

# MTSS Fall Newsletter

October 2023

## Multi-Tiered System of Supports

### ONE LCPS| 2027 Strategic Plan for Excellence

Loudoun County Public Schools promotes the use of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework comprised of universal, targeted, and intensive practices aimed at supporting all learners' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs. MTSS is emphasized within Goal 1, Empowered Students, Action 1.3, Care for Students, to ensure that LCPS is a safe and affirming learning environment for all students. This environment is achieved by implementing a system of supports to address their academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs and to help prepare LCPS students to be knowledgeable critical thinkers, communicators, collaborators, creators, and contributors.



### Phoenix MTSS Module

We are pleased to share, as of the start of this school year, that all schools are using the Phoenix MTSS Module to document Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions for students in the areas of literacy, math, behavior, and mental health. We thank the Department of Digital Innovation for their technical support. Members of the MTSS team are available for both in-person and virtual support, including professional learning, navigating resources on the [MTSS Library>Intervention](#) page, and providing direct support to staff in their creation of intervention plans. So far this year, we have been to many schools and look forward to continuing this work together!

**MTSS Behavioral Incident Data Qlik Application** The MTSS Data Analytics Tool has been renamed MTSS Behavioral Incident Data Qlik Application. Just as before, this application can be accessed via the Learning Climate stream in Qlik, and it provides an overview of real-time behavioral incident data for school teams to identify strategies and/or interventions to support the needs of learners.

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# Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)



## PBIS Fall Site Visits and Goals

The division PBIS team will conduct a fall site visit with all schools prior to the end of the first quarter. As part of these meetings, a SMART goal for PBIS implementation will be created in collaboration with the school-based PBIS teams and administrators. These goals will help school-based PBIS teams as part of the division's MTSS goals within the LCPS Strategic Plan.

## Classroom Management

[Classroom Management](#) resources have been updated and reorganized. We've created a classroom management series broken into the following domains:

- Creating Safe and Organized Classroom Environments
- Define Model, Teach, and Practice Expectations and Routines
- Creating a Welcoming, Inclusive Classroom Community
- Responding to Behavior in the Classroom

**Our first session is on Responding to Behavior in the Classroom on November 1. Sign up today!**

After completing each domain, staff will have actionable steps to improve classroom management. The domains can be taken individually or as part of a larger course.

There are multiple opportunities to engage in Classroom Management professional learning.

1. In-person sessions at the division office
  - a. Search "PBIS" in PowerSchool
2. School-based sessions for whole staff, grade levels, or departments
  - a. Contact your PBIS support person
3. Schoology courses
  - a. Search for courses in PowerSchool or find links to the courses on the PBIS Classroom Management page

## Tier 2 and Tier 3 Interventions

### Check-In/Check-Out and Mentoring

CICO and Mentoring are two interventions that Intervention Teams can consider for students in need of more intensive behavioral support. The [Tier 2 PBIS page](#) in the MTSS library is a great resource for an overview of available interventions.

CICO trainings are available [throughout the year](#). The division PBIS team can also come to your school and train your staff.

Unsure of which intervention is best for your student's needs? Check out the [CICO](#) vs. [Mentoring](#) pages to see the similarities and differences to best match the intervention with the student's needs.

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## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)



### Rounding Out Second Step SEL

The initial implementation of Second Step SEL started in the fall of 2019, with 33 elementary schools in kindergarten and first grade. In the years following, the division expanded grade levels, added the remaining elementary schools, and started introducing Second Step to middle schools in the fall of 2021. This school year, the division is rounding out middle school Second Step SEL implementation by welcoming Blue Ridge, Harmony, Farmwell Station, and Smart's Mill.

### 5 Ways to Make a Friend

In partnership with A Place to Be, a local music therapy and arts nonprofit, we are excited to share this year's show for PreK-2 elementary students, *5 Ways to Make a Friend*. This 30-minute, interactive musical is created and performed by A Place to Be staff. The musical inspires, entertains, and teaches LCPS students in grades PreK-2 ways to be a friend. The five strategies outlined in this learning opportunity include:



1. Be kind
2. Be sure to share
3. Include others
4. Accept people who are different
5. L.O.V.E - care for others and find things you have in common

These concepts connect with lessons students learn throughout the year during their Morning Meetings. Classroom teachers are provided with materials to introduce key concepts presented in the musical and work with their students on these concepts before the show. Teachers also receive lessons and songs to reinforce friendship strategies throughout the year.

### Second Step Family Access Accounts

Families and caregivers are our students' first teachers and play an essential role in building their social-emotional competencies throughout life. One of the ways our division seeks to cultivate this partnership is through clear communication and sharing of materials related to the social-emotional learning instruction taking place at school.

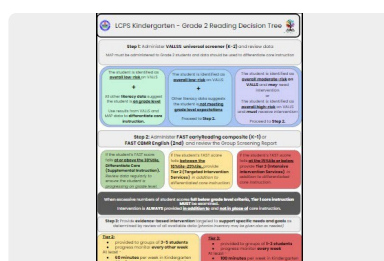
Each elementary and middle school has a Second Step Family Access Code. Schools are given Second Step Family Access Letters to share with their community, including directions for creating the account and the unique school code. Additionally, Second Step provides summaries for each lesson, which schools share with families through various forms of communication, including school newsletters, emails, and websites.

### Your Wellbeing: An Invitation to Me Time!

In partnership with Wellness Works! we are offering a new professional development course, *Your Wellbeing: An Invitation to Me Time!*, focusing on you! This course explores practices for supporting physical, social and emotional well-being while connecting to the core competencies of social-emotional learning (SEL). Explore different strategies each week for targeted practice of SEL competencies and use what works for you. Take 10-15 minutes each week to complete this asynchronous course to improve your overall well-being and earn PD points! Register in Power School using Course Code #19221. The course begins November 6 and ends at Winter Break.

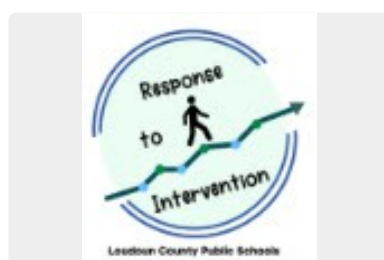


## Response to Intervention (RTI)



### Updated Literacy Guidance Documents Available

The Literacy Decision Trees and Instructional Matrix have been updated to align with assessment and instruction changes. The Kindergarten-Grade 2 Decision Tree includes guidance on using Virginia Language & Literacy Screener (VALLS) criteria to identify students in need of tiered supports and specific guidance for using Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) reading assessments to monitor targeted literacy intervention. The Instructional Match Matrix has been updated to align with the 5 Pillars of Reading. Families can access these documents from the [LCPS website](#), and teachers can access these and other implementation resources from the MTSS Library.



### RTI Professional Learning Available in Schoology

**Targeted Multisensory Phonics** (formerly ESCPI) and **FAST Reading Assessments Part 1 and Part 2** professional learning are now available in Schoology. These are designed for staff who have never been trained to use FAST or ESCPI. Both are asynchronous courses, and staff must first register for them in PowerSchool in order to gain access.

#### Targeted Multisensory Phonics (formerly ESCPI)

- Search any of these words to locate the course in PowerSchool



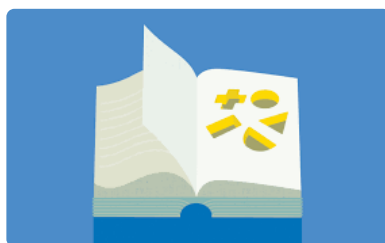
### **FAST Reading Assessments Part 1: Navigating & Screening**

- This is a prerequisite for Part 2
- Search "FAST Part 1" to locate the course in PowerSchool

### **FAST Reading Assessments Part 2: Reporting & Progress Monitoring**

- Must complete Part 1 to register
- Search "FAST Part 2" to locate course in PowerSchool

Previously trained staff can access Targeted Multisensory Phonics and FAST resources in Schoology Groups and do not need to complete these courses. Please reach out to [kristin.mcgraw@lcps.org](mailto:kristin.mcgraw@lcps.org) or [devon.becker@lcps.org](mailto:devon.becker@lcps.org) for the group codes.



### **Winter Math and Reading Assessment Dates**

FAST: January 2 - February 9

iReady: January 8 - February 2

MAP: January 8 - January 30

VALLS: January 2 - February 2

VKRP: Not administered in winter



**Loudoun County Public Schools**

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