

2024 MTSS Virtual Summit Agenda

Wednesday, December 4th

11:00-11:45 ET
Keynote
Session

**From Possibility to Practice:
Aligning MTSS Resources for
Equitable Mental Health
Support**

Presenter: Dr. Nathaniel von
der Embse

In a time of increased demand for school mental health supports, educators often face a gap between what they "should" do and what they "could" do within existing resource constraints. This presentation will explore how practitioners can leverage data-driven decision-making to align critical resources that promote equitable access to school mental health services. Drawing from universal screening and MTSS intervention models, Dr. von der Embse will offer actionable strategies to improve decision-making and maximize impact, ensuring that every student receives the support they need.

Session Block 1: 12pm-1pm ET

**You Can't Intervene Your Way Out of a Tier 1
Problem**

Amanda Williamson

MTSS Consultant, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

This session will provide a brief overview of the essential pillars of an effective MTSS framework, with a focus on establishing effective, standards-aligned Tier 1 core instruction for all students. Participants will reflect upon the effectiveness of their Tier 1 core instruction and will receive actionable steps to solidify their core instruction to avoid overwhelming upper tiers.

**Collaborating with Bilingual Education Leaders
in MTSS**

Catherine Cueva

Director of MTSS and Special Education, Hempstead UFSD

This workshop focuses on the importance of collaboration to ensure the success of English Language Learners within an MTSS framework. Participants will explore strategies for working with bilingual education leaders to meet the needs of multilingual learners across all tiers of support.

<p>From Data to Action - Collaborative Data Reviews as Administrative Teams</p> <p>Deana Moss <i>Director of Assessment and Accountability, Lakota Local School District</i></p>	<p>This session explores how district and building leaders can collaborate to analyze data trends, celebrate successes, and create plans for continued improvement within the MTSS framework. Participants will learn strategies to turn data into actionable insights.</p>
<p>Ready, Set, Implement! Unleashing the Power of Readiness for Revolutionary MTSS Implementation</p> <p>Dr. Carpia Naylor <i>Senior Coordinator of MTSS and Assessment, Indianapolis Public Schools</i></p>	<p>This session focuses on the importance of assessing readiness for MTSS implementation. Attendees will learn how to evaluate and enhance readiness to ensure a strong foundation for successful and sustainable MTSS practices.</p>
<p>Resilience-Centered MTSS: Bridging Theory and Practice for Student Success</p> <p>Erica "Babs" Ilcyn <i>Account Executive, Branching Minds</i></p>	<p>Participants will explore how resilience-centered MTSS frameworks, incorporating trauma-informed practices, SEL, and PBIS, can create supportive educational environments to achieve equitable student outcomes.</p>
<p>Addressing Foundational Reading Skills in MTSS</p> <p>Dr. Essie Sutton <i>Director of Learning Science, Branching Minds</i></p>	<p>This session highlights the importance of foundational reading skills in early elementary grades. Participants will learn how an effective MTSS can identify students struggling with foundational skills and provide targeted interventions.</p>

<p>How Our Campus MTSS Team Built an Impactful Master Schedule and Professional Development Plan</p> <p>Katy Gibbins <i>Principal, Middletown Public Schools</i></p>	<p>This session will outline the process of creating an effective MTSS team, aligning it with the school's master schedule, and fostering professional development for both leadership and staff.</p>
<p>Role Call! Improving Student Attendance</p> <p>Todd Hartman <i>Principal, Lakota Local Schools</i></p>	<p>This session will focus on innovative and effective strategies to improve student attendance. Participants will learn how increasing attendance can positively impact student performance.</p>
<p>Lunch Break: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET</p>	
<p>Session Block 1: 12pm-1pm ET</p>	
<p>Effectively Supporting ELD Students in an MTSS Framework</p> <p>Cassandra Oshinsky <i>Coordinator of Student Services (MTSS), Central Bucks County School District</i></p>	<p>This session will explore how to reframe the MTSS framework to better support English Language Development (ELD) students. Learn strategies for placing ELD students appropriately within MTSS tiers and creating sustainable practices that promote inclusivity.</p>
<p>Managing Mayhem: Behavior Interventions for Tiers II & III</p> <p>Christina Kirchhof <i>MTSS Specialist, Colorado Department of Education</i></p>	<p>Educators will explore evidence-based practices tailored to meet the needs of students requiring more intensive behavioral support. The session will focus on Tier II and Tier III interventions designed to manage persistent behavioral issues and promote a positive school culture.</p>

<p>Dig at the Roots: Making Better Decisions through Root Cause Analysis</p> <p>Mackenzie Riedel, <i>Social, Emotional and Behavioral Learning Specialist, Nebraska MTSS</i></p>	<p>This session will focus on how to combine data and the problem-solving process to make better decisions. Participants will learn about root cause analysis and how it can guide continuous improvement efforts in an MTSS framework.</p>
<p>Tiers of SEL Support for the Academic Leader: How to Maintain Your Sense of Purpose and Self When Stress Comes to Your Inbox!</p> <p>Michael Setaro <i>Supervisor of Teaching, Learning, and Student Support, Southern Westchester Boces</i></p>	<p>This session helps academic leaders manage stress and maintain a sense of purpose through a structured framework of social-emotional learning (SEL) support. Similar to MTSS for students, academic leaders need tiered support to effectively lead their schools.</p>
<p>Keepin' It Real: Initial Implementation of MTSS at the Secondary Level</p> <p>Ronda French <i>Assistant Director of Pupil Services, Medina City School District</i></p>	<p>This session will focus on the early stages of implementing MTSS at the secondary level in Medina City Schools. The session will offer practical strategies for leveraging the Branching Minds platform for successful implementation.</p>
<p>Fidelity—Who's Checking What? Why?</p> <p>Ruth Poage-Gaines <i>Capacity Coach, IL MTSS Network</i></p>	<p>This session will focus on the importance of fidelity in MTSS implementation. Participants will explore how to assess whether resources and strategies are being used effectively to support student outcomes.</p>

<p>Strategies for Making Progress Monitoring FAIR in Elementary Schools</p> <p>Tessie Bailey <i>Principal Consultant, PROGRESS Center and MTSS Center at AIR</i></p>		<p>This session will provide tips and strategies for making progress monitoring (PM) easier and more effective. Participants will learn how to develop a FAIR (Feasible, Acceptable, Impactful, Relevant) PM system in an elementary school setting.</p>
<p>Break: 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM ET</p>		
<p>2:45-3:30 PM ET Keynote Session</p>	<p>Practitioner Panel: MTSS Fidelity with Intention</p>	<p>Join us for an honest and thoughtful conversation about the challenges of implementing MTSS with fidelity. This panel of experienced MTSS practitioners will share real-world insights and explore ways to prioritize what truly matters for effective MTSS work, no matter the challenges or unique context of your school or district.</p>

Thursday, December 5th

**11:00-11:30 ET
Keynote
Session**

**Chicken or the Egg: MTSS and
Special Education (Don't get
stuck with egg on your face!)"**

**Presenters: Karen Hamilton
and Hiral Vekaria**

MTSS and SPED don't exist independently of one another. In fact, students with and without disabilities benefit from a robust Multi-Tiered System of Supports. This keynote session will unscramble the relationship of MTSS and SPED, with insights on building an effective intervention system, balancing legal requirements, and ensuring equitable access to support for all students.

Break: 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM ET

Session Block 3: 11:45am-12:45pm ET

**It's Not You, It's Your System: The Role of
Alignment in Building Systems to Reach All
Readers**

Genevieve Thomas, *Director of Professional Learning for
School Services of Montana; President of Spark Educational
Consulting*

In this interactive session, Genevieve Thomas will explore the role of instructional alignment in intensifying reading instruction for students who don't respond to standard reading interventions. Participants will engage in a case study and discuss how aligning instructional approaches across tiers of MTSS can improve outcomes for struggling readers.

**Improving the Fidelity of a Student Problem-
Solving Team**

Jamie Henderson
School Psychologist, Indiana University

This session will explore how one elementary school used improvement science to increase the fidelity of their problem-solving team (PST) within an MTSS framework. Participants will learn how PDSA cycles and root cause analysis can lead to effective process improvements and sustainable change.

<p>Small Schools with Big Needs: How to Authentically Address SEL for Staff and Students</p> <p>Jeanine Rainey, <i>MTSS Coordinator--high school, University of Chicago Charter High School</i></p>	<p>This session will focus on strategies for small schools to meet the needs of students and staff within an MTSS framework, especially when resources are limited. Learn how creative teaming structures and a focus on SEL can improve both student and staff engagement in small school settings.</p>
<p>How to Do It All: Structure, Practices, and Resources for District-Wide MTSS Implementation</p> <p>Jessica Plaza, <i>Director of Student Services and Supports, Evanston-Skokie District 65</i></p>	<p>This session offers a district-wide perspective on strengthening MTSS processes. Participants will explore how consistent implementation and collaboration across schools can provide proactive support and address the diverse needs of students.</p>
<p>MTSS in Action: Real Stories, Real Impact</p> <p>Larissa Napolitan <i>Host of Schoolin' Around Podcast, Branching Minds</i></p>	<p>This panel discussion features education leaders who have successfully implemented MTSS with the Branching Minds (BRM) platform in their schools. Participants will hear firsthand accounts of the strategies, challenges, and milestones that shaped their journeys and learn about tools that made a significant impact. <i>(Featuring: Jodee Nelson, Lincoln County, WY, Emily Myers, Orange County, NC and Donna Biggs and Chelsea Bramfield, Duneland Schools, OH)</i></p>
<p>Mastering Behavioral Support: Leveraging Branching Minds to Design, Implement, and Optimize Interventions for Enhanced Student Success</p> <p>Shannon Thornton, <i>Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Warrensville Heights City School District</i></p>	<p>This session will explore how Branching Minds can help educators design targeted behavioral interventions, track behavioral trends, and refine strategies based on data. Participants will gain practical insights into using the platform to improve student outcomes and enhance educator confidence.</p>

<p>Math Fluency 2.0: Intentional Strategies within MTSS</p> <p>Vanessa Williams-Johnson <i>Illinois Account Executive, BlueStreak Education</i></p>		<p>This session, led by Vanessa Williams-Johnson, will explore the latest research on math fluency and its critical role in bridging learning gaps. Participants will uncover actionable strategies to reduce math anxiety and accelerate students toward grade-level proficiency, using a framework that supports all three tiers of MTSS.</p>
<p>12:45 PM - 1:30 PM ET Lunch & Learn</p>	<p>Nerdy Tech Talk about AI in K-12 Education</p>	<p>Branching Minds super-nerds Maya Gat, Aaron Goldsmid, and Emily-Rose Barry will geek out over AI in education AND preview incredible AI-powered tools within the Branching Minds platform. Yeah, it's going to be as good as it sounds!</p>
<p>Session Block 4: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ET</p>		
<p>Growing Great Teachers Through MTSS</p> <p>Jayne Burton <i>Director of Professional Learning and MTSS, Boerne ISD, TX</i></p>		<p>In this session, participants will explore how MTSS can be leveraged as a professional development tool for educators. By focusing on collaboration, data-driven instruction, and continuous improvement, this session will highlight how MTSS supports both student success and educator growth.</p>
<p>Instructional Leadership with Intention</p> <p>Joel S. Addis, <i>Principal, Swaney Elementary, Derby USD 260, KS</i></p>		<p>This session explores the importance of intentional instructional leadership and its impact on student achievement and teacher efficacy. It will also focus on tracking instructional interactions with staff using tools such as SAM TimeTrack and Google Suite Apps.</p>
<p>Creating a District MTSS Guidebook: Bridges and Barriers</p> <p>Julie Lombardi <i>Executive Director of Student Support, Providence Public School Department</i></p>		<p>This session will guide participants through the process of creating an MTSS guidebook for a district, focusing on merging SEL and academics into a unified whole-child approach. The presenters will share their journey of streamlining data tracking and reporting, addressing both barriers and successes encountered along the way.</p>

<p>MTSS for Preschool: Coordinating a System of Care</p> <p>Karen Rebello Principal, EP Prek @Oldham/Martin Annex</p>	<p>This session will explore how to create a wraparound care system for preschool students, integrating services from psychologists, therapists, teachers, and families. Participants will learn how to build a coordinated system of support that involves the entire community to meet the needs of young learners.</p>
<p>Avoiding Burnout: Strategies for Effective MTSS Leadership in Small Rural Schools</p> <p>Stephanie Warcup Reading Specialist/MTSS Coordinator, Block Island School/New Shoreham School District</p>	<p>This session will provide strategies for preventing burnout while implementing MTSS in small or rural schools. Participants will learn how to engage school leadership, garner staff buy-in, and streamline communication without overwhelming teachers or administrators.</p>
<p>Discerning Fidelity Tools in Preparation for Integrated MTSS</p> <p>Todd Wehmeyer Program Specialist- Differentiation, Kent School District</p>	<p>This session will focus on fidelity measurement tools such as the PBIS TFI and the R-TFI, and how they can support the transition to an integrated MTSS model. Participants will gain insight into the initial planning for this transition and learn about measurement tools to assess and refine their MTSS systems.</p>

<p>Creating a Strong High School MTSS Implementation Model with Teacher Teams</p> <p>Morgan Mudron <i>Network Instructional Support Leader- MTSS, Chicago Public Schools</i></p>	<p>This session will explore how to integrate MTSS into high school settings by creating clear goals, using data protocols, and collaborating with teacher teams. The focus will be on creating a tiered system of supports that aligns with the school’s vision for student success.</p>
<p>Break: 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM ET</p>	
<p>2:45 PM - 3:30 PM ET</p> <p>Closing Keynote Session</p>	<p>Flipping the Script: Intentionally Moving Student Supports Upstream</p> <p>R. Keeth Matheny “Coach Rudy”</p> <p>This closing keynote will explore ways to build a strong Tier 1 support system that intentionally connects social, behavioral, and academic skill development for success in school ... because you can't Tier 2-3 your way out of a Tier 1 problem! You will be inspired to strengthen the foundation of your Multi-Tiered System of Supports, and better equipped to implement it with fidelity.</p>