

WHAT IS TIER 1+?

OKMTSS: UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS

What is Tier 1+? “Extra Help Built Into the Classroom”

Tier 1+ is an Oklahoma-specific level of support connected to the Strong Readers Act. It is used for students who need extra help, especially in reading, but still receive that help in the general classroom. Students who score below the 40th percentile in reading may receive a Student Literacy Intervention Plan (SLIP). Tier 1+ includes more focused teaching strategies like clear step-by-step instruction, extra practice, reteaching important skills, using multiple ways to explain lessons, and giving frequent feedback. The goal is to help students succeed by strengthening regular classroom instruction without removing them from their class.

Examples of Tier 1+ support:

- **Helping students who are at risk for reading challenges.** (Teachers notice when a child is struggling and give extra guided practice right in the classroom.)
- **Going over tricky ideas more than once.** (If a student misses something in a lesson, the teacher reteaches it in small groups or during class activities.)
- **Practicing skills in lots of ways.** (Students might read aloud, write answers, work with a partner, or use hands-on tools to understand the same concept.)
- **Getting feedback right away.** (Teachers tell students what they did well and correct mistakes quickly so they don't keep practicing errors.)
- **Using different learning styles.** (Teachers may explain things using pictures, movement, stories, or interactive games so every student can understand.)

Examples of Tier 1+ behavior supports:

- **Creating a calm, safe classroom for learning.** (routines, clear rules, and consistent guidance for students who need more support.)
- **Teaching behavior step by step.** (Students are shown exactly how to follow rules, practice them, and get feedback when they do well. More modeling and guided practice for students who struggle.)
- **Recognizing and encouraging good behavior.** (Teachers provide extra praise and reinforcement for students who need help staying on task, following rules, and showing respect.)
- **Responding calmly to problems.** (If a student struggles or misbehaves, the teacher helps them calm down and get back on track without making the problem worse. More coaching or check-ins are provided for students who need extra help.)

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.