

# How to Create an MTSS Team to Guide MTSS

July 26th, 2022



BRANCHING  
MINDS



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# Agenda



**What is Branching Minds?**



**MTSS Teams: Why they are important**



**MTSS Teams: What roles and positions should be on these teams?**



**Q&A**



# BRANCHING MINDS

## Hi! We are Branching Minds

Branching Minds is an MTSS/RTI system-level education platform that brings together learning science + technology + team collaboration to help drive student and school success

**1,500,000** +

Supported  
Students

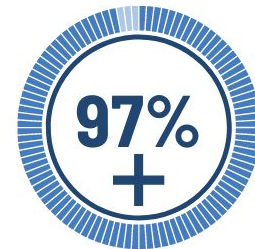


**32** States



**91%**

Of our business  
comes from  
repeat clients

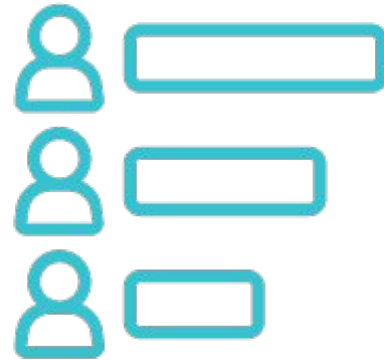


Of school and  
district admins  
believe that BRM  
improved their  
ability to support  
students

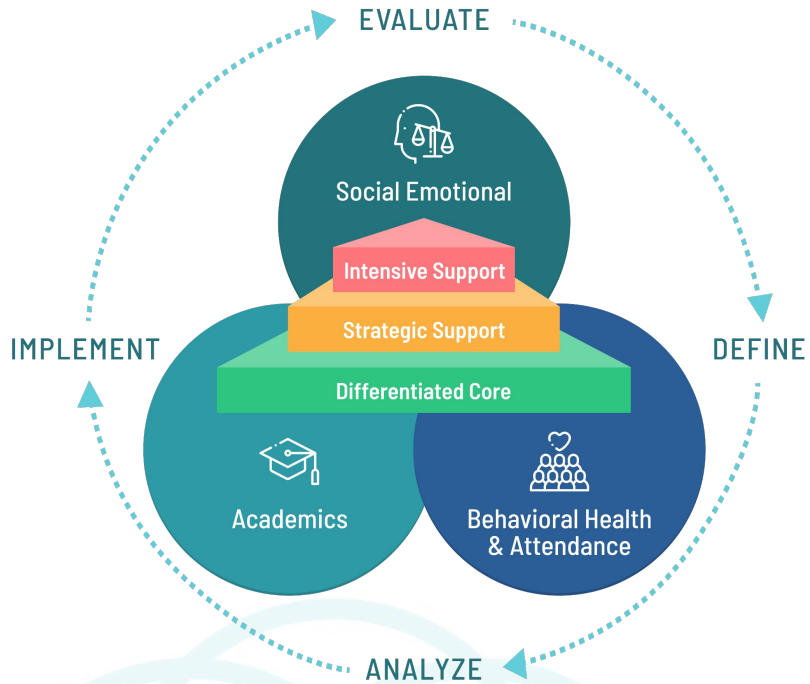
# Let's take a poll of who is participating today...

What is your current primary role?

- School Administrator (Principal/AP)
- District Administrator
- Classroom Teacher
- Specialist or Other role



# What is MTSS?



**Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** is a foundation that wraps around the entire student body and uses data-driven problem-solving to address academic and non-academic (attendance/ social-emotional) needs.



# The MTSS Team: Your Pit Crew





# MTSS Teams: Why are they important?

- The MTSS Team is the engine that drives school culture around increasing student success.
- The MTSS team proactively addresses the school's needs both at the macro and micro level.



# Layers of Problem-Solving

Macro Level



**SCHOOL LEVEL**

All Students

Micro Level



**GRADE LEVEL**

Cohorts of  
Students

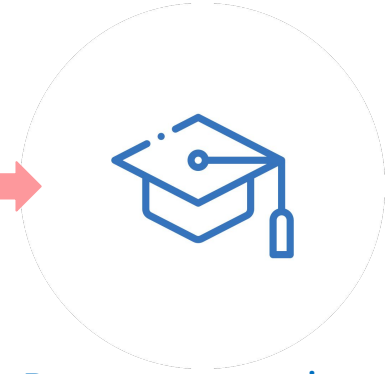
Micro Level



**INDIVIDUAL  
STUDENT**

Individual Students

# The Work of the MTSS Team at the Macro Level



Review Universal Screening data to understand if core curriculum is working and when to provide intervention or enrichment,

Collect data to determine areas of strength and need in curriculum, instruction, and/or professional development.

Progress monitor interventions and measure historical growth.

# What happens at the Micro level of MTSS?

- Conduct grade level analysis of data to support student needs..
- Consulting and collaborating with parents
- Hold problem-solving meetings
- After intensive interventions have not worked a referral may be needed.





# MTSS Teams: What roles and positions should be on these teams?

## Standing Members:

Administrative Representative

MTSS Team Coordinator/Facilitator

Grade-level/Content Area Representative

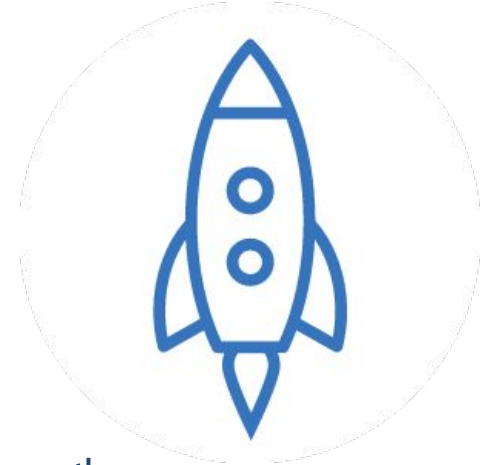
## Invited (Rotating) Members:

Specialists

Classroom teacher

# Helpful Characteristics of MTSS Team Members

1. Committed to school-wide change
2. Respected by colleagues
3. Possess leadership potential
4. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills
5. Self-starters with perseverance to see projects through
6. Experience with differentiating support for students





# Administrative Representative

## *Principal or Vice Principal*





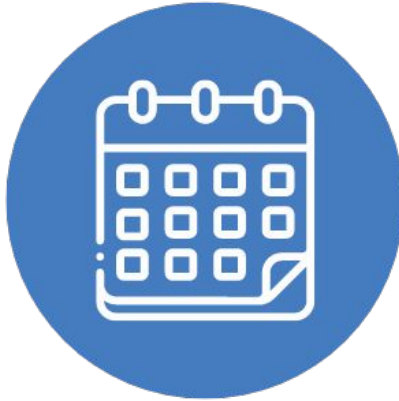
# The **Unique** Role of the Administrator

- **Goal-Setting & Evaluations**
  - *Tied to MTSS and the SIP*
- **Observations**
  - *Differentiation, Core Health, Engagement, Pacing*
- **Professional Development**
  - *Prioritized around MTSS*



# The Administrator's Role

*Ensures school schedule enables a successful MTSS practice*



- Common planning time
- Common intervention/enrichment blocks
- Full or half days to deep dive

# The Administrator's Role

*Ensures resource allocation enables a successful MTSS practice*

- Staffing considerations
- Curriculum



# The Administrator's Role

*Provides leadership at MTSS team meetings*

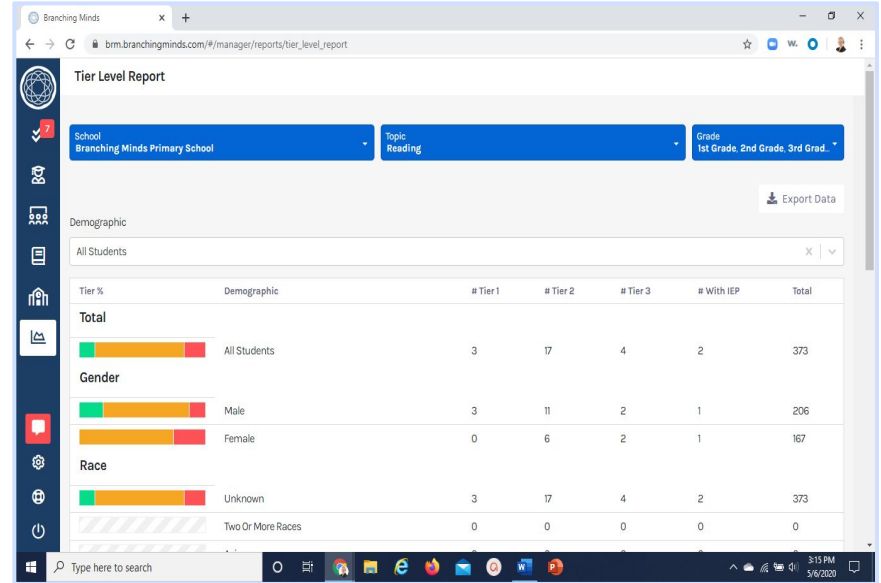
- Establishes relevance and purpose
- Schedules
- Sets agenda/norms/attendees
- Active participant
- Gathers notes/plans



# The Administrator's Role

## *Celebrating and communicating success*

- Celebrate staff and student achievement and growth
- Recognize team efforts (grade level school wide)



# The Administrator's Role

## *Creating the MTSS Team*

- Transformative work
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities
- Select an MTSS coordinator
- Select grade level/content leads
- Ensure specialists reflect the needs of your students
- Consider compensation



# MTSS Team Coordinator/Facilitator

*Provides expertise to MTSS team regarding problem-solving protocol*

*Identifies trends in student/staff needs across school*

*Coordinates with admin to set the agenda for MTSS team meetings*

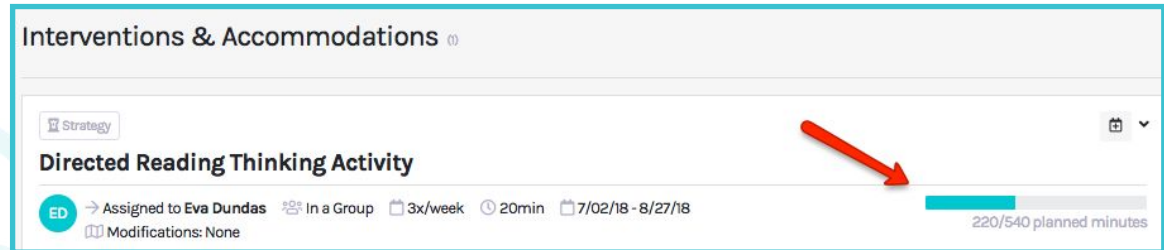
*Provides expertise in data analysis*



# MTSS Team Coordinator/Facilitator

*Ensures progress monitoring and intervention implementation fidelity for all students in Tiers 2 and 3*

- Schedules PM windows, or recommendations for individual plans
- Determines what assessments will be used
- Managing who will be responsible providing interventions and administering assessments
- Ensures staff are trained in administering and delivering interventions with fidelity



The screenshot displays a software interface for managing interventions. The main heading is "Interventions & Accommodations". Below this, there is a section for "Strategy" which is currently set to "Directed Reading Thinking Activity". A red arrow points to a progress bar on the right side of this section, which shows "220/540 planned minutes". Below the strategy name, there are several icons and text: a green circle with "ED", "Assigned to Eva Dundas", "In a Group", "3x/week", "20min", and "7/02/18 - 8/27/18". At the bottom, it says "Modifications: None".



# Grade-level/Content Area Representative

- Serves as a liaison between PLC/grade-level/department team and MTSS team
- Attends grade level PLC/MTSS meetings on a regular basis
- Identifies trends in student/staff need across grade-level or content area
- Presents data/background information on the student being discussed



# Specialists

*Invited rotating members including: ELL teacher, speech/language pathologist, intervention teacher, behavior specialists based on the student being discussed*

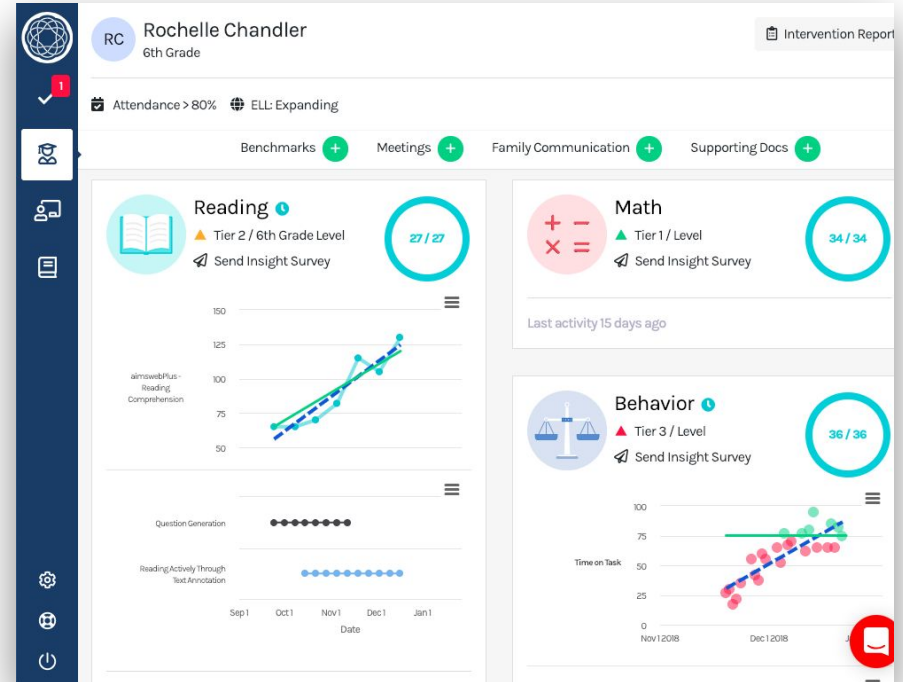
- Provides expertise to the MTSS team regarding interventions
- Supports MTSS team with data interpretation and selecting interventions
- Gathers progress monitoring data from for review during MTSS meetings
- Consults with classroom teachers regarding differentiated instruction



# Classroom teacher

## Rotating member representing the student

- Provides experience with and knowledge of student being discussed
- Presents data/background information on student
- Ensures next steps are documented and communicated with student and/or family



# Main Takeaways for MTSS Teams

- Transformative work
- Standing and Invited Members
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Clearly Defined Roles
- Proactively address system needs based on data
- Supports Individual Student Growth
- Monitors assessment data at the macro and micro level
- Intentional meetings







The Branching Minds MTSS Summit  
December 6-7, 2022

# Setting Intentions for the New Year: MTSS 2023

[www.BranchingMinds.com/MTSS-Summit-2022](http://www.BranchingMinds.com/MTSS-Summit-2022)

A red and white megaphone is positioned in the lower right quadrant, pointing towards the registration text. A thick red diagonal line runs from the bottom left towards the top right, passing behind the megaphone.

**Register for  
this virtual  
event!**

# Upcoming Webinars



## Product Demo: How an MTSS Management Platform Can Improve Your MTSS Practice

Join our live demo on 08/03/2022, 1 pm ET, 10 am PT



08/03/2022

[bit.ly/platform-webinar](https://bit.ly/platform-webinar)

FREE WEBINAR

August 9, 2022, 1 PM EST/ 12 PM CST/ 10 AM PST

How to Communicate a  
**Vision of MTSS** with All  
Stakeholders to Improve Your  
MTSS Implementation



08/09/2022

[bit.ly/MTSS-vision](https://bit.ly/MTSS-vision)

# ACCESS the RESOURCES

- [Leadership and the System-Level Work in MTSS](#)
- [Best Practices for Meetings](#)
- [Developing a Successful MTSS Team](#)



## The MTSS School Level Meeting

There are three types of meetings that help drive effective MTSS: a school level meeting for school leadership to look at core curriculum health, benchmark growth, tier movement, distribution of resources and evolution of structures, the grade team or content team community meeting, to create group plans for students who need tier 2 level support, and to check in on progress for all kids who need support, and an individual student support meeting to create individualized plans for students who need tier 3 level support.

### Let's take a closer look at the MTSS School Level Meeting...

This meeting is conducted by the school leadership team following the collection of universal screener data, three times a year. The goal of the school level meeting is for the school leadership team to look at core curriculum health, benchmark growth, tier movement, distribution of resources and evolution of structures, to understand health of MTSS practice and problem-solve for system level improvement.

Meeting Type	MTSS School Level Meeting
Goal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Check for health of core to identify where core needs to be strengthened -- looking by topic, grade, demographic, skills and subskills</li><li>2. Check for health of tier level supports and practice by monitoring tier movement</li><li>3. Monitor the deployment of support to determine if students who need plans are receiving them, if the interventions are being delivered with fidelity and whether there are any other system needs that need to be deployed in order to empower teachers to effect positive change</li></ol>
Duration/ Frequency	1 hour/3x per year (post screening window)
Attendance	Principal, Data specialists (e.g., AP or counselor), Student service/instructional service rep, Special Ed rep/teacher, Grade-level rep (large schools) OR Gen Ed teacher rep (small schools)
Agenda	<p>Meeting after screener, leverage benchmark performance data, benchmark growth data, tier movement data, student support data (# of students who need support, received support, support delivered with fidelity) to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Is our core supporting &gt; 80% of students?</li><li>● Is our core supporting students equitably? If not, where? for whom? with what?</li><li>● Are our students progressing (i.e., do we see healthy tier movement)?</li><li>● Are students progressing equitably? If not, where? for whom? with what?</li><li>● Are we providing sufficient support?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How many students need plans? In what areas? How many of them actually have them? Are they being provided with fidelity?</li></ul></li></ul>





# Before you go...



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Thank you!

# Types of MTSS meetings:

1. School Level Meeting
2. Grade/Content Level Meeting
3. Individual Student Support Team Meeting



## The MTSS School Level Meeting

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