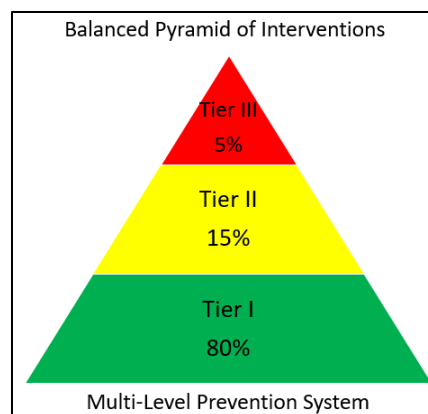


MTSS Snapshot: The Power of the Pyramid

The power of the pyramid is revealed in many ways. The image of a pyramid represents the essential component of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) known as the Multi-Level Prevention System. Clearly, the power of a tiered system of supports rests in the fact that it is based on *prevention*. MTSS is not a “wait to fail” model for students who are in need of additional supports. In fact, the potential benefits of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports were outlined in John Hattie’s (et.al) work below:



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

These improved outcomes are what all educators want for students. They are the key components of student achievement and school improvement – the “Holy Grail” of education. Potential growth of students engaged in MTSS that is implemented with fidelity can yield an effect size of 1.29. Again, Hattie’s work suggests that an effect size of .40 would be equivalent to an academic year of growth for a student. Imagine what gains could be made with students in an academic year if MTSS is implemented to support students and prevent failure!

Other elements of MTSS that provide power to learning and achieving improved outcomes are that it is a flexible, collaborative system, and most importantly, it allows educators to facilitate learning for students thoughtfully, intentionally, and supportively. MTSS is grounded in careful analysis of data collected through Progress Monitoring and Data-Based Decision Making, two additional essential components of MTSS. Implementing MTSS allows educators an opportunity to prevent failure and watch students thrive in their learning, and that is extremely powerful.

Resource: Schutz, Lauren. (2021). Branching Minds Professional Services Manager.
<https://www.branchingminds.com/blog/an-mtss-flowchart-guiding-the-intervention-process/2021/11>

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 Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students