

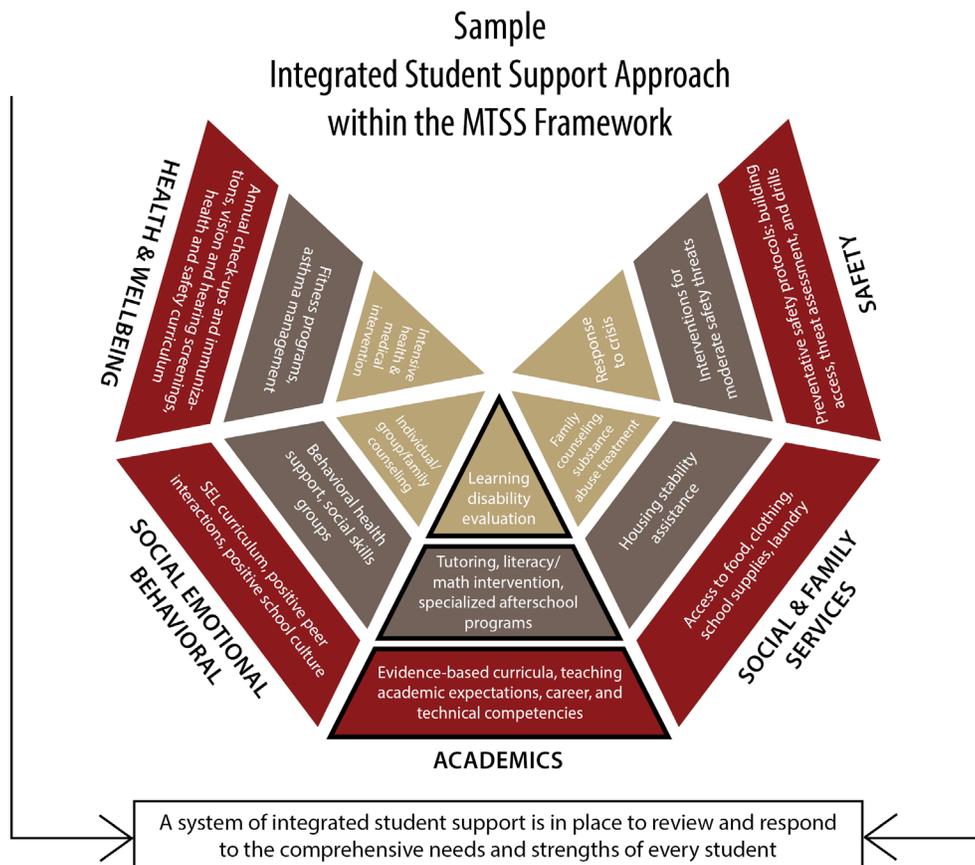
## MTSS AND INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORT

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is an approach to providing instruction and interventions at different levels of intensity to address students' academic needs. Integrated Student Support (ISS) aligns with this approach and allows schools to support many domains of development that promote student success in academics and beyond.

MTSS focuses on prevention and problem solving for all students. Within an MTSS framework for academics, there are three tiers of educational provision and support. Tier I includes universal curricula and supports, which are provided for all students. Tier II includes targeted or supplemental supports that are delivered to some students. Tier III includes intensive interventions and supports that are delivered to a few students who face significant barriers to learning.

Like MTSS, ISS works with all students. ISS extends a tiered-intervention framework to consider multiple domains of development and address the needs of the whole child. ISS promotes student success by “developing or securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement.” Grounded in the developmental sciences, effective ISS seeks a comprehensive understanding of each student’s unique strengths and needs across academic, social/emotional-behavioral, health, family, and other domains. It provides a way for schools and families to collaborate on an individualized support plan for each student, connecting students to services in the school, district, and community. High-quality ISS tracks progress and permits accountability.

ISS is consistent with the MTSS framework and works powerfully in conjunction with MTSS. By applying a tiered framework to a comprehensive set of developmental domains that support healthy child development, MTSS and ISS can lead to significant gains in academic achievement and thriving. The diagram below provides an example of how an MTSS framework can be expanded to encompass an integrated system of student support, allowing a school to organize – and make more effective – programs and services from both the school and the community.



## REFERENCES

The MTSS definition was informed by The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Washington <https://www.k12.wa.us/multi-tiered-system-supports-mtss>

The ISS definition was informed by the 2014 Child Trends Report: Integrated student support: A summary of the evidence base for policymakers <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014-05ISSWhitePaper1.pdf>

*The mission of the Center for Optimized Student Support is to design, implement, and evaluate ways to address the out-of-school factors impacting student learning and thriving in schools.*

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