



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Instructional Leaders  
District Read to Succeed Liaisons

**FROM:** David M. Mathis, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

**DATE:** June 12, 2019

**RE:** 2019–20 Implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

On May 18, 2018, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law Act 213, which directs districts to begin implementation of MTSS for the 2019–20 school year. MTSS addresses the needs of the whole child – academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally – through a holistic and personalized system of learning that incorporates academics and social emotional into one framework. A full copy of the law, including requirements for schools, districts, and the state, may be found here: [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122\\_2017-2018/bills/4434.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122_2017-2018/bills/4434.htm).

To aid districts as they begin implementation of MTSS, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has completed the MTSS Framework and Guidance Document. The Framework and Guidance document offers an overview of the six components of MTSS, the roles and responsibilities of state, district, and school leaders, and reference documents to guide implementation. It also includes the Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation (SAM) rubric, which districts may use to measure their current readiness for implementing MTSS at the school level. A copy of the Framework and Guidance document is attached.

A core component of the law is the use of universal screeners in early grades. Universal screeners are brief, standardized assessments used for the early identification and prevention of reading difficulties. Last month, the state Learning Disorders Task Force selected a list of universal screeners that may be used by districts. The group used guides from the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) and the Center on Response to Intervention to select the screening tools. The approved universal screeners include:

- [earlyReading Composite from FAST](#);

- [mCLASS Reading 3D from Amplify](#);
- [Acadience Reading \(previously called DIBELS Next\) from Dynamic Measurement Group](#);
- [AIMSweb from Pearson](#);
- [DIBELS 6<sup>th</sup> Edition and DIBELS 8<sup>th</sup> Edition](#);
- [easyCBM](#); and
- [STEEP Oral Reading Fluency](#).

The SCDE will offer professional learning opportunities (PLOs) in the fall on MTSS implementation. Sessions topics will include:

- Overview of MTSS;
- Using universal screener data to inform Tier 1 instruction;
- Effective phonics instruction; and
- The six components of MTSS (will be offered as virtual modules).

To register for an on-site regional PLO, please visit:

[https://scde.formstack.com/forms/oell\\_fall\\_plo\\_registration](https://scde.formstack.com/forms/oell_fall_plo_registration).

Please contact Teresa Broughton at [tbroughton@ed.sc.gov](mailto:tbroughton@ed.sc.gov) if you have additional questions.