

WHAT IS TIER 1?

OKMTSS: UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS

What is Tier 1? “Support for All Students”

Tier 1 is the support all students receive every day in their classrooms. It includes strong teaching and high-quality materials for reading, math, and students’ behavior and mental health. Because it is for everyone, Tier 1 is often called the “universal” level of support. Teachers follow a core curriculum but can adjust how they teach to better meet students’ needs, such as using small groups, visual tools, or different types of assignments. When Tier 1 instruction is working well, about 80% of students should be meeting grade-level expectations on assessments.

Examples of Tier 1 support:

- **Helping each child learn in their own way.** (Teachers adjust lessons so every student can understand and succeed.)
- **Offering different ways to participate and show what they know.** (Students can engage with lessons and demonstrate learning in ways that work best for them.)
- **Using lots of different tools.** (Lessons may include videos, pictures, hands-on activities, and technology to make learning easier and more fun.)
- **Encouraging students to guide their learning.** (Kids get chances to explore, ask questions, and take charge of their own learning.)

Examples of Tier 1 behavior supports:

- **Prevent problems before they start.** (Teachers use routines, clear expectations, and positive rules so students know what’s expected.)
- **Teach appropriate behaviors.** (Students practice following rules and acting respectfully.)
- **Encourage good behavior.** (Teachers notice and praise students when they follow rules.)
- **Responding calmly to problems.** (Teachers help students fix mistakes without harsh punishment.)

Additional ways schools support families are through sending newsletters with learning updates and tips, hosting fun family nights to explore reading and math, and holding regular parent-teacher meetings to discuss student progress. Parents can also use school websites or apps to check homework and schedules, and access short guides or videos with easy ways to practice skills at home.

Child Find:

Schools cannot use MTSS to make you wait before looking into whether your child has a disability that may need special education. If a parent, teacher, or other school staff suspects a child has a disability, the school must **identify, locate, and evaluate the child for special education** without making you go through all the MTSS steps first.