

Designing for Belonging: Building a Strong Tier One to Support the Inclusion of Students with Extensive Support Needs

MTSS Integrated Conference 2024



We would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of **The Nimiipuu (Nez Perce)** and **the Palus People** who have lived in the Pacific Northwest, from time immemorial.



Presenting Today



Gail Ghere
TIES Center



Sarah Butcher
Roots of Inclusion



Jennifer Karls
Roots of Inclusion



RinaMarie Leon-Guerrero
UW Haring Center
Demonstration Sites



Shane Miramontez
UW Haring Center
Demonstration Sites



Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network (IPTN)

The IPTN is an intentional collective of technical assistance (TA) and support providers working together, in partnership with OSPI and WestEd, to increase inclusionary practices for students with individualized education plans (IEPs) across Washington state.



IPTN

Who's here today?

- Parents/ Families
- Self-advocates
- General Educators
- Special Educators
- Related Service Providers
- Counselors
- Administrators
- District Coaches
- Higher Education Representatives
- Other

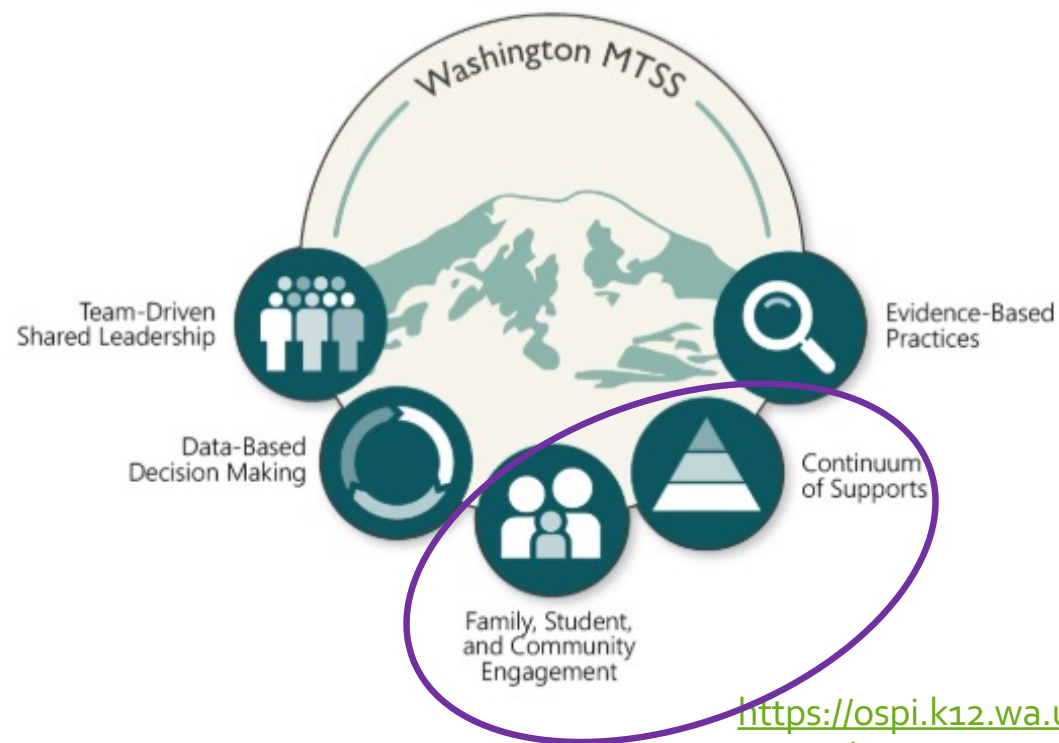
Menti.com

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Participants will...

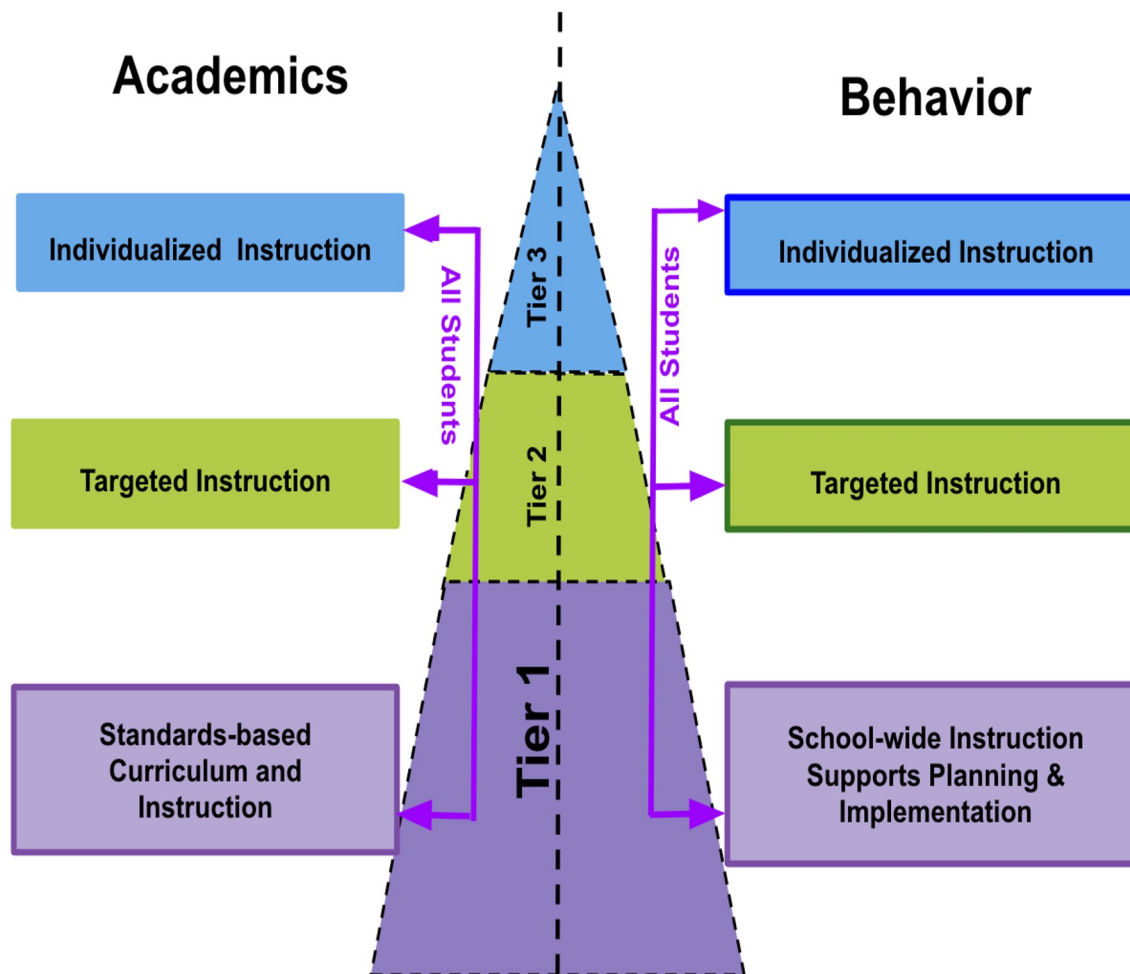
- Understand the non-negotiable components of a Tier 1 System
- Consider barriers and solutions to engaging in high quality Tier 1 for ALL students
- Recognize ways to leverage families in building strong Tier 1 systems
- Consider what is their Call-to-Action in their schools

Washington State MTSS Framework

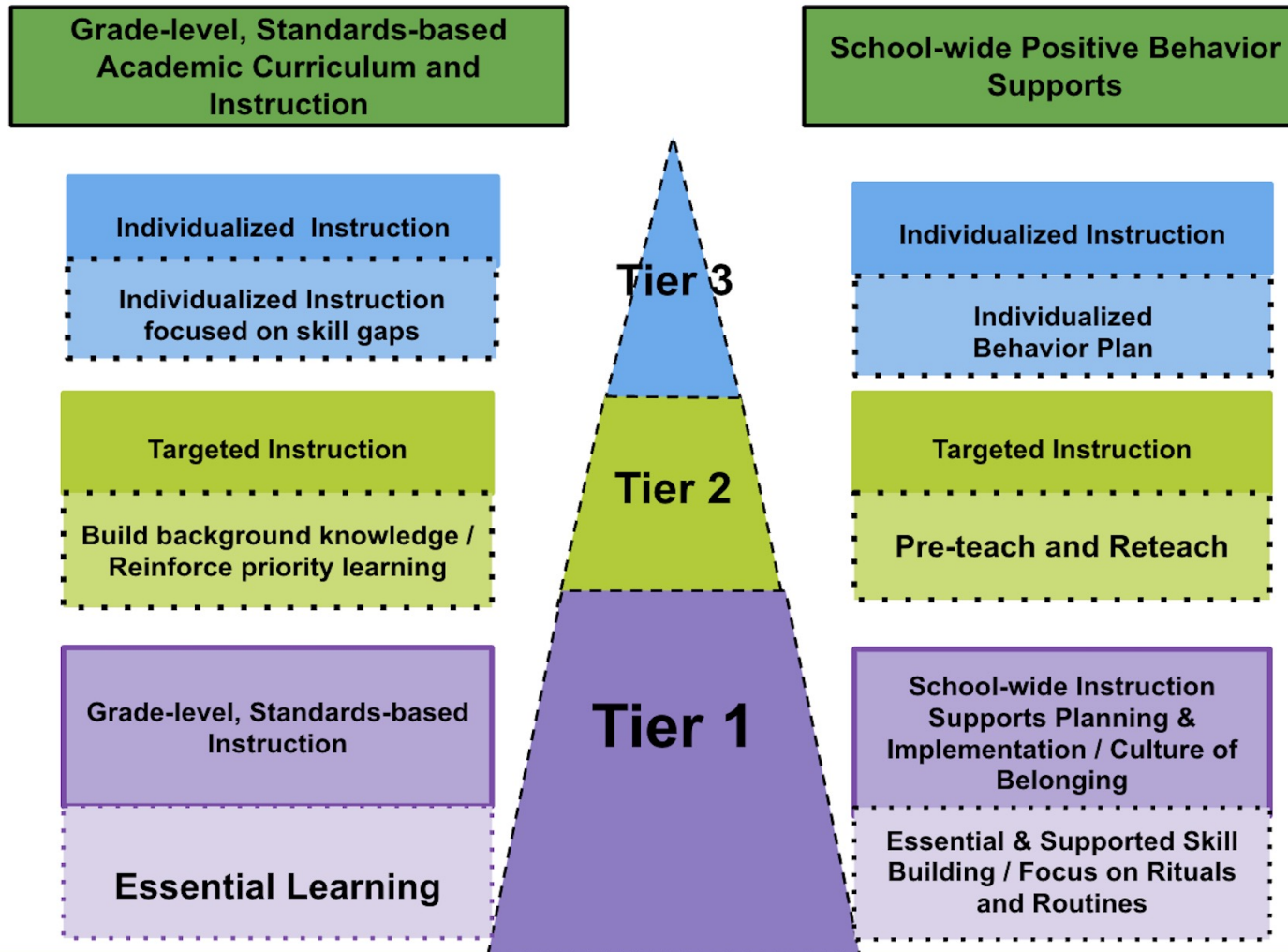


https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2023-10/washington_s-mtss-framework-document.pdf

Multi-Tiered System of Supports



MTSS for All Students





Versus
only
receiving

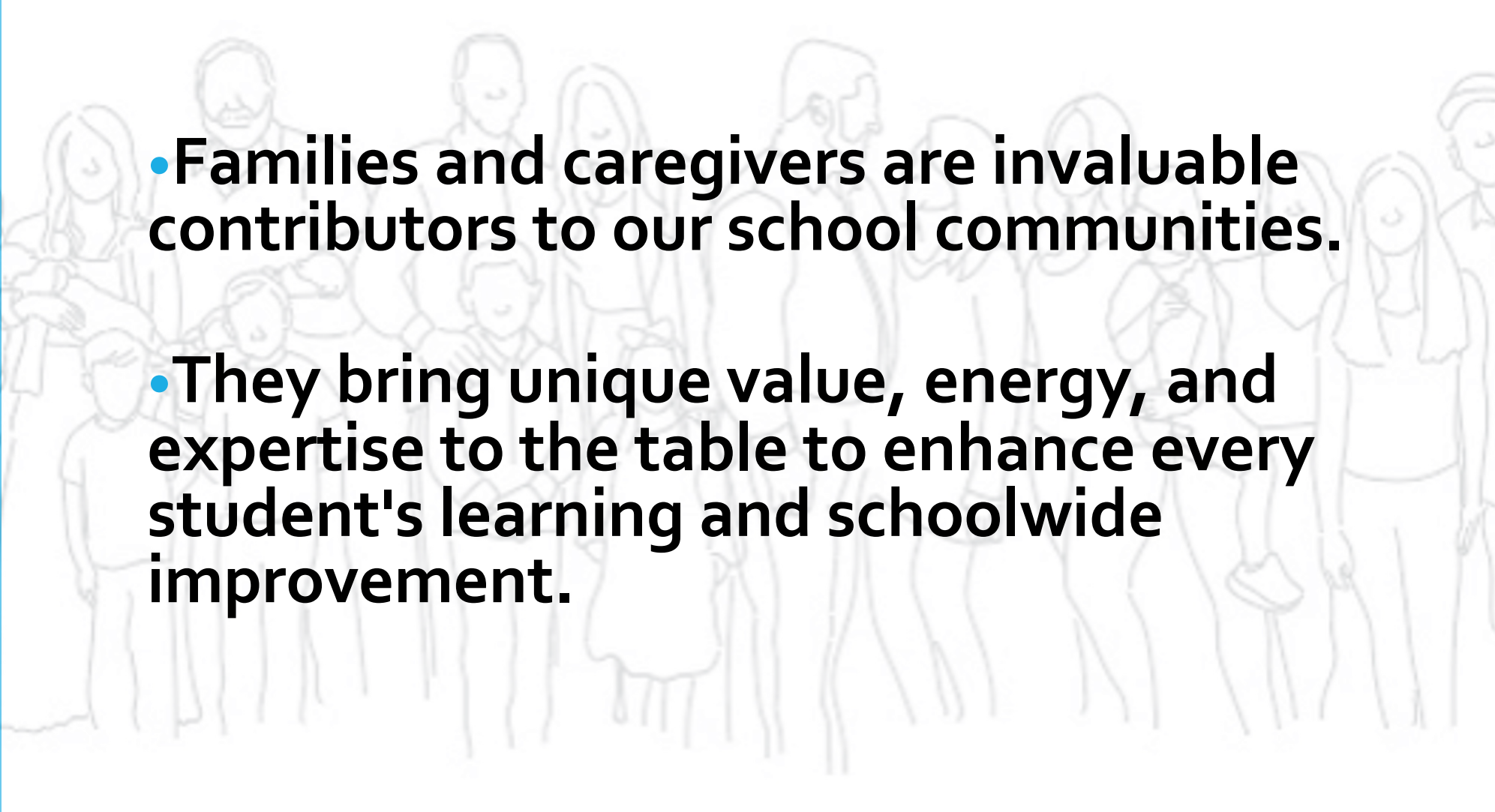


What does the "*cone*" include in a school?

What is the outcome when a student with extensive support needs is not part of / does not access all that a school offers (i.e. the *cone*)?

What message does it send to others when a student does not belong / experience the school's *cone*?



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- **Families and caregivers are invaluable contributors to our school communities.**
 - **They bring unique value, energy, and expertise to the table to enhance every student's learning and schoolwide improvement.**

Family and Community Engagement

Schoolwide family and caregiver engagement strategies

- Design for access to ensure all families and caregivers can participate
- Build a welcoming and inclusive school culture
- Include families of children with the most extensive support needs in the universal programs and activities of the school community
- Design and refine strategies with families and caregivers to support all students through a dynamic and equitable system of support



Concrete Examples



Every family and caregiver in the school community receives school communications



Accessibility of events is planned for to ensure language access, options for transportation, availability of childcare, a physically accessible venue, participants can request accommodations



Family-teacher conferences and whole-school family surveys are inclusive and accessible to every family



Tailored supports are available for families that need them to participate



The Cone: School Culture

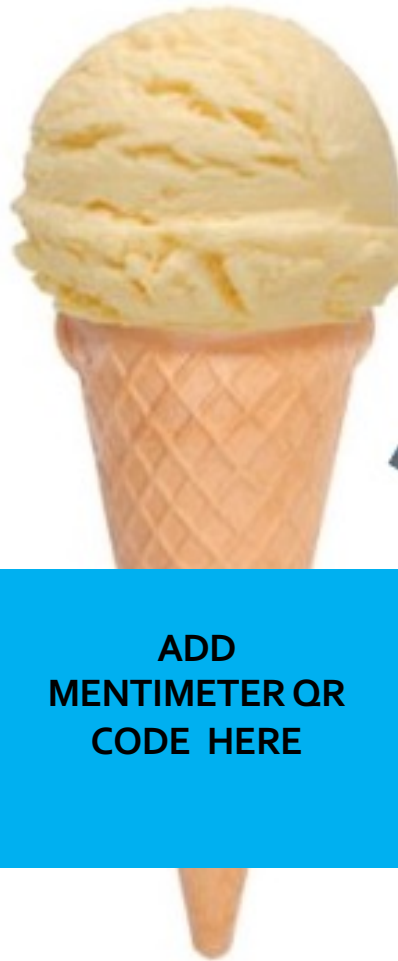
Inclusive Principles

- Sense of Belonging in school community
- Every student is a general education student. Meaning students with extensive support needs are on their class rosters.
- ALL staff receive the same training and professional development.
- Extracurricular activities (sports, arts, cultural events) are accessible to ALL students.

Concrete Examples

- Students are in all community spaces. Have opportunity to eat where they choose in lunchroom or commons.
- School and home communications follow roster. Families receive communications on classroom events.
- ALL staff receive professional development on school wide positive behavior supports and use of consistent language.
- Students are encouraged and invited to join sports and clubs.





What does Tier 1 include?

What are the outcomes when a student with extensive support needs does not access and learn in Tier 1?

What message is sent to others when a student is not part of Tier 1?

First Scoop: What does TIER 1 include?

Inclusive Principles

- Instruction considers learner variability and is universally designed.
- Flexible service delivery.
- Flexible spaces and materials.
- Prioritize collaboration structures (i.e. common planning time, co-planning, grade level or department planning).
- Students are accessing grade level content standards. IEP goals are aligned to standards.

Concrete Examples

- Alternative Augmented Communication (AAC) devices are utilized in instruction.
- Adults flex to provide services in classrooms or other flexible spaces. Adults, not students move.
- Small group or quiet spaces accessible to all students.
- Teams have built in time in schedule to collaborate.



Leveraging Families

Feeling like your child's needs are being thought of

How do we not reinforce existing biases

Families and communities should not be an Asterix at the end



**Family
and
School
Engagement**



**Intentional
and
Authentic
Relationship**



Partnership

Relationships Matter

- School and Family partnerships are held together through relationships
- Relationships are the interactions that drive complex adaptive systems
- All learning takes place in the context of relationships and is critically affected by the quality of those relationships





*“Know that you're enough!
You do not have to be a
perfect teacher who knows all
about my child's disability
and inclusion to make a
profound impact on his life.
Presume competence,
intentionally make my child
an equal member of your
classroom, and don't be
afraid to ask for support.”*

- Courtney, Parent & Advocate -

What is your Call-to-Action?



WHAT RESONATES THAT YOU ARE
ALREADY DOING?



WHAT IS SOMETHING NEW THAT
YOU WILL DO?



WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT I AM
COMMITTING TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT?

Resources

<p>TIES/NCEO Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities https://nceo.umn.edu/docs/OnlinePubs/Tool15_MTSS.pdf</p>	<p>Community Conversations Toolkit https://www.fecinclusion.org/community-conversation-toolkit.html</p>	<p>UW Demonstration Sites https://ippdemosites.org/ See school webinars and artifacts, tip sheets and more.</p>
 <p>MTSS</p>	 <p>Community Conversations Toolkit</p>	 <p>IPP Demo Sites</p>

Thank you!



<https://tiescenter.org/>



<https://www.rootsofinclusion.org/>



<https://ippdemosites.org/>