Special Education

Integrated Tiered System of Supports

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports using a multi-tiered or level system of supports. This gives educators the tools needed to meet the needs of ALL students.

Tier 1 Core Instruction
- Universal screening for ALL students
- Formative and summative assessment
- Explicit teaching of behavior expectations
- Differentiated instruction
- Lessons designed with the UDL frameworks

Tier 2 Supplemental Instruction
- Input from specialists
- Diagnostic assessment
- Integrates behavior & academic data
- Monthly or bi-monthly progress monitoring
- More intensive instruction

Tier 3 Intensive Intervention
- Designed to remedy error patterns
- Weekly or daily progress monitoring
- Integrates comprehensive behavior supports
- Family involvement
- Individual student planning

This framework uses:

- Evidence-based screening
- Standards aligned curricula
- Team-based collaborative planning
- Evidence-based instructional approach based on universal design for learning (UDL) principles and differentiated instruction (DI).

Adapted from Maryland State Department of Education Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services. (2019). Retrieved from Technical Assistance Bulletin #19-01. Improving Outcomes for Students with Disabilities