



Kansas State Department of Education External Evaluation of the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS)

EVALUATION FACT SHEET

Purpose

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) has contracted with WestEd¹ to conduct an external evaluation of the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS). The project will design, pilot, refine, and implement an evaluation system that measures the statewide progress of MTSS toward its main goal: *creating a statewide system of support to local schools and districts in order to increase school capacity to use resources in ways that enable every child to be successful*. The project will provide formative and summative evaluation information to KSDE for improving and sustaining MTSS at the school, district and state levels.

Plan for the Evaluation

The external evaluation will take place over a four-year period. Year 1 will involve the development of a comprehensive evaluation plan and the development and piloting of instrumentation and data collection procedures. Year 2 will involve piloting the evaluation in a selected number of districts and schools. Years 3 and 4 will involve full implementation of the evaluation design. Two WestEd senior staff, Kristin Reedy, Ed.D., and Natalie Lacireno-Paquet, Ph.D., will co-direct the project and lead a team of evaluators to conduct the MTSS evaluation. The evaluation will involve a mixed methods design using qualitative as well as quantitative methodologies.

Evaluation Questions

1. **Scope:** How many schools, districts, and early childhood settings are participating in MTSS?
2. **Implementation:** Annually, how many schools, districts, and early childhood settings are (a) exploring the use of MTSS to meet students' academic and behavioral needs, (b) adopting and installing components of MTSS (e.g., assessments, curriculum, instruction, etc.), or (c) successfully implementing MTSS with fidelity?
3. **Student Outcomes:** How are students performing in schools, districts, and early childhood settings that are fully implementing MTSS?
4. **Statewide System and Infrastructure:** How effective are KSDE and MTSS Core Team activities in supporting statewide implementation of MTSS with fidelity by schools, districts, and early childhood settings?
5. **Sustainability:** How successful are schools, districts, and early childhood settings in sustaining MTSS?

¹ Information about WestEd may be found at www.wested.org.

Data Collection Strategies

Multiple data collection strategies will be used in this evaluation. A statewide online survey will involve all public schools in Kansas. Others activities will target a subset of schools implementing MTSS. The KSDE and WestEd evaluators respectfully request the cooperation and participation of Kansas schools and districts in data collection efforts. Evaluation activities will be designed to minimize the data collection burden on schools. The planned data collection activities and anticipated schedule are listed below.

1. Statewide online survey—all schools
2. Interviews and/or Focus Groups
3. Case Study Visits—selected schools and district(s)
4. Data Analysis: Student performance on State Assessments & Core Team Data on MTSS Participation
5. Document and website review
6. Building Level Status Forms and Office Discipline Referral (ODR) Data

Evaluation Data Collection Timeline

Data Collection Activity	Fall 2011 (Pilot)	Winter/ Spring 2012	Fall 2012	Winter/ Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Winter/ Spring 2014
Core Team Data on MTSS Participation	X		X		X	
Student Performance on State Assessments	X	X		X		X
Document Review		X		X		X
Statewide Online Survey	X	X		X		X
Case Study Visits	X		X		X	X
Building Level Status Forms & ODR Data	X	X		X		X
Interviews and Focus Groups	X		X		X	

For more information about the MTSS external evaluation, please contact Natalie Lacireno-Paquet or Kristin Reedy at WestEd by email at MTSSevaluation@wested.org or by phone at 1-800-347-4200 extension 1133.

For more information about MTSS, in general, please contact the KSDE MTSS Core Team at info@kansasmtss.org.

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