

>> The Multi-Tiered System of Supports, MTSS Academic Initiative, welcomes STEM. Come join us at the Eisenhower Conference Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for fantastic learning opportunities and networking.

We're excited to offer you many opportunities, ranging from Literacy to Science, Engineering, Math and Technology. Register to attend different strand sessions, or experience one strand in its entirety. It's your choice, based upon your needs. You may be asking, where and how does Pennsylvania's STEM initiative fit with MTSS? We think that enhancing STEM experiences and outcomes for all students happens best through collaboration and database decision-making. Teachers, who provide increasingly intensive scaffolds and leverage cultural assets will be the pioneers for generating STEM-rich experiences for all students.

Imagine schools housed inside national tech companies, games, simulations and cognitive tutoring systems, and students learning through activities that invite play, risk and even failure. Help MTSS join with STEM to explore what we might look like now and in the future. Pennsylvania's MTSS and Literacy initiatives have worked closely to assist schools with prevention of early reading failure, and the adoption of evidence-based practices. Team after team has reported seeing ambitious growth as a result of refining, aligning and intensifying Tier III supports and services.

Since 2015, the MTSS initiative has offered more than 20 teams the opportunity to receive intensive training and technical assistance in Writing. Each team spends an entire year refining macro and micro-level Writing instruction, and implementing tiered supports for struggling writers. These are just some of the outcomes our teams have seen. More than 25 teams have participated in PaTTAN's statewide MTSS Math cohort series. Our Math teams have all seen tremendous improvements and instruction and assessment practices. And many reported better PSSA outcomes.

Twelve high schools are currently participating in Pennsylvania's state systemic improvement plan in an effort to increase graduation rates for all students, particularly those students who are most at risk. Each high school is implementing and monitoring the impact of specific strategies that have been shown to increase student resilience and the likelihood of graduating. The English Learner and MTSS Initiatives have historically worked very closely to help all practitioners to deepen their understanding of language development, culturally responsive pedagogy and the implementation of evidence-based Math, Reading and Writing instruction for diverse learners.

The Bureau of Special Education has an approval process in place for any school who seeks to use response to intervention methodologies to determine specific learning disability. As of 2017, roughly one in every two Pennsylvania school districts has established a Multi-Tiered System of Support; that's over 250 districts. We want to offer special recognition to the schools above for seeking approval to use RTI for SLD determination. These schools have worked very hard to sustain effective MTSS models. Come to the RTI SLD strand to hear some of the lessons they have learned along their journey.

>> We look forward to having a great implementers' forum.