensive than secondary interventions based only on preset methods to increase intensity (e.g., sole reliance on increased duration or frequency, change in interventionist, decreased group size, or change in intervention program).	Intensive interventions are more intensive than secondary interventions and are adapted to address individual student needs in a number of ways (e.g., increased duration or frequency, change in interventionist, decreased group size, change in instructional delivery, and change in type of intervention) through an iterative manner based on student data.

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3. Multi-Level Instruction/Prevention ---The tiered system includes a school-wide, multi-level system of instruction and intervention for preventing school failure.			
Measures	1	3	5
B. Instructional Characteristics	None of the following conditions are met: (1) the intervention is individualized; (2) intensive interventions are led by well-trained staff experienced in individualizing instruction based on student data; and (3) the group size is optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.	Only one or two of the following conditions are met: (1) the intervention is individualized; (2) intensive interventions are led by well-trained staff experienced in individualizing instruction based on student data; and (3) the group size is optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.	All of the following conditions are met: (1) the intervention is individualized; (2) intensive interventions are led by well-trained staff experienced in individualizing instruction based on student data; and (3) the group size is optimal (according to research) for the age and needs of students.
C. Relationship to Primary	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) decisions regarding student participation in both core instruction and intensive intervention are made on a case-by-case basis, according to student need; and (2) intensive interventions are aligned to the specific skill needs of students to help them make progress toward core curriculum standards.	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) decisions regarding student participation in both core instruction and intensive intervention are made on a case-by-case basis, according to student need; and (2) intensive interventions are aligned to the specific skill needs of students to help them make progress toward core curriculum standards.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) decisions regarding student participation in both core instruction and intensive intervention are made on a case-by-case basis, according to student need; and (2) intensive interventions are aligned to the specific skill needs of students to help them make progress toward core curriculum standards.

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4. Infrastructure ---Knowledge, resources, and organizational structures necessary to operationalize all components of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students in a unified system to meet the established goals			
Measures	1	3	5
A. Prevention Focus	Staff generally perceives Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students as a program that solely supports the prereferral process for special education.	Some staff understand that Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students is a framework to prevent and/or support all students, including students with disabilities, from having poor academic and/or behavior outcomes.	All staff understand that Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students is a framework to prevent and/or support all students, including students with disabilities, from having poor academic and/or behavior outcomes.
B. Leadership Personnel	District leader support for implementation of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students is not very evident.	Decisions and actions by school and district leaders are inconsistent and only somewhat supportive of the essential components of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students.	Decisions and actions by school and district leaders proactively support the essential components of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students and help make the framework more effective. Support for implementation of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students is a high priority.
C. School-Based Professional Development	The school has no well-defined, school-based professional development mechanism to support continuous improvement of instructional practice, data-based decision making, and delivery of interventions.	Some forms of school-based professional development are available, but most are not consistent or job embedded to ensure continuous improvement in instructional practice, data-based decision making, and delivery of interventions.	School-based professional development is institutionalized and structured so that all teachers continuously examine, reflect upon, and improve instructional practice, data-based decision making, and delivery of interventions.

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4. Infrastructure ---Knowledge, resources, and organizational structures necessary to operationalize all components of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students in a unified system to meet the established goals			
Measures	1	3	5
D. Schedules	Schoolwide schedules are not aligned to support multiple levels of intervention based on student need; inadequate time is available for interventions.	Schoolwide schedules are partially aligned to support multiple levels of intervention based on student need; some additional time is built in for interventions.	Schoolwide schedules are aligned to support multiple levels of intervention based on student need; adequate additional time is built in for interventions.
E. Resources	Resources (e.g., funds, programs) are not allocated to support Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students implementation.	Resources (e.g., funds, programs) are partially allocated to support Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students implementation.	Resources (e.g., funds, programs) are adequately allocated to support Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students implementation.
F. Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness	One or none of the following conditions is met: Staff can articulate information and factors that they consider when adopting culturally and linguistically relevant (1) instructional practices, (2) assessments, and (3) intervention programs.	Two of the following conditions are met: Staff can articulate information and factors that they consider when adopting culturally and linguistically relevant (1) instructional practices, (2) assessments, and (3) intervention programs.	All three of the following conditions are met: Staff can articulate information and factors that they consider when adopting culturally and linguistically relevant (1) instructional practices, (2) assessments, and (3) intervention programs.

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4. Infrastructure ---Knowledge, resources, and organizational structures necessary to operationalize all components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students in a unified system to meet the established goals			
Measures	1	3	5
G. Communications with and Involvement of Families	One or none of the following conditions is met: (1) a description of the schools’ essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students is shared with parents; (2) a coherent mechanism is implemented for updating parents on the progress of their child who is receiving secondary or intensive interventions; and (3) parents are involved during decision making regarding the progress of students receiving intensive intervention.	Two of the following conditions are met: (1) a description of the school’s essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students is shared with parents; (2) a coherent mechanism is implemented for updating parents on the progress of their child who is receiving secondary or intensive interventions; and (3) parents are involved during decision making regarding the progress of students receiving intensive intervention.	All of the following conditions are met: (1) a description of the essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students is shared with parents; (2) a coherent mechanism is implemented for updating parents on the progress of their child who is receiving secondary or intensive interventions; and (3) parents are involved during decision making regarding the progress of students receiving intensive intervention.
H. Communication with and Involvement of All Staff	One or none of the following conditions is met: (1) a description of the schools’ essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students and data-based decision making process is shared with staff; (2) a system is in place to keep staff informed; and (3) teacher teams collaborate frequently.	At least two of the following conditions are met: (1) a description of the schools’ essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students and data-based decision making process is shared with staff; (2) a system is in place to keep staff informed; and (3) teacher teams collaborate frequently.	All of the following conditions are met: (1) a description of the essential components of Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students and data-based decision making process is shared with staff; (2) a system is in place to keep staff informed; and (3) teacher teams collaborate frequently.

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4. Infrastructure ---Knowledge, resources, and organizational structures necessary to operationalize all components of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students in a unified system to meet the established goals			
Measures	1	3	5
I. Tiered System of Supports for Students Implementation Teams	Only one of the following conditions is met: (1) the Tiered System of Supports for Students team is representative of all key stakeholders; (2) structures and clear processes are in place to guide decision making; and (3) time is set aside for the team to meet regularly.	At least two of the following conditions are met: (1) the Tiered System of Supports for Students team is representative of all key stakeholders; (2) structures and clear processes are in place to guide decision making; and (3) time is set aside for the team to meet regularly.	All of the following conditions are met: (1) the Tiered System of Supports for Students team is representative of all key stakeholders; (2) structures and clear processes are in place to guide decision making; and (3) time is set aside for the team to meet regularly.

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5. Fidelity and Evaluation---System for collecting and analyzing data to measure fidelity and effectiveness of the Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students framework.

Measures	1	3	5
A. Fidelity	Neither of the following conditions is met: (1) procedures are in place to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the core curriculum and secondary and intensive interventions; and (2) procedures are in place to monitor the processes of administering and analyzing assessments.	One of the following conditions is met: (1) procedures are in place to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the core curriculum and secondary and intensive interventions; and (2) procedures are in place to monitor the processes of administering and analyzing assessments.	Both of the following conditions are met: (1) procedures are in place to monitor the fidelity of implementation of the core curriculum and secondary and intensive interventions; and (2) procedures are in place to monitor the processes of administering and analyzing assessments.

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5. Fidelity and Evaluation ---System for collecting and analyzing data to measure fidelity and effectiveness of the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework.			
Measures	1	3	5
B. Evaluation	<p>None of the following conditions are met: (1) an evaluation plan is in place to monitor short- and long-term goals; (2) student data are reviewed for all students and subgroups of students across the essential components to evaluate effectiveness of the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework (i.e., core curriculum is effective, interventions are effective, screening process is effective); and (3) implementation data (e.g., walk-throughs) are reviewed to monitor fidelity and efficiency across all components of the framework.</p>	<p>One or two of the following conditions is met: (1) an evaluation plan is in place to monitor short- and long-term goals; (2) student data are reviewed for all students and subgroups of students across the essential components to evaluate effectiveness of the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework (i.e., core curriculum is effective, interventions are effective, screening process is effective); and (3) implementation data (e.g., walk-throughs) are reviewed to monitor fidelity and efficiency across all components of the framework.</p>	<p>All of the following conditions are met: (1) an evaluation plan is in place to monitor short- and long-term goals; (2) student data are reviewed for all students and subgroups of students across the essential components to evaluate effectiveness of the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students framework (i.e., core curriculum is effective, interventions are effective, screening process is effective); and (3) implementation data (e.g., walk-throughs) are reviewed to monitor fidelity and efficiency across all components of the framework.</p>