



HB 740 Update

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students Office of Whole Child Supports

Children succeeding in school is the most essential priority for all Georgia parents and families, and it is the goal of all educators. This can be achieved through effective implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) defined in HB 740 as “a systemic, continuous improvement framework in which data based problem-solving and decision making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students at multiple levels of intervention.” It is well known that early childhood experiences can make a tremendous impact on a child’s academic success which is significantly enhanced through effective evidence-based practices and interventions. John Hattie’s (et.al) work summarizes potential outcomes:

Improved Outcomes

- Decreased expulsion, behavioral referrals, and suspension rates
- Sustained academic improvement
- Reduction in Student Retention
- Increased on-time graduation

Source: Burns, Appleton, & Stehouwer, 2005; Dexter, Hughes, & Farmer, 2008; Simmons, Coyne, Kwok, McDonagh, Harn, & Kame’enui, 2008; Hattie, 2015

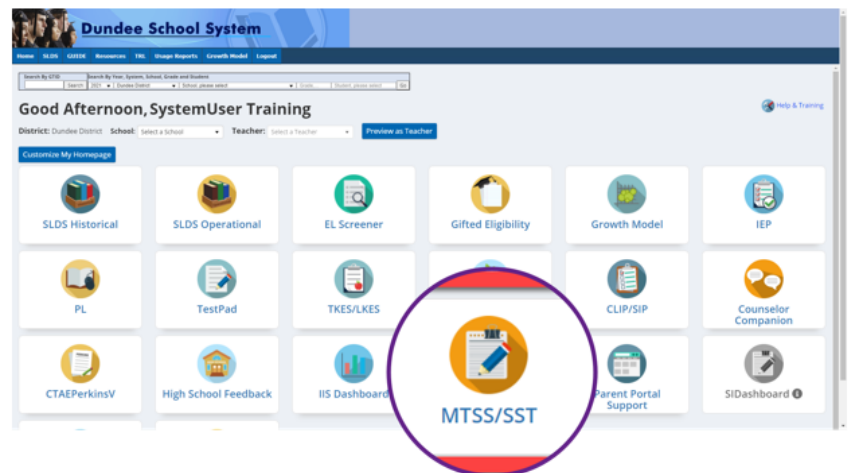


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As HB 740 was being signed by Governor Nathan Deal in 2018, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) was engaged in organizing and structuring to support the law as it became applicable to all schools offering Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) through 3rd grades. A commitment to establish a MTSS unit within the Georgia Department of Education was made, and a team, funded by a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), began the work of supporting all districts and schools. The unit known as Georgia's Tiered System of Supports would address academics, behavior, and well-being with evidence-based practices and interventions within a tiered system of supports. Although, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) was already in place, an additional need emerged with the law to provide universal supports to all districts and schools regarding tiered interventions for behavior, especially the Georgia public schools serving Pre-K through 3rd grades. With two teams, MTSS and PBIS, working collaboratively, the numerous resources for tiered interventions would provide information and support to districts and schools to bring about systemic improvements in school-based discipline to benefit all children. Information regarding HB 740 and the subsequent State Board of Education Rule, Student Discipline (160-4-8-.15), was disseminated to districts and schools through multiple professional learning events such as webinars, training events, coaching sessions, conference presentations, online learning modules, meetings, and newsletters.

Georgia's MTSS team worked collaboratively with members of the GaDOE Instructional Technology team to develop an online platform that houses intervention data and processes for MTSS. The platform, located in the Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), is called Georgia's Online MTSS/SST. Reports can be generated for behavior and interventions. The platform is new in Georgia and currently has 24 districts online.



In this document, sessions offering information on HB 740 and the State Board of Education Rule are identified. These sessions demonstrate the broad scope of audiences and efforts to ensure educators and school leaders are aware of the new law and examine practices to ensure interventions are provided as needed prior to long term suspension or expulsion. This document contains graphs as well as an appendix with examples of resources.

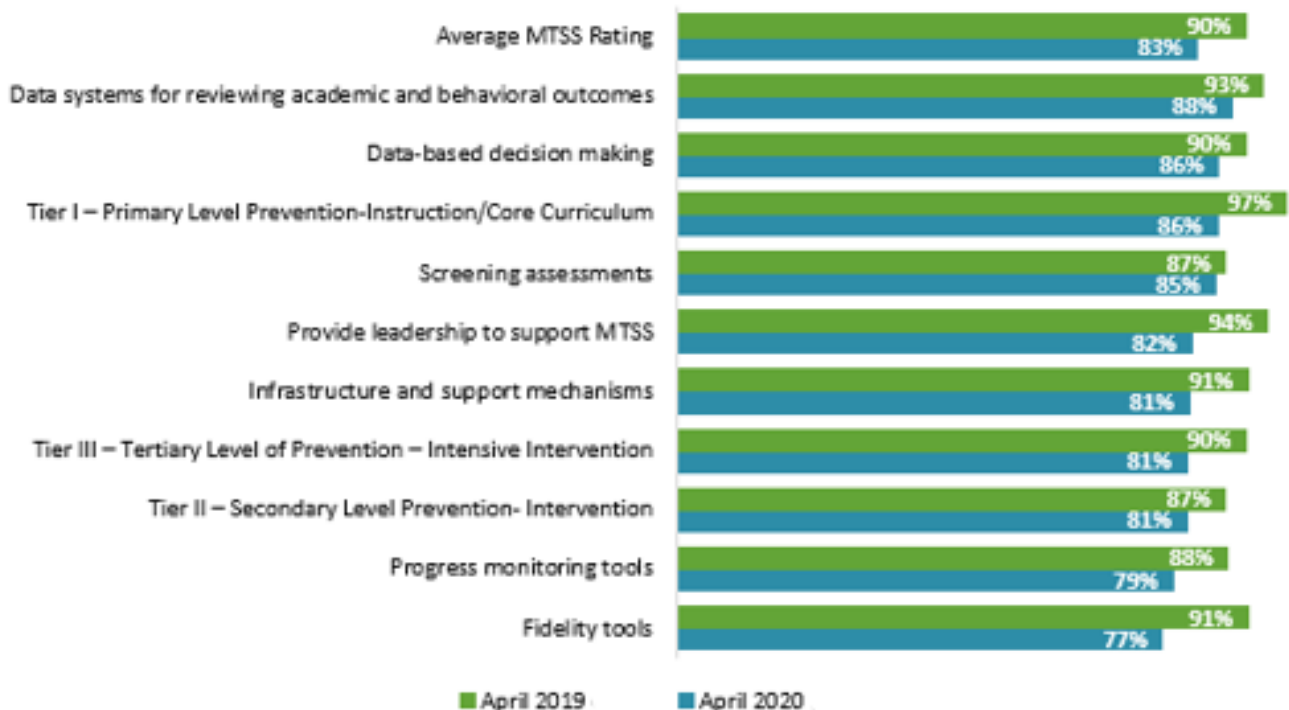
Professional Learning Events with Content Specific to HB740

Professional Online Learning Module: MTSS Overview	School and District Effectiveness: Winter Literacy Leader Institute
MTSS Professional Learning Training Events	Special Education Director's Webinar
MTSS Coaching Events	Special Education Leadership Development Academy (SELDA)
RESA and MTSS Consortia Presentations	Special Education Director's Weekly Email Blast
RESA Summit Conference	Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators (SSTAGE) Conferences
GLRS Presentations	Georgia Compensatory Educational Leaders (GCEL) Conferences

Note: Many of these events have been presented on multiple occasions.

Data Indicating Impact and Growth with MTSS Training

Percentage of District Implementation Members Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed They Have the Capacity to Support MTSS Implementation



Georgia SPDG Impact on Behavior

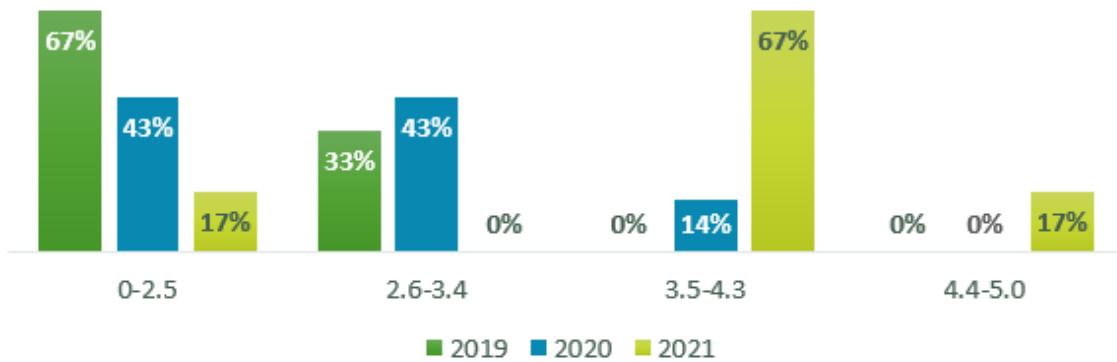
Training

Approximately 117 GA districts have participated in one or more GA MTSS training events.

Fidelity

- Percentage of Cohort 1 districts achieving fidelity for behavior at baseline: 0%
- Percentage of Cohort 1 districts achieving fidelity for behavior after two years of MTSS implementation: 83%

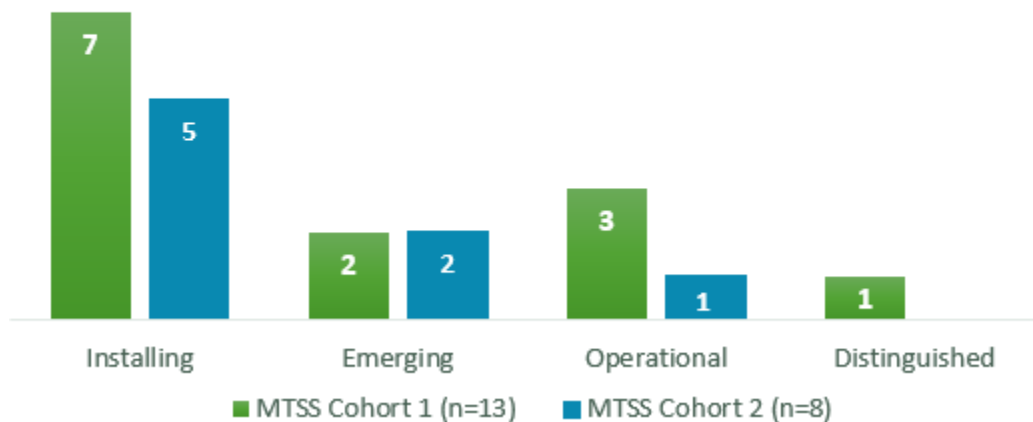
Percentage of Cohort 1 MTSS Districts Achieving Fidelity for Behavior Over Time (2019-2021)



The GA PBIS Behavior Ratings of GA SPDG schools corresponded with the MTSS fidelity ratings:

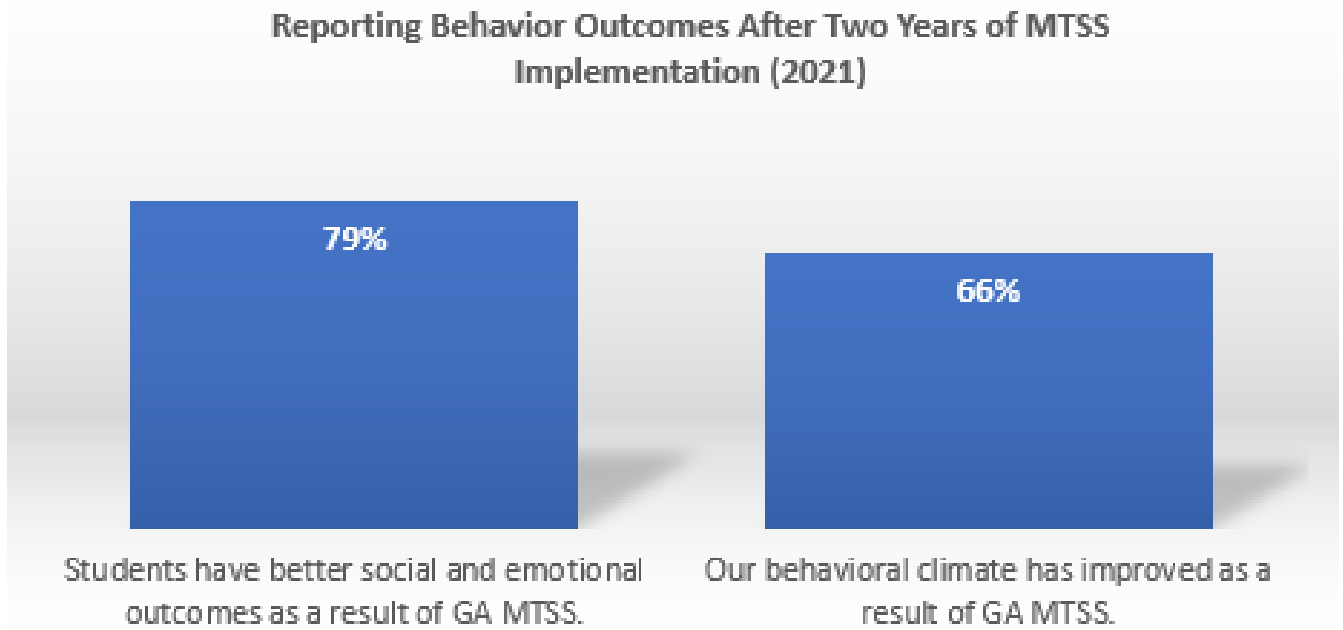
Number of GA SPDG MTSS Schools at Each PBIS Implementation Stage (2019-2020)

(<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Positive-Behavioral-Interventions-and-Support.aspx>)

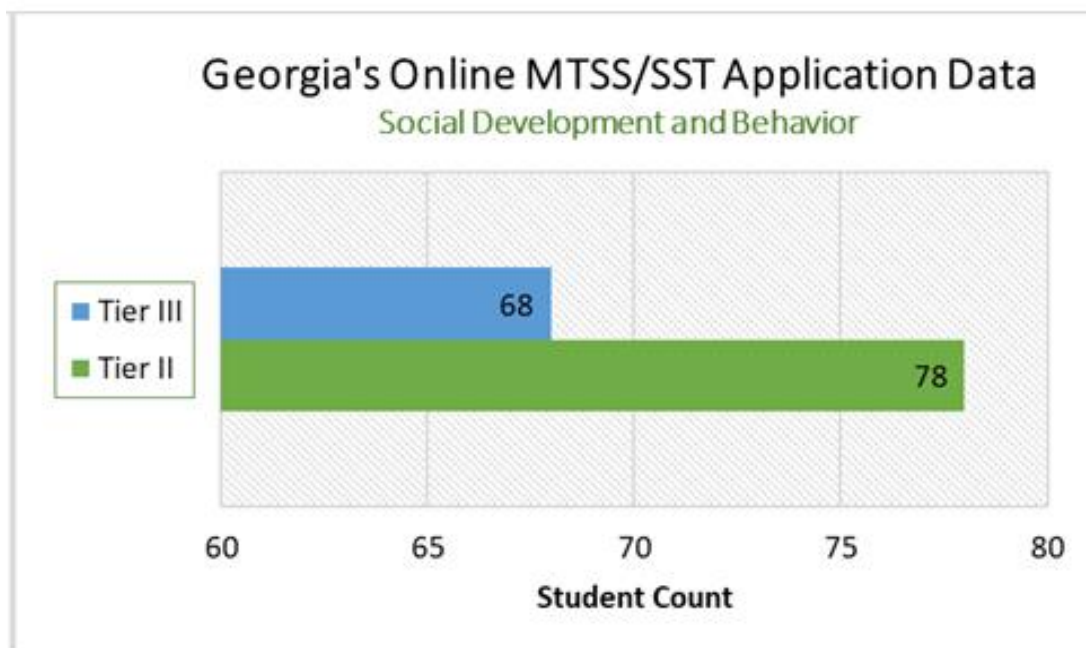


Outcomes:

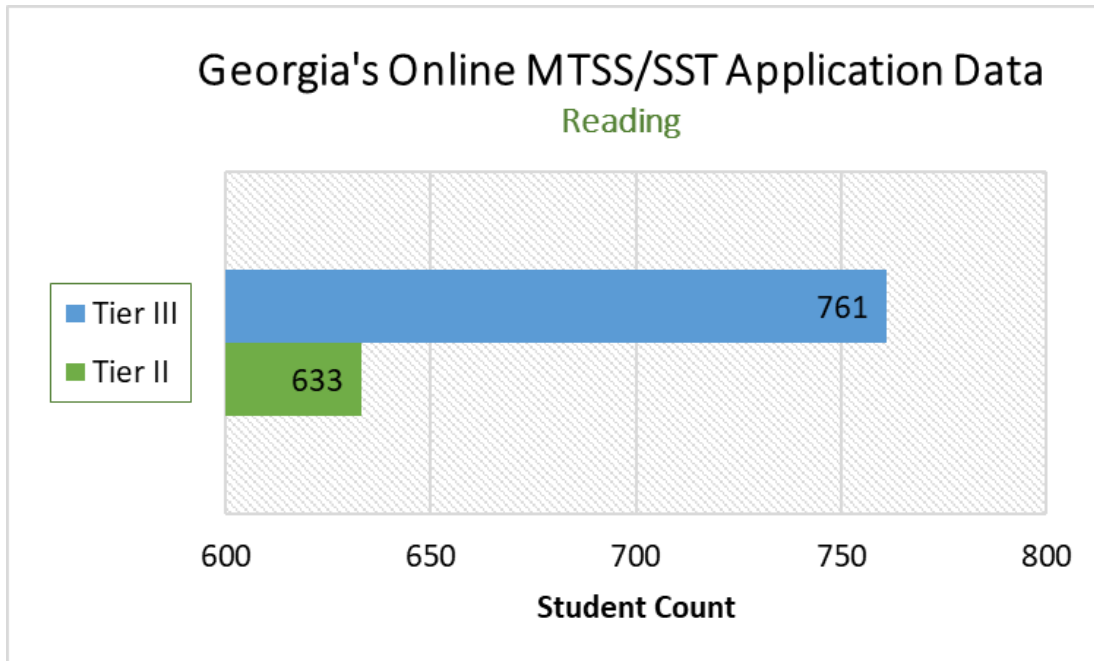
Percentage of Cohort 1 Participating Personnel Survey Respondents Reporting Behavior Outcomes After Two Years of MTSS Implementation (2021)



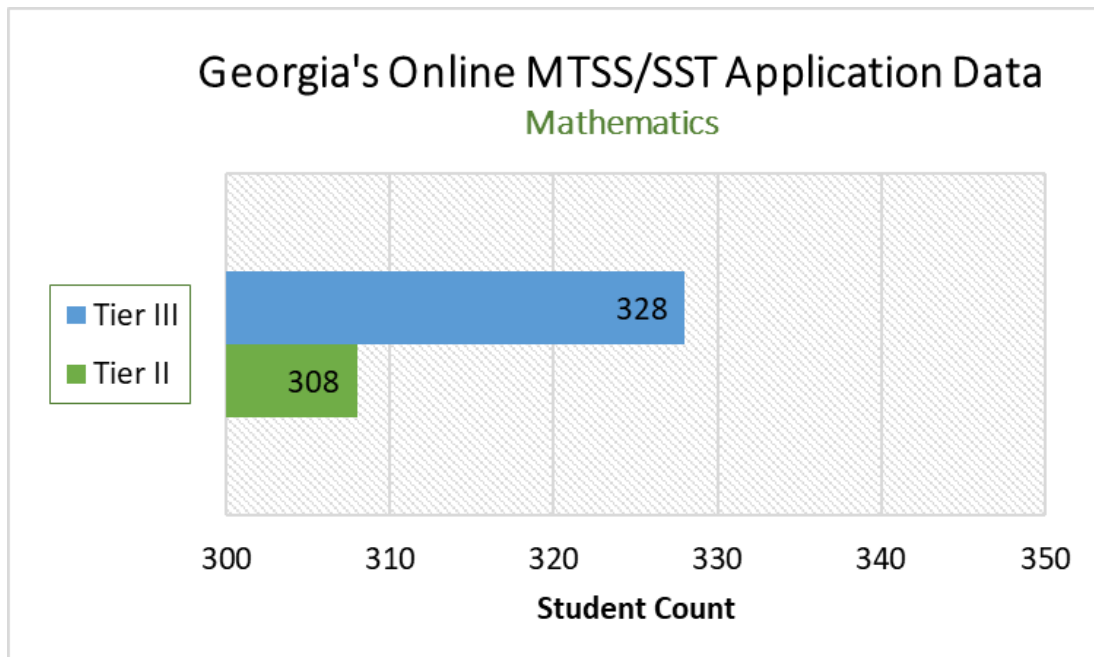
Georgia's Online MTSS/SST Application Behavior Interventions:



Georgia's Online MTSS/SST Application
 Reading Interventions:

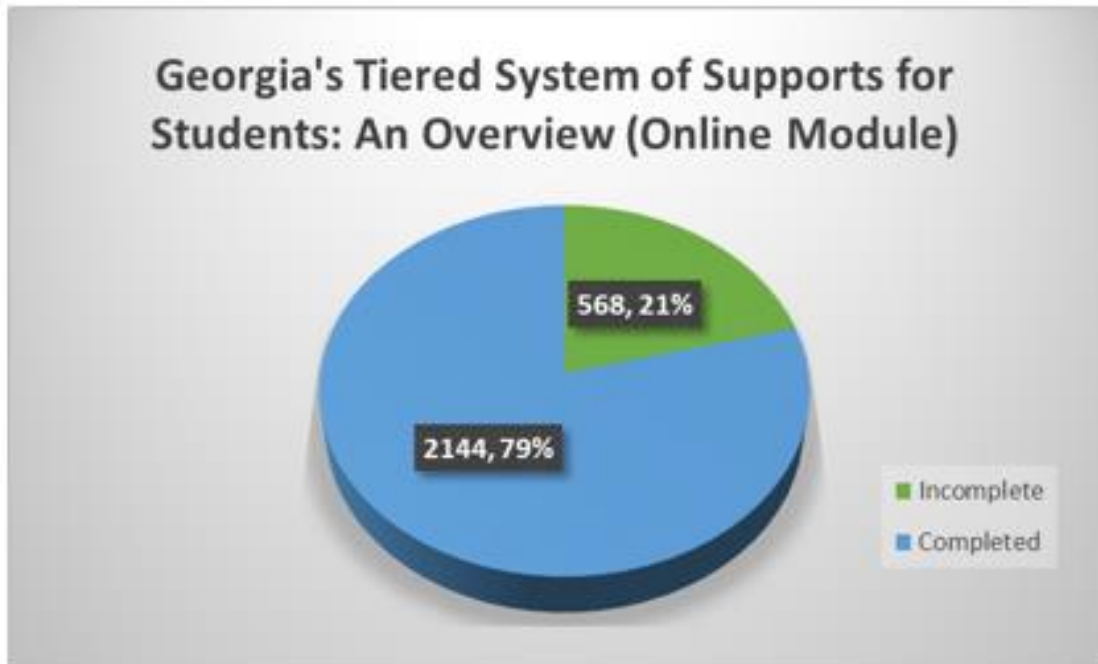


Georgia's Online MTSS/SST Application
 Mathematics Interventions:



Georgia's Professional Learning Online Module

MTSS Overview (includes information for HB 740):



2144 Educators in Georgia Completed the Online Course.
568 Educators in Georgia are in Progress with the Online Course.

NOTE: Charts and graphs referencing Cohort 1 data are used to demonstrate growth with districts that implemented as part of the SPDG grant. All resources, including Go MTSS/SST and online professional learning modules are available to all districts and schools in Georgia.

**Appendix:
Documents Created and Used to Support
Understanding of HB 740 and
Georgia State Board of Education Rule: Student Discipline**

Example of MTSS Snapshot Communication



MTSS Snapshot: Is MTSS Required?



A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a framework intended to support ALL students, and it is considered best practice for teaching and learning. Research tells us when implemented with fidelity, MTSS can close learning gaps, improve student achievement, increase on-time graduation, and reduce behavior related suspensions/expulsions. Currently, there are three documents to carefully review when considering if MTSS is required in Georgia's schools.

#1 GEORGIA HOUSE BILL 740: A Bill to be Entitled an Act

Important to Know: No student in public preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports...

(Excerpt from HB 740 – Click on link to see entire bill.)

#2 GEORGIA BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE

**Code: JD
160-4-8-.15**

Important to Know: (1) No student in public preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports, such as response to intervention, ...

(Excerpt from Georgia BoE Rule 160-4-8-.15 – Click on link to see entire BoE rule.) [Adopted: 11/8/2018; Effective 11/28/2018]

#3 GEORGIA BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE

**Code: IGB
160-4-2-.32**

Important to Know: The Student Support Team Board of Education Rule, 160-4-2-.32, currently has proposed revisions in process. The Student Support Team requirement to provide interventions has not changed.

(An update will be provided if the proposed rulemaking is approved by the Georgia Board of Education.)

Is MTSS Required?

In the State of Georgia, public schools with grades PK through 3rd grade must provide MTSS interventions prior to expelling or suspending a student for more than five (5) consecutive or cumulative days of school during a school year.

Furthermore, the Georgia Board of Education rules for *Student Discipline* and *Student Support Team* also require interventions for students. Both rules include all grade levels.

For more information contact:

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Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students

Presentation Slides Included in Professional Learning



House Bill 740

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Subpart 1A of Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code
2 of Georgia Annotated, relating to improved student learning environment and discipline in
3 elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to conduct certain
4 multi-tiered system of supports and reviews prior to expelling or assigning a student in
5 preschool through third grade to out-of-school suspension for more than five consecutive or
6 cumulative days during a school year; to provide for informed parental consent; to provide
7 exceptions; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia's Future




Georgia Board of Education Rule Code: JD 190-4-8-.15 STUDENT DISCIPLINE

(d) Multi-tiered system of supports or MTSS – a systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data based problem-solving and decision making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students at multiple levels of intervention.

(l) No student in public preschool through third grade shall be expelled or suspended from school for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving a multi-tiered system of supports, such as response to intervention, unless such student possessed a weapon, illegal drugs, or other dangerous instrument or such student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-742.

Adopted: November 8, 2018 Effective: November 28, 2018

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia's Future



Sample Newsletter: Over 7000 Educators
Receive the Tiered Connection Newsletter



Georgia's Tiered System of Supports Connection

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students

November 2018

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

How House Bill 740 Affects You

Considering [House Bill 740](#) requires local school systems to use a Multi-Tiered System of Supports prior to expelling or assigning a student in pre-school through third grade to out-of-school suspension, the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students team is dedicated to providing resources and guidance to help all districts and schools improve best teaching practices across the state.

For the latest implementation questions, tools updates, resources, and guidance, visit: www.gadoe.org/tieredsystemofsupports.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Evidence-Based Practices and High Leverage Practices Professional Learning

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students hosted two workshops on HLPs and EBPs with national speaker Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey of American Institutes of Research. Dr. Bailey is an expert on implementing MTSS with fidelity.

Nearly 400 educators attended the sessions. Dr. Bailey shared tips and rubric to help attendees identify, evaluate, and select interventions and EBPs that can be used by all teachers and staff in their schools.

Dr. Bailey will be back in January to lead another workshop that will focus on another critical component of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students: Progress Monitoring. We will announce registration details in the December newsletter and website.

RESOURCES

Professional Learning Modules Now Available!

In an effort to ensure Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students becomes a guiding framework for schools and districts to identify student needs, professional learning units of study will be available online each month.

Units 1 and 2 include: [Overview and Expectations](#) and [Needs Assessment](#).

High Leverage Practices Webinar Series

Georgia's High Leverage Practices team is hosting a virtual professional learning series on HLPs. To view previous sessions or register for the next webinar, visit: <http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/georgia-hlp-webinar-series/>.

NOVEMBER NEWS

November is Family Engagement Month!

To recognize the importance of families participation in a child's education, Governor Nathan Deal declared November Family Engagement Month in Georgia.

Family Engagement Month promotes awareness regarding the significant roles parents and family members have as partners in the education of each child, from Pre-K to the 12th grade and beyond.

For ideas on how you can get engaged, please visit the Information for Parents page on the GaDOE's website at [parent engagement programs](#).

The website gives access to an array of resources consisting of *How to Read Your Child's Student Growth Model* videos, assessment guides, school transitional information, and brochures in English and Spanish.