PA's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (PA-MTSS)

Pennsylvania has long established Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) as an optional guiding framework for comprehensive school improvement efforts, and through the PDE approval process an alternate method for identifying specific learning disabilities. While *RtII* (Response to Instruction and Intervention) is a familiar acronym in most schools, *MTSS* (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) may be relatively new language. Pennsylvania will be supporting the transition from Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) to PA's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (PA-MTSS).

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is defined as a comprehensive system of supports that in the Commonwealth includes standards-aligned, culturally responsive and high quality core instruction, universal screening, data-based decision-making, tiered services and supports, parental engagement, central/building level leadership, professional development and use of RtII for SLD determination via PDE's approval process. Simply put, PA-MTSS represents a broad set of evidence-based practices that may be implemented across a system to include Academics AND Behavior within a recursive and systematic problem-solving process. PA-MTSS is intended to help ALL students meet with continual academic and behavioral success.

PA Core Standards, MTSS and PA's Educator Effectiveness System serve to connect what students should know and be able to do within the context of effective instruction/intervention using data-based decision-making. PA's Educator Effectiveness System may be used as a mechanism to evaluate how well educators are bridging the what-how gap and target professional learning to help the field at large continue to evolve. Evidence associated with planning and preparation, the classroom environment, instruction and professional development and learning is naturally collected as a function of MTSS adoption and implementation.

Schools across PA continue to be strongly encouraged to adopt and implement RtII/MTSS and to use PA's RtII/SLD Application as an implementation guidance and fidelity tool.