

# MTSS: A Shift in Mindset for Systems Thinking & Assessment

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Transforming Learning Summit  
August 8, 2019  
9:30/10:45 am

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# Learning Outcomes

**Learning Objective 1:** Attendees will understand an overview of a Multi Tiered System of Support and its benefits from a system lens.

**Learning Objective 2:** Attendees will understand why a shift in mindset is necessary to support its adult learners with systems thinking/assessment.

**Learning Objective 3:** Attendees will be able to identify mindset shifts needed in their own districts/organizations.

“When you have a system, you kind of get in a routine of what’s important. And then you spend a lot more time on thinking of things that would make it better.”

- Nick Saban



**Who are you?**



# **TRANSFORMING LEARNING SUMMIT**

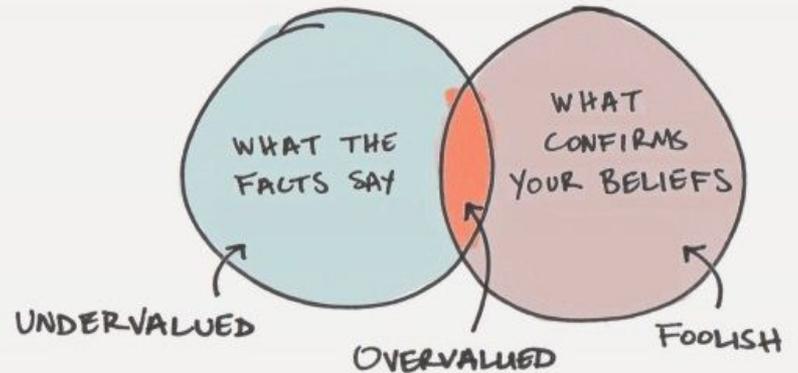
*For Minnesota's K-12 educators*



# Who am I?



## THE CONFIRMATION BIAS





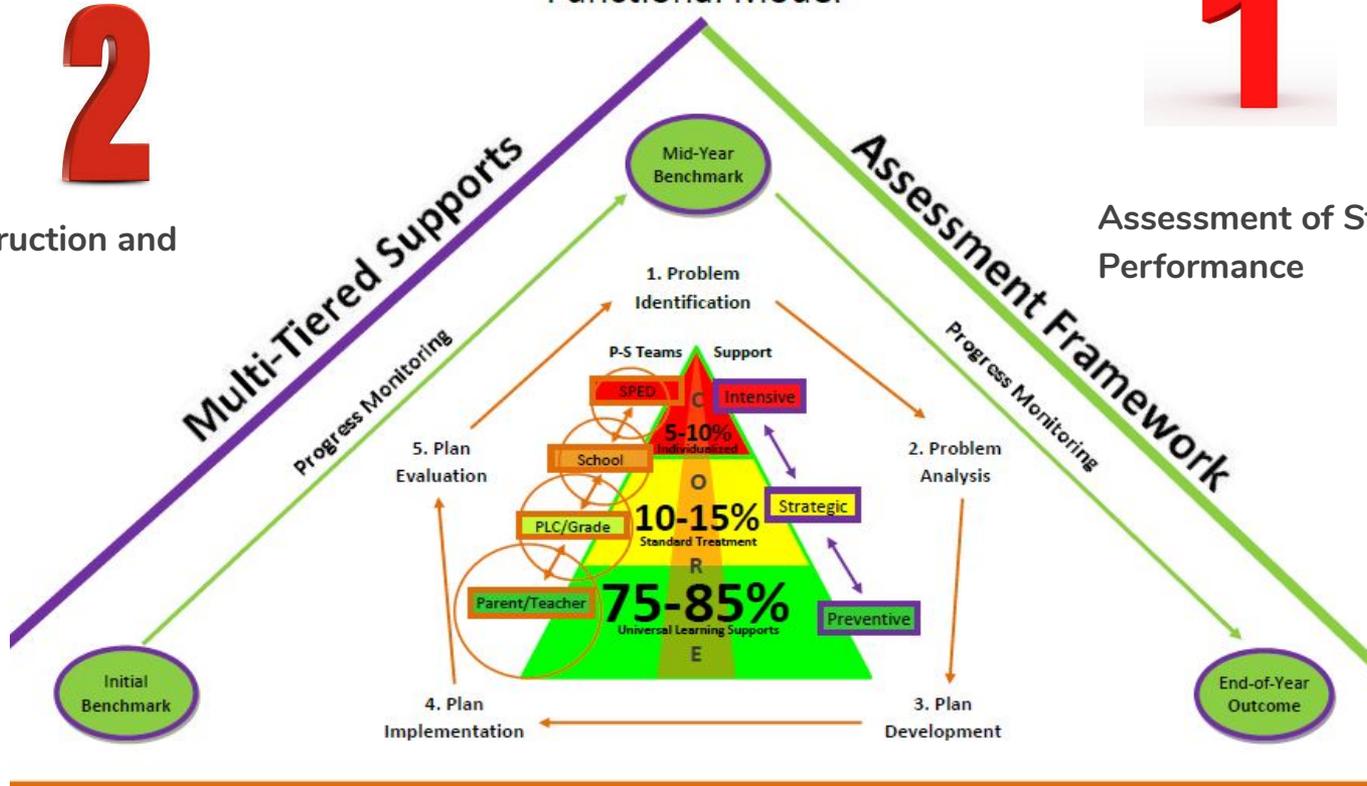
# The Swinging Pendulum

- ❖ Educational Practices
- ❖ Educational Research
- ❖ Accountability Measures



# Multi-Tiered System of Support

Functional Model



Learning objective 1

Systemwide Problem-Solving

Collaborative Teams use data to make instructional decisions.



# MTSS Implementation: The Big Five

Assessments

Data-Based Decision  
Making

Multilevel Instruction

Infrastructure &  
Support

Fidelity & Evaluation

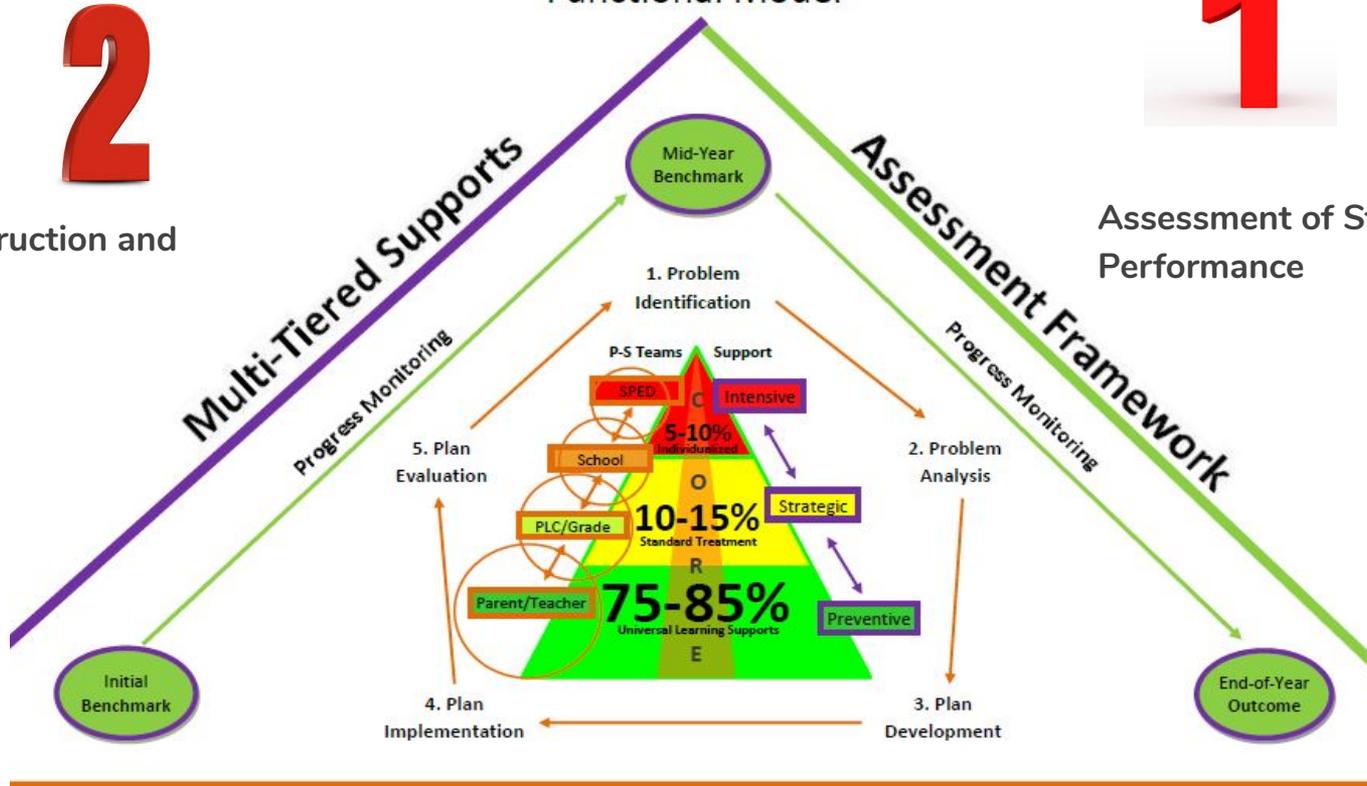
**Nice braided system...big happy world!**





# Multi-Tiered System of Support

Functional Model



Learning objective 1

Systemwide Problem-Solving

Collaborative Teams use data to make instructional decisions.



# Shift in Mindset

*Yeah, but...*





# Shift in Mindset

## *Systems Thinking vs. the Individual Learner*

### SYSTEMS THINKING

A perspective of seeing and understanding systems as wholes rather than as collections of parts—a web of interconnections that creates emerging patterns over time.



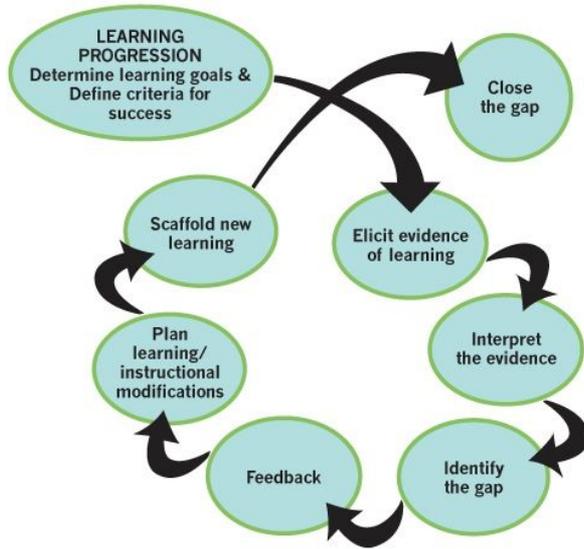
# Shift in Mindset *Assessment*

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve students' learning and teachers' teaching.



# Assessment for Learning

## FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT: CYCLE





## Universal Screening

- Universal includes all students in all domains (Reading, Math, SEL, etc.)
- *Use the data to determine, is there a gap between what is expected and what is occurring?*
- *Do I need more information on this student?*

## Diagnostic

- Assess only those students that you need more information on.
- *Why is there a gap between what is expected and what is occurring?*
- *Do we know what to do to close the gap?*

## Progress Monitoring

- Progress monitor any students that is receiving an intervention in a domain.
- *Is the student on track to close the gap between what is expected and what is occurring?*
- *Do we make any changes to this student's intervention plan?*

## Summative

- Assess all students in all domains (Reading, Math, SEL, etc).
- *How well did we do with each student and with all students?*



# Shift in Mindset

*What is a problem?*

~~GOTCHA!~~





# Problem Solving

## U of MN's Working Definition

Stan Deno, founder of Research Institute for Problem Solving at the U of MN, defines **Problem Solving** as:

“...whenever people act to eliminate a difference between conditions that they currently sense or perceive and alternative conditions that they desire. In short, problem solving occurs when people act to reduce the discrepancy between what they want and what they get.”



**STOP**  
**GUESSING**





# Shift in Mindset

## *What is a process?*

### Steps of the Problem Solving Process





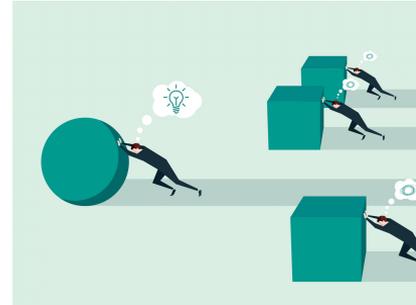
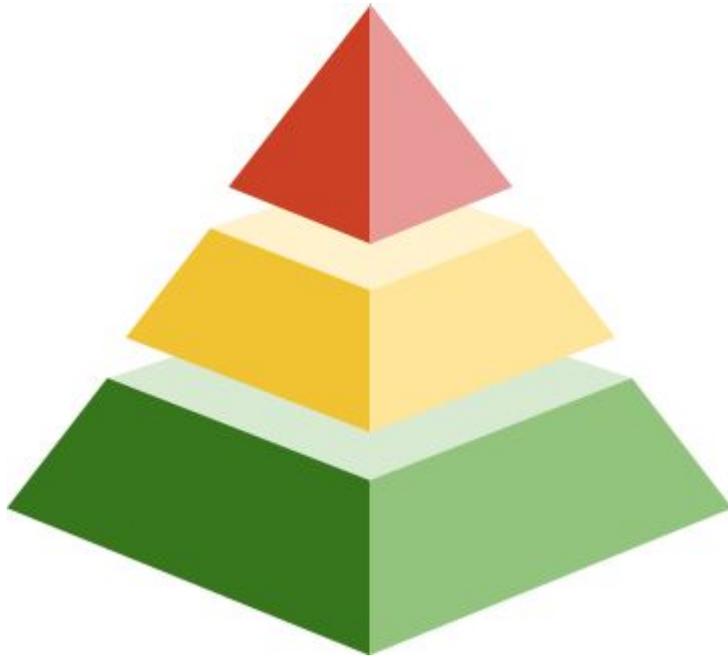
# Shift in Mindset

*Fix that kid.*



# Shift in Mindset

*What is a continuum of supports?*





# **Shift in Mindset**

## ***Problem Admiration***





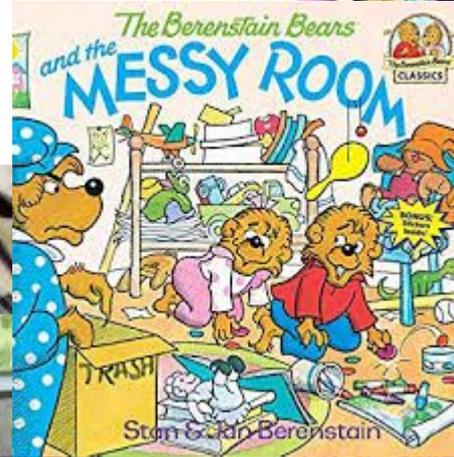
# Shift in Mindset

## *Adult Thinking and Learning*

<b>Old Thinking...</b>	<b>New Thinking...</b>
An instructional program	A framework to implement effective practices
The old way of doing business with a new label (pre-referral intervention)	Proactive and data-driven
Intended to encourage placement of students	Matching needs and resources
Possible to implement alone	A collaborative effort
The same for every school	Uniquely designed for each site
A special education, general education, a T/G, a Title, a whatever initiative	An every education initiative focusing on system change

# It's messy work.

We need to get over it.





**Yes, we can.**



Think.  
Play Nice.  
(10)



# References

*A complete reference list for one little slide can be problematic. If you are interested in full information, please contact me. I'm happy to share full reference list from my own dissertation that aligns and supports MTSS.*

*If you are in need of support, I strongly recommend CAREI, University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvements. We have used much of our PD with them to inform our systematic work. CAREI's executive director, Dr. Kim Gibbons, also hosts an annual MTSS institute.*