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## MTSS Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms Series

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### Communication With and Involvement of Families

By collaborating and communicating with families, schools can provide transparency regarding a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) and ultimately strengthen the working relationship between schools and families. At a minimum, schools can communicate with and involve families to help them understand the MTSS process, to share student information (both with and from parents/guardians), and to engage parents/guardians in the decision-making process.

### What Does Communication With and Involvement of Families Look Like at the School Level?

To successfully communicate with and involve families, schools can ensure that families understand the MTSS framework within the school and its essential components. Furthermore, schools can ensure that families understand the steps of MTSS, including when and why universal screening occurs for their child and how often progress monitoring occurs. Schools can capture this information in a handbook, a brochure, or an infographic. They also can hold “family nights” to share information with families.

All parents should be aware of MTSS and the procedures, regardless of whether their child needs intervention. If a student needs intervention, schools should inform parents and provide information on the intervention used, the duration of the intervention, and the target skills the student is working on. When schools are providing targeted supports (Tier 2), families may receive a notice in the mail or attend a brief meeting to share information. If a student needs intensive supports (Tier 3), schools should include families in the intensification process. This process can include collaborating with families and analyzing diagnostic data to develop a hypothesis as to why the student is not progressing. Schools should ensure frequent and clear communication so that families are not surprised if their child needs more intensive intervention. When students receive an intervention, their families should be frequently updated on the students’ progress.

### Tips for Implementation

- Distribute an MTSS informational sheet or infographic to families that summarizes the intervention process in an easy-to-understand manner. Reference this when/if their child receives an intervention.
- Host MTSS informational sessions as part of “back to school” or “meet the teacher” programming.
- Have materials available in various languages so that all families can access them.

### Resources

- Find examples of infographics from the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII): [Intensive Intervention Infographics for Parents and Families](#).
- Explore NCII’s [Intensive Intervention: A Practitioner’s Guide for Communicating with Parents and Families](#).