

How does Special Education fit in OKMTSS?

OKMTSS stands for **Oklahoma Multi-Tiered System of Supports**. It is a school-wide system used to help **ALL** students succeed academically, behaviorally, and socially. **OKMTSS** focuses on early help and using data to make decisions. Special education is included in **OKMTSS**, but **OKMTSS** is not just special education. **OKMTSS** is how schools organize teaching and support. Teachers and school teams look at learning and behavior data to decide what support a student needs. Support may happen in the general classroom, in small groups, or with individualized instruction. The goal is to help students as early as possible.

The Three Levels (Tiers) of Support

Tier 1 (All Students): Every student receives high-quality teaching in reading, math, behavior, and mental health. Schools expect most students to succeed with Tier 1 supports. Some students with IEPs or 504 Plans also receive supports in Tier 1, sometimes with accommodations or specially designed instruction.

Tier 2 (Some Students): When Tier 1 is not enough, students may receive extra help in small groups. Tier 2 supports are planned, evidence-based, and given on a regular schedule. Progress is checked often to see if the support is working.

Tier 3 (Few Students): A small number of students need more intensive help. Tier 3 support is individualized and provided more often or for longer periods of time. Special education services may be part of Tier 3 support, but not all Tier 3 students are in special education.

How Special Education Works Within OKMTSS

Special education services work alongside **OKMTSS**. Students with disabilities still participate in Tier 1 instruction and may also receive Tier 2 or Tier 3 supports. Decisions about IEP goals, services, and supports are informed by data collected through **OKMTSS**, such as screening and progress monitoring.

What This Means for Parents

Parents are important members of the team. Schools should share information about their child's progress and explain what supports are being used. Parents should be invited to participate in decisions, especially when intensive supports or special education are being discussed.

Important Things for Parents to Remember

- Students are **not** labeled by tiers.
- Supports can **increase** or **decrease** based on progress.
- Needing extra help **does not automatically mean a disability**.
- Strong classroom teaching helps reduce the need for intensive support.
- **Families have the right to ask questions and be involved.**
- **OKMTSS is not a replacement for Special Education services** or obligations under Child Find.