

Summary of Concept Paper – Supportive Technologies Version 1.0 – May 30, 2024



Purpose: This paper explores the concept of "supportive technologies" within the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, aiming to optimize student engagement, overcome learning barriers, and provide universal, targeted, and intensive technology-based supports.

Background on MTSS:

- **Definition:** A comprehensive continuum of evidence-based practices to support rapid responses to student needs with regular observation for data-based decision-making (ESSA, 2015).
- **Components:**
 - **Tiers of Support:** Universal, targeted, and intensive levels.
 - **Screening:** Universal assessments to identify potential concerns.
 - **Progress Monitoring:** Routine checks on student performance to adjust support.
 - **Data-Driven Decisions:** Utilizing individual student data for making support decisions.

Role of Technology in MTSS:

- **Information Technology (IT):** Used for data management and analysis.
- **Educational Technology (EdTech):** Provides academic and behavioral interventions.
- **Assistive Technology (AT):** Supports individual needs of students with special education services or 504 accommodations.

Supportive Technologies:

- **Definition:** Technologies that decrease barriers to curriculum access and compensate for students' skill gaps, available to all students.
- **Functions:**
 - **Universal Supports:** Built-in accessibility features (e.g., read-aloud, assisted typing).
 - **Targeted Supports:** More specific tools (e.g., speech-to-text, translation) for particular groups or individual students.
 - **Intensive Supports:** Customized interventions to meet individual student needs.

Importance of Compensatory Technology:

- Bridges the gap between students' current abilities and grade-level expectations.
- Provides immediate access to learning opportunities, supporting continuous engagement in the curriculum.
- Complements remediation by allowing students to keep up with grade-level content while developing specific skills.

Implementation within MTSS:

- Aligns with MTSS tiers by providing increasingly intensive and individualized technology supports.
- Encourages data-based decision-making to adjust the use of supportive technologies based on student needs.
- Supports concurrent use of remediation and compensation, ensuring students remain engaged in classroom instruction.

Conclusion: Integrating supportive technology within MTSS enhances educational experiences and outcomes by providing essential compensatory supports that allow all students to access and engage with the curriculum effectively.

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This handout captures the essence of the document and can be distributed to participants for quick reference.