River Forest
Public Schools

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MEMO

Date: November 2, 2026
To: Janice Pavelonis, Superintendent
From: Dr. Christine Trendel and Ms. Debbie Lubeck
RE: MTSS Framework Updates

During the November COW, we will provide a brief update on Goal 2, Strategy 1: Refine D90 MTSS Framework to ensure consistent implementation of comprehensive student supports districtwide. During our update, we will share information regarding the MTSS Audit we are conducting through our MTSS/Assessment Committee including the timeline, implementation details, and intended impact.

Summary of an Effective MTSS Framework

MTSS is defined as "A multi-tiered system of supports is a proactive and preventative framework that integrates data and instruction to maximize student success from a strengths-based perspective (American Institutes of Research, Feb. 2025)."

An effective MTSS Framework includes high leverage practices in five main areas that will be evaluated through the audit process. They include:

1. Screening
2. Progress Monitoring
3. Data-Based Decision Making
4. Multi-Level Prevention System including Tiers of Instructional Support
    a. Tier 1: High quality, schoolwide programming that meets the needs of all students. Students receive high-quality instruction with a research-based curriculum
    b. Tier 2: Supplemental interventions in place to support students in addition to Tier 1. These supports are typically small groups of instruction and feedback using validated intervention programs and progress monitoring tools.
    c. Tier 3: Intensive intervention support for the most at risk students. These supports are more intensive than Tier 2 and individualized based on student data. The intensity of these interventions includes smaller group sizes and higher frequency than Tier 2.
5. School Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms

MTSS Audit Summary

The purpose of conducting an audit is to reflect on the fidelity of MTSS implementation in D90. This audit will help us identify our areas of strength and areas for growth. This information will be utilized to design next steps for professional learning and MTSS framework revisions.

We are using a research-based implementation rubric specifically for MTSS developed by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). According to AIR, this tool supports individuals and school teams to:

- self-evaluate and monitor fidelity of local MTSS implementation
- develop and monitor MTSS implementation action plans
- plan and prioritize MTSS professional learning, and
- guide continuous improvement efforts.

Overview of MTSS/Assessment Committee

The purpose of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Committee is to collaborate to refine our MTSS framework; resulting in a clearly communicated MTSS process with visual and tangible resources, define clear roles and responsibilities for staff that support students throughout the MTSS process, and to bring a focus on data literacy across D90.

This committee will meet for 9 after-school meetings. Two of these meetings have already taken place.

- **Meeting 1 Recap:** Review previous work and learning from 2025-2026 related to high-quality systems of assessment, review committee purpose for 2026-2027.
- **Meeting 2 Recap:** Professional reading, reflect on current practices within D90 Tiers 1, 2, and 3, and preview the MTSS audit process and tool.
- **Meetings 3-9:** Complete audit, analyze findings, develop action plan for MTSS implementation and professional learning.