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## MTSS Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms Series

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### Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness

A multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) is a universal framework designed to address the learning and behavioral needs of all students. To meet the needs of students, it is critical to focus on cultural and linguistic responsiveness (CLR). By considering CLR, staff use more equitable and appropriate approaches for their students' cultural and linguistic needs. In addition, schools can encourage teachers' self-awareness of their own biases, culture, and identity that they bring to school, which enables them to improve the school climate and teacher-student relationships.

### What Does Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness Look Like at the School Level?

In well-designed models, staff can articulate information and factors that they consider when adopting culturally and linguistically relevant instructional practices, assessments, and intervention programs. By embedding CLR as part of implementing MTSS, schools can facilitate learning in an environment wherein students feel safe, valued, and seen. The school MTSS leadership team comprises and/or consults with community members, parents, and students from different cultures to understand their perspectives and needs. In addition, this team ensures that programming and interventions fit with the school's community, values, and history.

### Tips for Implementation

- Use professional development to help teachers examine bias and learn ways to use culturally responsive instruction and assessment.
- Focus on relationship building between students and staff with programming and instruction.
- Adopt curricula and instruction that supports learning practices and knowledge from students' home cultures and communities.
- Incorporate linguistic scaffolds into instruction to ensure student access to instruction.
- Use assessment practices that consider students' primary languages and cultures, English-language proficiency, and ongoing linguistic, academic, or behavior progress.

### Resources

- [Leveraging MTSS to Ensure Equitable Outcomes](#) (brief)
- [MTSS for English Learners](#) (briefs)
- [Taxonomy of Intervention Intensity: Considerations for English Learners](#) (handout)
- [PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and Coaches](#)

To learn more about CLR, visit [www.MTSS4success.org](http://www.MTSS4success.org).