

Tier I - Grade Level Content for ALL Students through Great First Instruction

Great First Instruction (GFI) is a set of instructional practices designed to engage ALL students in meaningful, challenging and innovative educational experiences. The intent of GFI is that the majority of students will master content during initial classroom instruction. As professional learning communities, teacher teams collaborate to plan lessons and assessments to support higher levels of learning and critical thinking. GFI begins in Early Childhood Education, is included in regular and special education classes, and continues through elementary, middle and high school and into the Adult Transition Program (ATP).

Meaningful Educational Experiences

- Focus on key concepts, priority standards, and foundational skills
- Frequent opportunities for interaction, discussion, and collaboration
- Ongoing assessment of learning provides feedback so instruction can be responsive to student needs

Challenging Educational Experiences

- Promote critical thinking skills and problem-solving
- Adaptive and responsive to an ever-changing world

Innovative Educational Experiences

- Project-based learning, real life application
- Access to Career Technical Education labs and instruction beginning in elementary school

Tier II - Support for SOME students who require additional help

When students demonstrate a need for additional instruction on grade level content, Tier II support is provided in a variety of ways.

- Proactive intervention offered as a follow up to Great First Instruction
- May include daily, flexible, small group instruction on specific skills
- Reteaching to fill in learning gaps
- Using regular class time and specific tutorial time to reteach content
- Most students will experience Tier II instruction at some point

Tier III - Additional Support for a FEW students who need intensive support to be successful

Sometimes students have gaps from previous grade levels which need to be addressed in specific and intentional ways. Examples include:

- Targeted support classes (math, literacy, English language)
- Using the schoolwide intervention blocks for specialized support
- Individual or small group instruction with specialists
- Additional time during the summer to bridge learning gaps

Tier I, Tier II and Tier III work together, sometimes even within the same structure or program

Examples of how the same resource can be used at multiple tiers:

iReady My Path Customized and Adaptive Lessons (K-8):

- Tier I - Lessons reinforce current standards and provide acceleration for students who are ready
- Tier II - Lessons reteach standards if students need another opportunity to learn grade level content
- Tier III - Lessons reteach standards from previous grade levels when there are gaps in learning

Elementary School-wide Intervention/Extension Time and Secondary Tutorial:

- Tier I - Students get additional time to deepen understanding of current standards and may include enrichment opportunities
- Tier II - When assessment data indicates a need, students get additional instruction on current standards
- Tier III - Students gets specialized instruction on standards from previous levels needed for the current work

This ability to flexibly utilize existing resources and structures supports all Tiers of MTSS