



BRANCHING  
MINDS



# Branching Minds Professional Learning Catalog

We are more than a technology platform, we are true partners  
and trusted advisors to our districts.

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# Branching Minds Professional Learning Community



Branching Minds’ mission is to empower all educators to effectively, efficiently, and equitably support their students’ holistic needs, thereby creating a path to academic and personal success for every learner. We understand that achieving system-level change will never hinge on a technology solution alone. We also know how hard it is for educators to have all of the insight and guidance they require to understand each student’s needs, support the whole learner, create targeted intervention plans, and then implement and document those plans. We understand the challenge it is for school systems to support and coordinate all the moving parts of effective MTSS; it’s a team effort that requires ongoing communication, collaboration, and data sharing. It is our core belief that by applying advancements in the learning sciences, academic research, technology like the Branching Minds platform, and targeted professional services, we can help teachers and all other educators support their students across the many dimensions that impact learning.

Therefore, we pursue our mission by providing schools and school districts with engaging professional development that deepens educator practice and strengthens each component of infrastructure needed to sustain a multi-tiered intervention system.

The Branching Minds Professional Learning team is responsible for providing both virtual and in-person professional learning and coaching that is planned collaboratively with our district/school partners. Each BRM facilitator or coach is an educator with an average of 15 years of hands-on classroom, administrative and/or central office experience. Branching Minds Consultants have extensive experience leading MTSS and practicing a “results” coaching model. Our partnership includes a suite of professional learning and system-level support services that help our partners achieve high-fidelity MTSS by honing the knowledge and skills needed for their specific roles and responsibilities.

With a team of approximately 35 education consultants, Branching Minds can deliver up to 15 concurrent sessions – either in person or virtually. We continue to broaden our Professional Learning team to meet the needs of our district partners for the 2023-2024 school year. As we collaboratively refine the professional learning plan for each district, we will increase or diversify our staff to meet the needs identified.

# Professional Learning Series



## Foundations and Infrastructure Series

On-site or Virtual Facilitated Sessions

Branching Minds’ Foundations and Infrastructure Series supports districts and schools in developing procedures, protocols, and communications that promote the implementation of the MTSS framework. The Foundations and Infrastructure Series provides time and space for district and school teams to reflect on “WHAT is MTSS?”, “WHY do we want to ‘practice’ MTSS?” and “HOW will we ‘practice’ MTSS?”. We work closely with our district partners to understand and value previous work, ensure alignment between MTSS and any district strategic plans, and uncover all stakeholder needs. Outcomes from the sessions include: deeper foundational knowledge of MTSS components, aligned and explicit protocols, procedures, clear roles and responsibilities, and the importance of communication to support the adoption of new practice.

Course Title	Description
Infrastructure Coaching	<p>Improving system-level infrastructure is essential to enhancing best practices across any school district’s MTSS practice. The BRM Infrastructure Coaching Package provides school districts with the tools and professional development needed to advance their system to the next level. This coaching series includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A comprehensive baseline report of the assets and deficits of the intervention system at each school and across the district</li><li>2. Actionable and achievable recommendations for improvement for each area of need</li><li>3. Professional development and coaching to communicate the value of and to create the systems for, implementing, and continuing an effective MTSS practice</li><li>4. Expert guidance throughout creating/updating an MTSS Handbook that records the district’s unique structures and protocols</li><li>5. Guidance and support in creating a district-wide implementation and communication plan to begin your work immediately</li></ol>

Course Title	Description
Foundations of MTSS	<p>Just like infrastructural blueprints for building a home have codes that must be understood by the drafter, the engineer, the contractor, the building inspector, and the homeowner; school districts must first ensure that the blueprint or foundation for success is understood by everyone doing the work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Build common vocabulary and understanding around each component of MTSS including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data-driven Continuous Improvement Model for Problem-Solving</li><li>• An Assessment Framework to ID Student Needs</li><li>• Multi-level Prevention System beginning with Quality Universal Curriculum &amp; Instruction</li><li>• Support Plan Cycle that includes Plan, Do, Check, Act</li><li>• System Level Infrastructure, Communication, and Collaboration</li></ul></li><li>▶ Tackle complex topics like differentiation and intervention, and understanding the various types of assessments</li><li>▶ Learn best-practices for standard treatment to streamline your MTSS</li></ul>

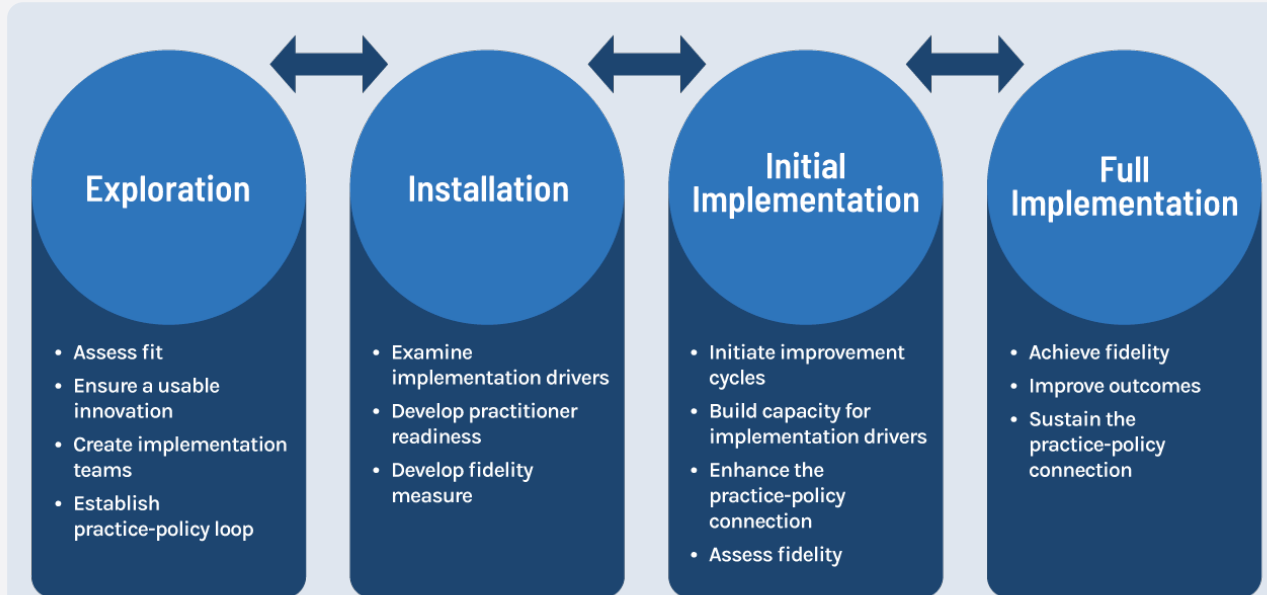




## The Launch Series

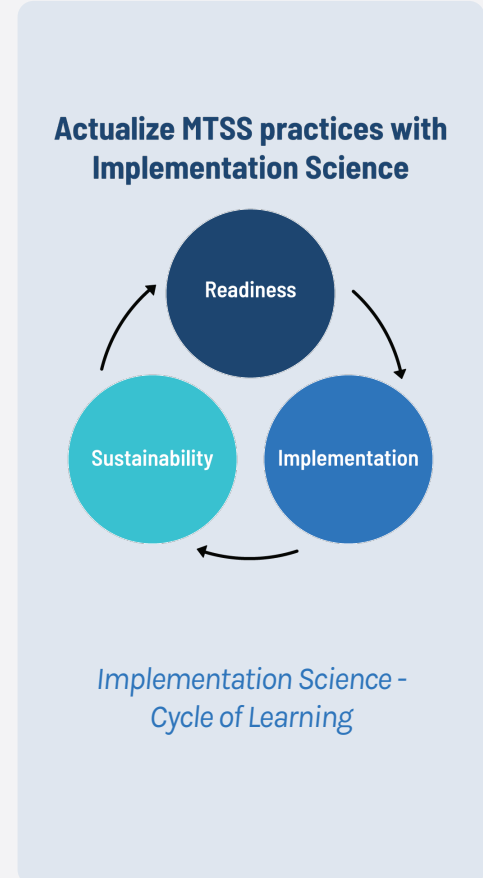
On-site or Virtual Facilitated Sessions

Utilizing active implementation research science, Branching Minds supports partners throughout their adoption and implementation of MTSS and Branching Minds with just-in-time professional learning. Matched to your needs at each phase or stage of implementation, BRM provides a three-phased professional development launch series for your first year of implementation focused on actively developing leader and school team capacity to scale up MTSS innovations. Each session is uniquely customized to your readiness data.



*Implementation science, the multi-disciplinary study of methods and strategies to promote the use of research findings in practice, seeks to address this by providing frameworks to guide the creation of conditions and activities that facilitate evidence-based practices*

Sources: Eccles & Mittman, 2006



## Series 1: The Launch Series for School Teams

Course Title	Description
<b>Readiness 101</b> <i>Build capacity to tackle implementation &amp; adoption of MTSS &amp; BRM</i>	School teams leverage implementation science principles to establish initial systems, data-focused decisions, and practices that will be required to implement MTSS at their schools. This preparation will allow these formal and informal leaders to support the widespread use of evidence-based programs and practices to support students and educators with equity at every implementation phase.
<b>Implementation 101</b> <i>Review &amp; refine adoption to enhance the impact and achieve fidelity</i>	Teams engage in continuous improvement driven by data. Teams collect and analyze data to diagnose problems or gaps and select strategies to address these challenges. Data indicates which strategies are most effective and should be included in educator's repertoire.
<b>Sustainability 101</b> <i>Focus on continuous improvement, outcomes, and communication</i>	Branching Minds values the importance of teams calibrating and recording milestones throughout implementation. Teams revise and update processes, communication, and strategies so that MTSS implementation is iterative. Teams utilize outcome data related to the metrics established during the readiness phase to plan for new and/or existing challenges, staff turnover, and/or other roadblocks to sustainable and scalable implementation of MTSS.

## Series 2: The Launch Series for School and District Leaders

Course Title	Description
<b>Readiness 101</b> <i>Change Management: Implementation and Communication Readiness</i>	School and district leaders assess the depth and breadth of current MTSS practice across schools and the district. Leadership develops leadership capacity to manage complex change and develop and refine district-wide goals and metrics for success to create accountability for the implementation success.
<b>Implementation 101</b> <i>Data-driven Monitoring for Sustaining Systemic Change</i>	School and district leaders review process fidelity data and engagement data through the implementation drivers to determine areas of success and opportunity with implementing MTSS and evidence-based practices and strategies. Implementation drivers include: leadership drivers, competency drivers, and organizational system drivers.
<b>Sustainability 101</b> <i>The Art of Feedback</i>	School and district leaders will understand the value and impact of effective performance feedback and practice strategies that cultivate moving teachers out of the performance zone and into the learning zone.



## Deepening Practice Series

On-site or Virtual Facilitated Sessions

### Series 1: Deepening Practice Series for School Teams

Research says that planned implementation can take up to 3 years for full implementation and adoption. In our Deepening Practice Series, school teams reflect, reset, and expand initial systems, data-driven decision rules, and practices that will be required to support MTSS sustainability.

Course Title	Description
<b>Readiness 201</b> <i>Reflect, reset, and expand capacity to tackle implementation &amp; adoption of</i>	School teams reflect, reset, and expand initial systems, data-driven decision rules, and practices that will be required to implement MTSS at their school. This preparation will allow these formal and informal leaders to support the widespread use of evidence-based programs and practices, while also tending to equity at each step during the implementation phases.
<b>Implementation 201</b> <i>Review &amp; refine deeper adoption to enhance the impact and achieve fidelity</i>	Teams engage in the continuous improvement model, to identify risk and success within MTSS implementation. Teams learn to select appropriate data to analyze to drive deeper MTSS adoption and address gaps and/or challenges. Data tells which strategies are most effective; and should be included in educators' repertoire.
<b>Sustainability 201</b> <i>Reflect, embed, and deepen continuous improvement, outcomes, and communication</i>	Teams will understand and engage in continuous improvement cycles, which are necessary throughout the lifespan of complex practices and systems-level change innovations. Teams revise and update processes, communication, and strategies so that MTSS implementation is iterative. Teams utilize outcome data related to the metrics established during the readiness phase to plan for new and/or existing challenges, staff turnover, and/or other roadblocks to sustainable and scalable implementation of MTSS.

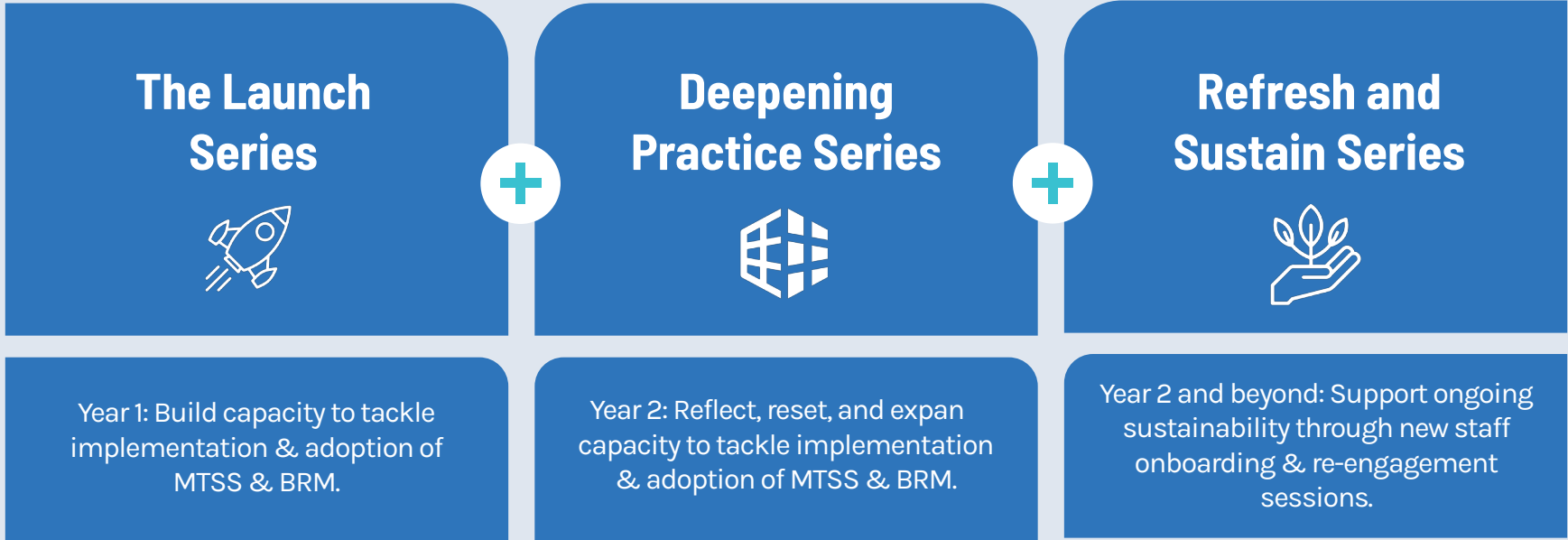




## Series 2: Deepening Practice Series for School and District Leaders

Course Title	Description
<p><b>Readiness 201</b></p> <p><i>Change Management: Implementation and Communication Readiness</i></p>	<p>As a fresh start to the new school year, leadership assesses the depth and breadth of current MTSS efforts across schools and the district. School and district leaders continue to develop the capacity to manage complex change. During this session, leaders will refine district-wide goals and metrics for success to create accountability for the implementation success.</p>
<p><b>Implementation 201</b></p> <p><i>Data-driven Monitoring for Sustaining Systemic Change</i></p>	<p>Within each year of implementation of complex systems, school and district leaders will review process fidelity and engagement data through the lens of the three implementation drivers: leadership drivers, competency drivers, and organizational system drivers. Leaders will determine areas of success and opportunity with implementing MTSS and evidence-based practices and strategies.</p>

### Curious about how all of these professional learning series fit together?



We have a comprehensive multi-year professional development series. Throughout these series, we provide you just in time learning no matter what year or implementation cycle you're in.



## Refresh and Sustain Series

### Virtual Facilitated Sessions

Course Title	Description
Summer Refresh	Facilitated via zoom, this live learning session will review the basics needs for managing MTSS workflow using Branching Minds with a focus on the attributes of quality plans and managing the to-do box. Additionally, any new platform features will be highlighted. This session is in a webinar delivery format and will hold a Q&A in lieu of breakout activities.
Leadership Adoption Refresh Coaching	Change and growth in leadership and school team staffing happen As your team changes and grows, BRM is alongside you, prepared to re-engage new leadership. These sessions support ongoing sustainability of MTSS and the Branching Minds Platform.
Executive Coaching	A brief session uniquely designed for executive-level cabinet members and school board members at large to understand and interpret data throughout the school year. Participants receive a report of pertinent data related to school goals.





## The Extras

### Virtual Facilitated Sessions



Course Title	Description
Platform Training	If learning online is not for you, BRM offers in-person and remote platform training. These facilitated sessions allow educators to work alongside an experienced professional to unpack the buttons, bells, and whistles of the Branching Minds platform in an interactive, synchronous session.
DESSA Rater	During this 1-hour training, staff will learn the purpose of the DESSA assessments, how and when to administer them, and rate students' SEL competencies, and how to group students and locate interventions and SEL Supports.





## PBIS and Wellness Series

On-site or Virtual Facilitated Sessions

Course Title	Description
<b>Building Connections between Healthy School Climate, PBIS, and Social-Emotional Learning for School and District Leadership</b> <b>*Wellness Connected MTSS Foundations</b>	<p>Increasingly, researchers have recommended teaching social-emotional competencies within a prevention-focused, multi-tiered public health model because simply adopting a curriculum does not lead to adequate implementation or improved outcomes (Greenberg, Domitrovich, Weissberg, &amp; Durlak, 2017; Merrell &amp; Gueldner, 2010).</p> <p>This session guides leaders to understand how MTSS must include more than academic performance. Leaders will learn how to build SEL into all aspects of a school system, including climate, instruction, educator wellness, and family-school collaboration.</p>
<b>Interconnected Systems Framework Overview for school utilizing Mental Health Professionals within a Multi-tiered System of Supports</b>	<p>An Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) promotes a single system of delivery for educational and mental health support within a tiered framework. Relying on the Multi-tiered System of Supports, schools can engage better and more appropriate support for students impacted by trauma and mental health. Leaders will learn about ISF and its positive impact on schools, discuss strategies to align PBIS/MTSS and student mental health challenges, identify appropriate community-level partners, and learn initial steps for implementing the ISF approach.</p>
<b>Supporting Social-Emotional Learning and Behavior in Branching Minds</b>	<p>This session, designed for districts wishing to focus on student wellness (behavior, attendance, social skill instruction &amp; intervention), will provide an overview of SEL and behavior intervention as part of the MTSS model. Time will be spent reviewing intervention resources and progress monitoring instruments and considering the use of interventions in the classroom as well as best practices for data collection. Participants (psychologists, social workers, counselors, behavior specialists, etc.) will be able to identify &amp; use key Branching Minds platform elements to support best practices in SEL.</p>
<b>Readiness Phase: Building a Healthy School Climate through PBIS</b>	<p>School teams learn about PBIS, how PBIS addresses school-based concerns regarding behavior and disciplinary outcomes, and essential features of PBIS. School teams analyze initial data to prepare to install the essential features of PBIS; beginning with the development of a PBIS team agreement and School-wide PBIS plan that meets all ten criteria from the PBIS Benchmarks of Quality utilizing the Branching Minds PBIS planning template.</p>



## PBIS and Wellness Series

On-site or Virtual Facilitated Sessions

Course Title	Description
<b>Implementation/Adoption Phase: Building a Healthy School Climate through PBIS</b>	School teams assess midpoint fidelity of implementation of PBIS practices using the PBIS Implementation Checklist and/or the Tiered Fidelity Inventory Rubrics from PBIS. Teams assess the use of evidence-based practice and engage in a deeper dive into Tier 2 targeted behavioral interventions to coach stakeholders across campus.
<b>PBIS Fidelity Coaching Hours</b>	PBIS Fidelity Coaching hours provide time and space for your team to develop comfort with vetted fidelity monitoring tools like the Tiered Fidelity Inventory, the Benchmarks of Quality, the PBIS Implementation Checklist, and more to help your schools and district meet model school status.



# Customized Coaching Sessions



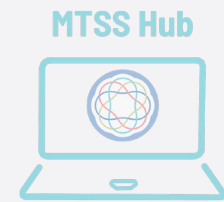
As educators are asked to change their current process or practice; they will need technical learning and cultural and mindset shifting—as some will have difficulty adapting a new program into their daily lives. These challenges are most successfully tackled through collaborative professional learning. We believe that providing a variety of support throughout the year aids in accelerating a successful change in practice that results in the desired student outcomes. The BRM Professional Services Team is able to provide customized coaching that can take various forms and is custom-designed to district needs.

Focusing first on the coaching and learning experiences, our team utilizes real-time data every step of the way. Utilizing your district, school, and classroom-specific data allows the learning to be relevant to the learner in every session.

Session Examples Include:

- ☑ Executive Level or District Administrator Coaching
- ☑ Designing/revising MTSS infrastructure: building collaboration, communication plan, & handbook
- ☑ Developing/revising school-level implementation plans
- ☑ Coaching during support team meetings
- ☑ Additional MTSS team sessions using “time of year” data to take next steps
- ☑ Classroom or meeting observations and feedback
- ☑ Ongoing coaching for principals and administrators to maximize BRM as the primary fidelity tool for student support
- ☑ Instructional/pedagogical sessions
  - ✓ Aligning instruction and intervention tools to student needs
  - ✓ Selecting appropriate progress monitoring tools
  - ✓ Identifying and creating normed SMART goals
  - ✓ Scaffolded and Differentiated Instruction

# MTSS Hub powered by Branching Minds



Branching Minds offers all partners access to our learning management system, the MTSS Hub powered by Branching Minds. Within the MTSS Hub, BRM users will have access to on-demand professional learning courses to grow their MTSS and Branching Minds knowledge.

*\*Branching Minds provides certificates of completion for all staff who complete our courses. Educators should work with their own district to verify professional development credit available for this learning content.*

## On-Demand, Self-Guided Branching Minds Platform Exploration Courses

### Branching Minds Platform Orientation

Learners will utilize the Branching Minds demo site to increase their comfort with foundational tools and BRM technology.

Who takes this course: All staff that plan to engage with the Branching Minds Platform should start here! Once completed, parts of this course can be revisited at any time to acquaint educators back to the basic tools within Branching Minds.

### The Teacher Role: Expanding on the Branching Minds Platform Tools

Learners assigned the Teacher Role in BRM will dive into their Branching Minds Platform, engage with real students and data, and build comfort by leveraging tools beyond data collection and basic plan building.

Who takes this course: All staff identified with the “Teacher Role” should continue their BRM learning journey with this course. As an on-demand course, the modules can be accessed in any order, at any time. Certificates are awarded at the end of each module to better track user skill-building. Staff should complete Branching Minds Platform Orientation as a pre-requisite for this course.

## The Manager Role: Expanding on the Branching Minds Platform Tools

This course is designed for staff assigned the “Manager Role.” Enhanced with continuous improvement and problem-solving templates, this course deepens “Manager Role” users’ knowledge of the platform to better equip formal and informal leaders with tools to increase platform engagement, reporting, and accountability.

Who takes this course: This course is geared toward users with the “Manager Role.” Users are encouraged to use their live platform during this on-demand course. Users that do not have “Manager Role” access will not have all of the data described in this course, nor access to grade-level/school-wide data at the time of the course.

## Videos for BRM District Coordinators

Our video library has in-depth tutorials to help you configure your Branching Minds platform. These quick videos are accompanied with checklists, templates, and written instructions to get you up and running in no time!

## On-Demand, Self-Guided MTSS Knowledge Courses

Want to learn more about MTSS? Take a deep dive into BRM-approved courses that support your district’s academic, behavioral, and wellness success.

MTSS	Understanding MTSS Basics (~1 Hour on-demand course)
	What is Implementation Science
PBIS/Wellness	Building an Effective Check-in/Check-out Intervention System (~1 Hour on-demand course)
	Building Resiliency within Tier 1 (~1 Hour on-demand course)
Academics	Selecting Matched Intervention and Progress Monitoring Tools
Family and Community Engagement	Building a family and community communication plan



## And More...

In addition to the professional learning offerings listed above, Branching Minds offers unlimited professional learning opportunities — We regularly publish countless free resources and webinars on our website and various series of targeted webinars exclusively created for Branching Minds' users, helping them get the best out of technology and the best practices of MTSS. We also host an annual virtual MTSS summit that brings together thought leaders, practitioners, innovative approaches, resources, and tools that support effective MTSS.



### What We Do

Branching Minds makes MTSS easy, efficient and effective by bringing together all of the components needed to effectively and collaboratively support students' holistic needs through a tiered system of support. Our platform solution guides educators through the best practices so they are actually practicable; allowing schools to improve students' outcomes across academics, behavior, and SEL — in equitable ways.



### Who We Are

We are a team of seasoned educators, learning scientists and technologists with a proven track record of supporting hundreds of K-12 school districts. We are uniquely positioned as a district/school intervention management system to bring together all the aspects of MTSS to achieve fidelity, and make MTSS best practices practicable for both teachers and administrators.



### How We Work

We are more than a technology platform, we are true partners and trusted advisors to our districts. We honor the goals, priorities, and vision of every educational leader with whom we work, and we help them to hone, articulate, and make those visions a reality.



# BRANCHING MINDS



With the Branching Minds partnership, we are gaining both a thought partner who will help us enhance all of our MTSS practices, structures and approach, and a platform that will help make the work easier and more efficient for all of our educators at CMS - from classroom teachers and support staff to school and district administrators.

*– Dr. Frank Barnes Chief Accountability Officer at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools*



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