

MTSS Snapshot: Identifying & Implementing Needed Supports for Students

Data-Based Decision Making (DBDM) is an essential component of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). It is a process for making informed decisions about instructional needs, the effectiveness of instruction, and level of intensity necessary to support students in need of interventions. Effective DBDM teams can easily identify strengths and areas of need for individual students which leads to greater gains in a shorter amount of time.

The data-based decision-making process consists of:

- Using data to identify needs of all students.
- Selecting and implementing evidence-based practices and interventions.
- Monitoring the progress of students' responsiveness to an intervention (RTI).
- Making adjustments based on progress monitoring data, as needed.

When planning for quality instruction, monitoring student progress, and planning/implementing school improvement processes, effective DBDM teams are essential. District and school leadership should plan to provide the support systems and resources necessary to implement DBDM, for example:

- Select universal screeners and create a schedule for administering screeners (a minimum of 2 to 3 times per year - fall, winter, and spring).
- Establish and monitor school-wide data teams focused on student achievement.
- Identify evidence-based interventions and progress monitoring tools needed and plan for tiered supports for students in need of interventions.
- Plan and implement a schedule that will provide protected time for tiered interventions.
- Use a variety of formative and summative data to drive instructional decisions.
- Progress monitor frequently so that the DBDM team can determine the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions as well as student growth in the specific areas addressed with interventions.
- Disaggregate and analyze data at different levels (schoolwide, grade-level, classroom, student, etc.) and utilize it in a timely manner.

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Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students